



September 2009 News

[Cancer Learning](#) Update

Dust storms, earth tremors, gale-force winds and record temperatures - September certainly kept us on our toes! But crazy weather conditions didn't slow us down at [Cancer Learning](#)! We are excited to see the progress of the newly revamped site that we hope to launch at the COSA ASM, whilst we have been busily working away on a range of new projects and resources that we will soon let you know more about, including a revolutionary new online learning platform that delivers professional development directly to you – stay tuned!

In the meantime, you can now link directly to the Cancer Australia 'sister' projects that have been developed concurrently with [Cancer Learning](#) from our front page, so it takes just a click to find out what is new on the EdCaN, eviQ and EPICC sites. Speaking of these projects, the supporting modules corresponding to the new [EdCaN case studies](#) are in the final stages of review and we look forward to getting this fantastic suite of resources especially for cancer nurses and allied health professionals onto [Cancer Learning](#) very soon. [eviQ](#), the newly-evolved CI-SCaT site, will launch later this month, providing a wealth of resources targeted specifically at each of the key cancer stakeholders: health professionals, patients and carers, with information regarding Cancer Genetics; Haematology; Marrow Transplantation; Medical Oncology; Medical Physics; Nursing; Palliative Care; Patient Information; Primary Health Care; and Radiation Oncology. And one month since its launch, the [EPICC](#) website is being widely used by non-cancer specialist medical practitioners including general practitioners, general physicians and gynaecologists as both an education program and a point of care tool, with the majority of website visitors from Australia, though there has also been interest in the program in Canada and New Zealand. EPICC is a comprehensive program made up of educational activities, relevant literature, resources and links to existing programs and information on general principles of cancer, diagnosis, treatment, side effects and symptoms of treatment, oncological emergencies, psychosocial care and follow up. Currently under review is the palliative oncology topic which will be added to the EPICC suite soon. We thank Kevin Comlossy, who has worked tirelessly as the EPICC Project Manager and wish her well as she moves on to a new, exciting opportunity. For further information, please visit the site www.epicc.org.au or contact Kay Francis: kfrancis@moga.org.au

So it is full steam ahead for cancer professional education on [Cancer Learning](#) in 2010!

Sadly, October sees the departure of the Cancer Learning Project Manager, Gemma Connolly, who has worked exhaustively and overseen the project since its commencement in 2006, when she leaves to take up an exciting, new position. Gemma and her expertise will be greatly missed by the Cancer Learning team and we wish her all the very best in her new role.

Major upgrade to [gplearning](#) site:

Did you know there has been major upgrade work on [gplearning](#) – take a look at the new, improved site: <http://www.gplearning.com.au/>, which houses the Strengthening Psychosocial Care Module, developed in conjunction with Cancer Learning.

Upcoming Events

[RACGP 2009 Conference](#)

Focusing on the core features of general practice in Australia that we value and strive to maintain in the constantly evolving health care industry, the GP'09 Conference is being held this coming weekend, 1-4 October at the Burswood Entertainment Complex, Perth. Come along to find out more about the multifaceted role of GPs in healthcare delivery and pop into the Cancer Australia booth to chat to Cancer Learning, eviQ and EPICC representatives about the latest resources and activities available on these sites. Further information is available:

<http://www.gpevents.com.au/>

[COSA ASM 2009](#)

The Annual Scientific Meeting for the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia (COSA) will be held 17-19 November 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 the leading experts discussing topics including clinical sciences, epidemiology and supportive care. Stop by the Cancer Learning booth to say hello where we hope to have the new, improved website up and running for the ASM so come and see the improvements, latest activities and resources available on the hub. Further information is available:

<http://www.asnevents.com.au/cosa/index.php>

[RANZCR/AIR/FRO/ACPSEM Combined Scientific Meeting 2009](#)

Combined Scientific meeting which marks the joining of The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR), including the Faculty of Radiation Oncology (FRO), The Australian Institute of Radiography (AIR) and the Australasian College of Physical Scientists & Engineers in Medicine (ACPSEM), will be held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Brisbane Australia, 22-25 October 2009. See the conference website for registration information and further details: <http://www.csm2009.com/>

[2010 Australia and Asia Pacific Clinical Oncology Research Development \(ACORD\) Workshop](#)

On 7 December 2009, applications open for the 2010 Australia and Asia Pacific Clinical Oncology Research Development (ACORD) Workshop, running 12-18 September 2010, on Australia's Sunshine Coast. Presented by the Medical Oncology Group of Australia, this unique regional Workshop maintains a substantial position in oncology education due to its international focus, provision of hands-on collaboration and guidance by a world renowned faculty. Participants are selected based on a competitive process, including submission of a clinical trial protocol to be developed over the course of the Workshop. At this time, candidates with training in medical, radiation, surgical and psycho-oncology, palliative care, pharmacology, oncology research and allied health disciplines are encouraged to begin preparations for the ACORD application process by considering potential protocols and seeking supervisor support. Fellowships are available, which include travel expenses, accommodation and meals. Applications will be accepted online at www.acordworkshop.org.au until 26 February 2010.

New on [Cancer Learning](#) in September

Click on each of the highlighted pages to see the new additions to the [Cancer Learning](#) resources and learning activities:

[Coordination of care resources](#)

- **Developing a chemotherapy treatment plan**

From the American Society of Clinical Oncology's *Journal of Oncology Practice*, the authoritative resource on clinical and administrative management for practicing oncologists, this article

explains the importance of developing and the steps for creating and implementing a chemotherapy treatment plan. Related templates and sample treatment plans are also available.

[Evidence and latest treatment resources](#)

- ***The Medical Journal of Australia***

The *Medical Journal of Australia* is Australia's premier peer-reviewed journal of medical practice and clinical research, published by the Australian Medical Association. Each year the journal publishes 23 issues in 2 volumes on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Key pages include: *Topics*, a list of topic areas covered in the journal; *Clinical guidelines*, authoritative documents issued by medical colleges and other reliable sources designed to guide doctors and other health care workers to the best practice in particular fields of medicine; *Archives*, a list of all articles published by the MJA since January 1996; *Info for patients* explains the strengths and limitations of the eMJA site as a source of medical advice; and *Bookroom* is the eMJA collection of book reviews where books can be purchased online.

- ***Wongi Yabber newsletter***

The newsletter of the Australian Cancer Network for supporters and interest groups which is published quarterly in February, May, August and November. It contains information and updates from some of Australia's key cancer organisations, and contains information about upcoming events.

- **asbestos.com**

asbestos.com is committed to providing the latest, up-to-date information to visitors in the hope of spreading awareness about the dangers of asbestos cancer. This website offers information on all asbestos issues ranging from occupational exposure to mesothelioma treatment options. As the leading asbestos and mesothelioma resource, asbestos.com offers more than 2000 pages of the most comprehensive and cutting edge information on the web.

[Fundamentals of oncology learning activities](#)

Several new international online resources and activities are featured this month in this section:

- **Institute for Medical Education & Research, Inc. (IMER) On Demand Education**

The Institute for Medical Education & Research, Inc. (IMER) is a leading provider of free continuing education for physicians, nurses, and other health professionals who specialise in oncology. IMER provides no-fee continuing education through a variety of live, online, and print programs highlighting current research in breast cancer, colorectal cancer, lung cancer, and head and neck cancers. Courses target either physicians or nurses and are sorted by cancer type, and several modules include post-tests to assess participants' learning outcomes.

- **cancereducation.com**

Free multimedia programs and activities including live teleconferences, videos, podcasts and professional development activities covering a wide variety of cancer-related topics, covered at either a health professional or patient level. Latest news, upcoming events and featured items are available on the front page of the site, including the *Childhood Cancer: Negotiating the Present, Planning the Future* online program; and *Emerging Therapies in Leukemia, Lymphoma and Myeloma* program.

- **Medical University of South Carolina cancer videos and podcasts**

A wide variety of multi-media video presentations and audio podcasts, many featuring anatomical animations that can be used in a variety of teaching and learning environments. Topics include tumour-specific information and treatments including chemotherapy, radiation therapy, tomotherapy and IMRT.

- **Nurse Oncology Education Program**

The Nurse Oncology Education Program offer free online continuing education modules developed by the Texas Nurses Association/Foundation. Courses include: Guide to Breast

Cancer, Guide to Cervical Cancer, Guide to Colorectal Cancer, Guide to Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer, Guide to Haematological Malignancies, Guide to Prevention, Screening and Early Detection, Guide to Prostate Cancer, Guide to Pain Management and Survivorship. Each course includes an educational goal and learning objectives and successful completion of each course allows participants to print a certificate of recognition.

- **Distance Learning Course in Radiation Oncology for Cancer Treatment**

In cooperation with various partners, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has developed a distance learning course to assist of radiation oncology students, aiming to address the shortage of qualified radiation oncologists for cancer treatment in the Asia and Pacific region. The distance learning material contains eight topics and 71 training modules covering specialist topics required by trainee radiation oncologists, some of which is also excellent for cross disciplinary learning and skill development, including: communication; critical appraisal; functional anatomy (oncologically relevant anatomy); molecular biology, pathology and pathogenesis; patient care (palliative science); physics and radiation technology; radiobiology; systemic therapy for cancer (chemotherapy, endocrine therapy, immunomodulators). The publicly available, free course requires the zip files uncompressed and burnt onto 2 CDs to run.

Key documents

- **COSA Rural and Regional Workshop Report 2009**

Following the 2009-10 federal budget announcement of \$560 million in capital grants for up to 10 regional cancer centres, the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia (COSA) and Cancer Council Australia convened a national workshop in Canberra in August 2009 to develop an independent cancer sector position on the generic criteria for the grants allocation process. Overarching themes throughout the workshop discussion and recommendations included the need to ensure that successful grant applicants are guaranteed recurrent funding to support their capital investment; that long-term sustainability is assured; that systemic workforce issues are resolved; that genuine multidisciplinary care underpins the service; that current and future (projected) population needs will be met; that cross-border issues are resolved; and that linkages with both metropolitan cancer centres and 'feeder' hospitals are in place or developed. The workshop also featured 15 presentations which can be downloaded from the website.

- **Focus on Health Professional Education**

A refereed journal published by the Australasian and New Zealand Association for Medical Education (ANZAME) for educators and students who have a commitment to improving health care through better teaching and learning. The journal has a focus on all the health professions and the multi-disciplinary nature of the journal is reflected in the editorial board, editorial policy and balance of articles; a focus on regional issues and concerns. The journal includes articles on teaching and learning, curriculum design, assessment and evaluation in support of better professional practice with a focus on diverse and stimulating ideas.

- **The Journal of Cancer Education**

The official journal of the AACE and the EACE, *The Journal of Cancer Education* is an international, quarterly, peer reviewed journal dedicated contributions dealing with various aspects of cancer education for physicians, dentists, nurses, students, social workers, and other allied health professionals, patients, and the general public. Articles featured include reports of original results of educational research, as well as discussions of current problems and techniques in cancer education.

Supportive care learning activities

- **OncoTalk - Improving oncologists' communication skills**

8 brief guides developed by the OncoTalk faculty to assist in oncologists to deliver critical communication tasks to patients, families and care givers. Each topic features learning objectives, background, "how to do it", pearls and pitfalls, and key references. The guides are: Fundamental communication skills; Giving bad news; Managing transitions to palliative care when

chemotherapy is failing; Talking about advance care plans and do not resuscitate orders; Discussing treatment options and informed consent; Conducting a family conference; Handling requests for therapies that you feel are futile; and Cultivating your communication skills.

Supportive care resources

- **End of Life/Palliative Education Materials**

EPERC provides resources to supporting those involved in the design, implementation, and/or evaluation of end-of-life/palliative education for physicians, nurses and other health care professionals. Major content areas include: pain, non-pain symptoms, communications skills, ethics, terminal care, and clinical interventions used near the end-of-life. The education materials are arranged by format: including behaviorally anchored rating forms; cases; evaluation forms; multiple choice exams; pocket instructional aids; slide presentations; standardised patient materials, and links to websites.

- **Fertile Hope website**

Fertile Hope is a US national, nonprofit organisation dedicated to providing information regarding fertility risks and options, reproductive information, support and hope for health professionals to provide to their cancer patients and survivors whose medical treatments present the risk of infertility. The site includes algorithms/pathways for referrals, a risk calculator tool, an options calculator tool and other resources relevant for patients who are considering their fertility options.

- **After Chemotherapy**

A practical, simple and easy- to-read downloadable PDF guide, *After Chemotherapy* has information, resources and links you can provide to your patients outlining what they could expect post treatment, with resources to refer to and utilise to address their uncertainties and anxieties following chemotherapy. The booklet is also available in hard copy format.

Updated mentoring projects page

Information regarding the over 20 mentoring projects supported by Cancer Australia has been updated and streamlined - find out how various organisations and communities across Australia successfully implemented “apprentice” projects that promoted shared learning in rural and regional areas and assisted in succession planning by diversifying the available knowledge and skills available in cancer care across Australia.

Focus on:

Indigenous resources

- **A cancer journey: information for remote, indigenous patients**

A downloadable PDF booklet that has been developed by the CanNET NT project about the stages of the cancer journey for use in Aboriginal communities, produced in 5 indigenous languages as well as English. A DVD that reflects the content of the booklet is also available which can be ordered, together with hard copies of the booklets from Northern Territory Department of Health and Families.

- **Cultural Safety Training**

Cultural safety training (CST) aims to improve the quality of service delivered by health care providers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, improving their experience of services and their health outcomes. Five CST modules have been developed covering a range of topics which health care professionals working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health should be familiar: Introduction to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health; Better Consultations; Prevention and Health Checks; Linking with other Service Providers; and Leadership in Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health. Lesson plans including learning outcomes can be downloaded though the modules are designed to allow workshop facilitators to supplement locally designed learning activities to tailor a workshop to the needs of the participants.

- **Aboriginal & Islander Health Worker Journal**

The *Aboriginal & Islander Health Worker Journal* is the only national publication written by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers, distributed nationally and internationally six times a year since 1977. Each issue covers a range of topics including primary health care, community profiles, health promotion, best practice models and workforce issues. The principle aims of the Journal are to provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers with up to date and accurate health information in a form that is both relevant and accessible; to provide a link and contact for health workers throughout Australia; to provide a vehicle for health workers to discuss health issues and programs from a community perspective; to promote and highlight the valuable work health workers are carrying out at the community level; and to provide a cross-cultural resource for non-Indigenous readers who work with and provide services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Information is included this month about some peak bodies working for indigenous cancer health professionals to promote the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people:

- **National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)**

The national peak Aboriginal health body representing Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services throughout Australia, promoting, developing and expanding the provision of indigenous health and well being services; liaising with organisations and governments within both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community on indigenous health and wellbeing policy and planning issues; representing and advocating relating to indigenous health service delivery, health information, research, public health, health financing, health programs; and fostering cooperative partnerships and working relationships with agencies that respect Aboriginal community control and holistic concepts of health and well being.

- **Australian Indigenous Doctor's Association (AIDA)**

A professional organisation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors, medical students and graduates. Their 2009 symposium will be held in Brisbane on 3 October, with the theme of 'Healing our way'.

- **Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses (CATSIN)**

Group founded to formally represent Indigenous nurses, advocating for recognition of the unique contributions and commitment of indigenous nurses; acknowledging the cultural expertise and knowledge indigenous nurses contribute to the health industry and nursing profession; promoting and implementing indigenous nurse employment strategies; and encouraging indigenous nurses' participation in research, thus promoting indigenous perspectives.

- **Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA)**

The peak body for indigenous allied health professionals, providing representation, advocacy, advice and support for Indigenous allied health professionals and students in the Indigenous health sector. Their website is also for non-Indigenous allied health professionals who wish to be better informed about Indigenous Australians' culture, society and requirements of health services and who wish to contribute to strategies to improve Indigenous health in Australia.

And don't forget....

You can submit a new resource for evaluation for inclusion on the Cancer Learning website [here](#) (new submission page coming soon!); you can register for updates [here](#) and you can fill in our feedback survey to tell us what you think about the site and how it could be improved [here](#).

Til next month, Happy learning!
The Cancer Learning team

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