



October News

I know everyone is saying it, but where has the year gone – I nearly fell over when I saw Christmas decorations in the shops this week! But before the end of 2009, [Cancer Learning](#) is delighted to be able to introduce you to some fantastic new resources and learning activities that will greatly benefit you in developing your knowledge and skills in cancer care. Of particular note is the eagerly awaited site, [eviQ Cancer Treatments Online](#), which is being launched **today** – read about it below and log on to see how you will be able to use this website on a daily basis to assist you to provide optimum care to your patients. In the coming months we will also bring you the final two [EdCaN](#) case studies together with their educational supporting modules, we will roll out the brand new Clinician:Manager Connect module for you to trial and evaluate, and we'll provide you with further information about the newest platform in international continuing medical education, Spaced Education and show you how easily you can include professional development in your daily working life. So stay tuned!

We have also taken on board feedback that we have received over the last year and we are currently putting the finishing touches to our new, improved website which will feature a new design and an enhanced resource submission tool linked to an SQL database of resources which will assist you to more easily search for and locate the resources and activities you seek.

It was great to meet so many GPs and Practice Nurses with an interest in cancer care at the recent RACGP conference in beautiful Perth, and we look forward to meeting many more health care professionals at the upcoming COSA ASM on the gorgeous Gold Coast as we celebrate the first anniversary of the launch of [Cancer Learning](#). See you there!

[eviQ Cancer Treatments Online](#) available now!

Launched today! [eviQ Cancer Treatments Online](#) (the evolution of Cancer Institute NSW's CI-SCaT site) is a single repository of standardised, current, evidence based, peer reviewed information about clinical cancer treatments. Designed by medical oncologists to reduce unnecessary practice variation, eviQ provides clinicians, primary carers, patients and carers in all clinical and geographical settings with free, 24 hour access to comprehensive, filtered information relevant to the Australian context covering a variety of targeted content areas including cancer genetics, haematology, haemopoietic progenitor cell transplantation (HPCT), medical oncology, nursing, patient information, radiation oncology and primary health care.

The brand new Cancer Australia funded [eviQ Primary Care page](#) is designed to support clinicians at point of care and provides free access to cancer treatment protocols and procedure specific patient information, containing a suite of resources including a searchable database of cancer symptoms and cancer medications including information about adverse reactions; an opioid calculator and links to many other credible sources of cancer information.

You can access eviQ from the [front page](#) of Cancer Learning, or you can log on to <https://www.eviq.org.au/> directly to receive your free registration and user name for full access to the available information and accompanying clinical tools.

[EdCaN](#) update

The [EdCaN](#) project will soon have the final case study uploaded to the Cancer Australia website. This case study recounts Arthur's journey, a 78 year old male diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL). Arthur cares for his wife Pheobe who has advanced dementia. With his advancing disease his

ability to care for Pheobe becomes more difficult to manage and Arthur faces having her admitted to a residential care facility. This case explores the areas of: care of the older person with cancer; the unique challenges this poses for the multidisciplinary team; advance care planning; and appropriate bereavement support for family members and significant others. We expect this resource will be available on [Cancer Learning](#) by the end of October.

EPICC Update

The Education Program in Cancer Care Evaluation ([EPICC](#)) website continues to provide opportunities for interested medical practitioners to increase their expertise in cancer management. Create your free account today and log onto <http://www.epicc.org.au/> for information and modules in a variety of areas including [General principles of cancer, prevention, surveillance and screening](#); [Cancer treatments](#); [Cancer diagnosis](#); [Multidisciplinary care teams](#); [Side effects of cancer treatment and symptom management](#); [Oncological emergencies](#); [Psychosocial care](#); and [Follow up](#). And then tell us what you think of the site and the available modules so we can continue to improve them by completing our [brief evaluation survey](#).

Upcoming Events

Online Forum - Breast Cancer: Challenges after Treatment

LIVE simultaneous web cast and satellite broadcast Tuesday 27th October 2009. NSW, ACT, VIC, TAS - 8.00pm; SA - 7.30pm; QLD - 7.00pm; NT - 6.30pm; WA - 6pm. Funded by the Westmead Breast Cancer Institute with support from the Sydney West Area Health Service and the community, this program aims to answer many of the frequently asked questions related to challenges following treatment and offers strategies to assist women in gaining accurate information and access to appropriate support. The program also explores ways in which health care professionals can assist women to find their 'new normal' once their treatment for breast cancer has been completed. For further information, visit http://www.rhef.com.au/program-1/?program_id=387

COSA ASM 2009

The Annual Scientific Meeting for the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia (COSA) will be held 17-19 November 2009 at the Gold Coast Convention Centre. The disease focus is on Brain and Lung Cancers, and the theme is *Cancer Services and Our Community: Awareness, Access, Action*. This is a fantastic event with a comprehensive program providing information for all health professionals working in cancer care in Australia, providing opportunities to hear leading experts discuss topics including clinical sciences, epidemiology and supportive care. Stop by the Cancer Learning booth where we will have the new, dynamic, streamlined website up and running - come and say hello and see the improvements, latest activities and resources available on the site. Visit <http://www.asnevents.com.au/cosa/index.php> for more information.

Cancer Pharmacists Group of Australia Clinical Skills course

Following the success of last year's course, the CPG are pleased to offer this course again in February 2010. Designed to assist pharmacists in developing their clinical skills in cancer pharmacy practice, the 2-day course combines informative lectures with interactive workshops to assist practitioners in developing their skills and abilities in the many processes involved in providing cancer treatment to patients.

The course is aimed at pharmacists who are already working in the area of cancer but have less than 2 years experience. A background knowledge of cancer therapy is essential to enable participation in workshops and discussions. Registration is \$440 for CPG members or \$495 for non members. Download a [brochure](#) about the upcoming course and a [report](#) regarding the 2009 course, or visit <http://cpg.iamevents.com.au/index.php> for further information.

10th Behavioural Research in Cancer Control (BRCC) Conference

Abstracts close Friday 13 November 2009.

The 10th BRCC Conference offers a 3-day program from 14-16 April 2010 in Perth, Western Australia,

with information and discussion sessions on a range of preventive health behaviours related to cancer control, psychosocial health and supportive care for patients and carers, methodological research issues and translation of research to policy. This is a unique opportunity for members of behavioural research groups attached to Cancer Councils, Universities and other research institutes across Australia to meet, share ideas and encourage collaboration. In 2010, we will also be joined for the first time by our Canadian colleagues in cancer control.

The conference will include plenary presentations by:

- . [Kim Raine](#), PhD, Professor, Centre for Health Promotion Studies, University of Alberta
- . [Otis Brawley](#), MD, Chief Medical Officer, American Cancer Society
- . [Simon Chapman](#), PhD, Professor of Public Health, The University of Sydney
- . [Suzanne Chambers](#), PhD, Professor, General Manager of Research, Cancer Council QLD

For more information visit www.cancerwa.asn.au/research/conferences/brcc2010/

New Resources on [Cancer Learning](#) in October...

[Primary care](#)

RACGP Practice Team Professional Development Activities

The RACGP is a renowned provider of high quality continuing education for GPs, though recently it has become increasingly clear that participation by all members of the practice team, including nurses and managers, can be of great benefit in providing the highest quality of care to the community. Involvement of these staff can assist GPs in fulfilling their educational requirements as well as improve patient outcomes. In response, the RACGP has developed a variety of resources that can be either downloaded from the site or ordered that can structure and guide various educational and quality improvement activities for all practice team members to further enhance and expand the services provided to patients by the practice. Templates can also be accessed from the site to be used to conduct risk assessments to identify where improvements need to occur to enhance the quality and safety of care provided by the practice.

[Evidence and latest treatment resources](#)

RACGP Prostate cancer testing guidelines

The 2009 guidelines reaffirm the position of the RACGP on prostate cancer testing, recommending that patients should be fully informed of the potential benefits, risks and uncertainties of prostate cancer testing and then make their own decision about being tested after discussion and assessment by a GP. Where a patient chooses to be tested, the RACGP recommends that both PSA and DRE should be performed.

Clinical Trials Education Series

A series of online publications, activity workbooks, booklets, DVDs, slides and online courses providing information for health professionals regarding clinical trials, how they are conducted, and factors to discuss with patients who are considering participation. Also includes a section for patients regarding clinical trials and issues to consider.

ClinicalTrials.gov

ClinicalTrials.gov is a registry of federally and privately supported clinical trials for a wide range of diseases and conditions conducted in the United States and around the world. ClinicalTrials.gov provides general information about clinical trials, as well as information about a specific trial's purpose, who may participate, locations, and phone numbers for more details.

CancerNetwork.com Publications

CancerNetwork.com offers three online refereed journal publications: *Oncology* is published monthly and is geared toward the practicing oncologist, focusing on practical issues related to the care of patients with neoplastic disease. *Oncology News International* provides its audience with timely, concise reports and analyses of news and developments from around the world in all areas of interest to cancer specialists. *Oncology Nurse Edition* publishes articles related to practical management issues in the care

of patients with neoplastic disease, providing readers with useful insights into all aspects of patient management, with an emphasis on information and tools that can be applied to daily practice and patient education.

[Evidence and latest treatments learning activities](#)

Cancer Clinical Trials Basics

This online module targets healthcare providers and others who have a limited clinical research background and are somewhat unfamiliar with the clinical trials process. The web-based course has four modules featuring multiple choice questions and other learning activities that cover the following topics: basic information about the changing paradigm of cancer diagnosis, treatment and prevention; role of cancer clinical trials in the advancement of cancer care; how cancer clinical trials are designed and conducted via distinct phases of research; how cancer clinical trials are sponsored and how to locate trials appropriate to the patient population; and what should be considered when referring patients for cancer clinical trials. A printable certificate is available at the completion of the course. A printable PDF version of the course is also available.

[Fundamentals of oncology learning activities](#)

CME LLC Oncology Programs

Each CME LLC Oncology program features renowned faculty presenters from leading universities. These experts provide healthcare professionals with the latest medical advances, treatment options and preventive healthcare methods. Formats have expanded from live meetings and publications to include online courses, PDA resources and pod casts. Users can search by specialty topics including: Breast Cancer; Colorectal Cancer; Lung Cancer; Renal Cell Cancer; Ovarian Cancer; Pancreatic Cancer; Leukemia; and Supportive Care. Each activity includes a needs assessment and learning objectives, and many include a post test to assess outcomes.

[Fundamentals of oncology resources](#)

Recommendations for the Safe Use of Handling of Cytotoxic Drugs

This document (NIH Publication No. 92-2621) reviews the routes through which exposure may occur and presents recommendations for the safe handling of parenteral cytotoxic drugs by pharmacists, nurses, physicians and other personnel who participate in the preparation and administration of these drugs to patients. These guidelines apply in any setting where cytotoxic drugs are prepared - including pharmacies, nursing units, clinics, physicians' offices and the home health care environment.

[Coordination of care resources](#)

'Improving outcomes for patients' guides

The Improving Patient Outcomes PDF guides produced in the UK relate to the management and coordination of care of cancer patients. Tumour specific guides are included for Brain and Other CNS Tumours, Sarcoma, Skin Tumours including Melanoma, Breast Cancer, Colorectal Cancers, Haematological Cancers, Head and Neck Cancers and Urological Cancers, with guides also included for Children and Young People with Cancer and Supportive and Palliative Care for Adults with Cancer.

[Supportive care resources](#)

Common core competences and principles for health and social care workers working with adults at the end of life

A document detailing the core competences and principles determined in the UK that underpin all levels of practice for health care professionals whose work includes care and support for people approaching, and at, the end of their lives, whether their primary involvement is healthcare related or social care and support.

Supporting Carers: An action guide for general practitioners and their teams

A carer is someone who, without payment, provides support to a partner, child, relative, friend or neighbour who could not manage without their help. GPs and their teams are often the first point of

contact for carers, uniquely placed to recognise that someone is, or is about to become, a carer, and to provide support, information and resources. This resource suggests ways for GPs and their practice teams to support carers practically and emotionally, to monitor their situation and wellbeing, and to identify and resolve any issues that may arise at an early stage.

This month you can also...

Subscribe to Andrology Australia newsletter

Andrology Australia provides a full range of quality and evidence-based men's health resources for both health professionals and patients, including GP summary guides on a range of male reproductive health and associated conditions. The forthcoming edition of their free quarterly email newsletter, *The Healthy Male*, focuses on PSA testing to help guide health professionals in their discussions with patients. If you would like to subscribe and continue to receive newsletter, please register your details via the following link:

<http://www.andrologyaustralia.org/subscription.asp?pageCode=SUBSCRIBE>

Submit a resource

Many thanks to those of you who have [submitted resources](#) for inclusion on the site to keep [Cancer Learning](#) current, practical and up-to-date. If you would like to share any resources or information you have found useful, please click the [submit resource](#) link on the website. NOTE: Keep an eye out for the launch of our brand new, user friendly resource submission tool within the coming month, which will assist you to contribute to the site.

Evaluate the site

We also welcome your comments and [feedback](#), so let us know what you think of Cancer Learning and provide suggestions as to how it might be improved. Just click the [feedback](#) link on the [Cancer Learning](#) website.

Till next month, happy learning!

The Cancer Learning Team

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