



## CNSA NEWS

Volume 15 Issue 1, February 2010

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- Winter Congress – approaching fast!

### FROM WHERE I SIT....

#### A REPORT FROM THE CNSA CHAIR

Dear colleagues, I am delighted to be greeting you as Chair of the CNSA. I am looking forward to working with you all to continue to build on the strength and vibrancy of our Society.

Last weekend saw the new National Executive Committee meet for the first time at the TCCA/COSA offices in Sydney. Over two very busy days we had an opportunity to share our aspirations for CNSA as the peak organisational body for cancer nurses in Australia; to learn the ropes from previous NEC members and to begin to appreciate the breadth and depth of the activities of CNSA members as state and national stakeholders in the promotion of excellent cancer care for patients, through the professional development of the cancer nursing workforce.

Already this year, CNSA representatives have been invited to review important documents such as The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)/

Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Healthcare, draft Australian Infection Control Guidelines: **Preventing and Managing Infection in Health Care**; to facilitate research activities and to lend our support to new nursing initiatives such as the Australia Lung Foundation – Lung Cancer Nurses Forum.

Congratulations to **Catherine Johnson**, who many of you will know as the outgoing Treasurer of CNSA, has been appointed to the Board of the International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care as Board Member: Member Council and Development portfolio.

Plans continue for Winter Congress in Perth in 2010. **Lucy Patton** (chair of the local organising committee) and the organising committee, along with **Maryanne Hargraves** (WC Coordinator) are to be congratulated on an impressive program that promises another great Winter Congress. I look forward to meeting many of you there.

As we look forward to another busy and successful year for the Society, I would like to thank the members of the new NEC for the energy and commitment they have already shown in volunteering not only for the NEC, but for specific roles and responsibilities that come with being a member of CNSA executive. The final page of this publication summarises our roles and contact details.

I would especially like to thank the past members of the NEC who have not only given their time to hand over so thoroughly to the new NEC, but for all their incredible hard work and achievements during their term(s) of office. You have left CNSA a stronger, more dynamic Society and as a membership we are deeply indebted to you. As past Chair, I would particularly like to thank **Gabrielle Prest** for all the support, encouragement and time given to me as I've prepared to take over the reigns.

As we head into a new year, if you have any particular ideas or suggestions for what you'd like to see in the Newsletter or things you would like to see the Society develop or engage with, I would be keen to hear of them.

With very best wishes to you all for a happy and successful year ahead.

**Mei Krishnasamy**



The incoming NEC (L to R): Megan Nutt, Tracey Doherty, Sandy McKiernan, Mei Krishnasamy (Chair), Louise Nicholson, Sandie McCarthy, Anne Mellon, Donna Milne

## MOGA ACORD WORKSHOP 2010

### Hurry online registration closes soon!

The Medical Oncology Group of Australia (MOGA) is pleased to announce that applications for the 4th Australia and Asia Pacific Clinical Oncology Workshop (ACORD) 2010 are open, but only for a short time.

Held on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland between the 12th -17th September 2010, this workshop provides comprehensive training in clinical trials design and the preparation of a clinical research protocol for up to sixty participants from any oncology and cancer related specialties from Australia and the Asia Pacific Region. The program is of relevance to Fellows and trainees undertaking specialty training in all oncology disciplines and cancer related specialties in Australia, New Zealand and the Asia-Pacific region such as Paediatrics, Palliative Care, Medical Oncology, Radiation Oncology, Pharmacy and Pharmacology as well as allied health disciplines such as Nursing and Psychology.

### Online registration closes 26th February 2010.

Please see Calendar events for further details.

## TOM REEVE AWARD

**Professor Patsy Yates** has been awarded the Tom Reeve Oration for Outstanding Contributions to Cancer Care by the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia. She is the first nurse to receive the award which formally recognises a national leader in Australia who has made a significant contribution over a relatively long period towards cancer care through research, clinical leadership and/or community service.

Patsy is a Professor at the School of Nursing, Queensland University of Technology and Director of the Centre for Palliative Care Research and Education, Queensland Health. She has had a distinguished career as a cancer nurse both nationally and internationally. She has attracted in excess of \$15 million in competitive research funding, has 70 publications in refereed scientific journals and published 10 book chapters. She has been invited to present 30 international and 31 national conference papers.

She is currently the Secretary/Treasurer of the International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care, was the Far East and Australasia Representative to the ISNCC Board from 2004 to 2008, the Chairperson of the Scientific Planning Committee of the 13th International Conference on Cancer Nursing in 2004, the Co-Chairperson of the Scientific Planning Committee for the 15th International Conference

on Cancer Nursing in 2008 and has been a member of the ISNCC Research Committee since 2006.



### Patsy Yates receives her award from Professor Tom Reeve

Patsy is a Fellow of the Royal College of Nursing Australia and has been the recipient of numerous awards over the years acknowledging her commitment to nursing and cancer care, including Life Memberships of the Cancer Nurses Society of Australia and the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia. She received the Best Presentation Award at the COSA Annual Scientific Meeting Award in 2002 and the Queensland University of Technology Research Encouragement Award in 2002, 2003 and 2006. More recently the Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation honoured her remarkable work as an Australian leader in palliative care research dedicated to enhancing care and quality of life for people with advanced cancer.

The Award was presented by Professor Tom Reeve at the COSA Conference dinner on the Gold Coast in November. In delivering the Oration Patsy acknowledged the collaborative contributions of nursing, medical and allied health colleagues throughout her career. CNSA warmly congratulates Patsy for this outstanding achievement.

## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### Next business meeting 12th April 2010

Please raise any issues with state representative members or the National Chair via [info@cnsa.org.au](mailto:info@cnsa.org.au)

## CNSA NEWS 2010

News articles and items of interest are welcome. Submission deadline for the next newsletter is Friday 23rd April 2010. Forward in MS Word format, (photos as JPEG) to [diane.hamer@outofsite.com.au](mailto:diane.hamer@outofsite.com.au)

### Leadership, Diversity and Innovation – the Global Picture

CNSA Winter Congress has emerged as the leading cancer nursing event in Australia. This year, Winter Congress will be hosted at the Hyatt Hotel in Perth, Western Australia. The Perth Winter Congress Organising Committee invites you all to join us for the 29th, 30th and 31st July for what we are hoping will be an exceptional program. The highlight of this year's program will be our international and national speakers **Dr Julia Downing** and **Professor Alison Kitson**.

This year's theme is Leadership, Diversity and Innovation – the Global Picture. As the events of the financial crisis play out across the world there is great need for leadership, diversity and innovation in cancer nursing to ensure that our specialty continues to develop even in these challenging times.

Our international key note speaker **Dr Julia Downing** is the Deputy Executive Director of the African Palliative Care Association and is an experienced palliative care nurse and educationalist, with a PhD that evaluated palliative care training in rural Uganda, and a Masters of Medical Science in Clinical Oncology. Prior to working in Uganda, Dr Downing worked in London as a Lecturer in Cancer Care at the Centre for Cancer and Palliative Care Studies and previous to that in the oncology department at Charing Cross and Hammersmith Hospitals. Julia's experiences, working in palliative care in Rwanda and Uganda caring for people with cancer and other chronic diseases will provide an interesting and no doubt informative perspective of cancer nursing in diverse situations.



**Dr Julia Downing**



**Professor Alison Kitson**

Joining Dr Downing is **Professor Alison Kitson**.

Originally from the UK, Professor Kitson took up the post of Professor of Nursing and Head of Discipline at the University of Adelaide at the beginning of 2009. Alison has had a very successful career in cancer nursing spanning 30 years at a national and international level. She has developed a number of innovative projects including the

Clinical Leadership Programme, e-learning initiatives and practice-based research programmes. Her passion for getting evidence and innovations into everyday practice is sure to have us all sitting on the edge of our seats.

As well as the busy program, four pre conference half day workshops are also planned and will cover areas of the theme including communication and leadership as well as the very topical areas of sexuality, survivorship and cancer outside of the traditional cancer setting.

The committee is also busy organising amazing social functions which we hope will give you a small taste of WA – including some of the local wine and produce. July is a great time to visit WA with lots of local places of interest only a few hours away or less so make this year's Winter Congress your mid year break and spend a few extra days in Perth if you can. We can guarantee that if this is your first trip to WA it most likely won't be your last.

To find out more go to [www.cnsa.org.au](http://www.cnsa.org.au) and follow the Winter Congress links.

We look forward to welcoming you all.

**Lucy Patton – Chair, Local Organising Committee, Sandy McKiernan, WA Representative CNSA Executive and Maryanne Hargraves – Chair, Winter Congress Committee**

### COSA CLINICIANS/INDUSTRY FORUM 30TH OCT 2009

#### The role of professional bodies in facilitating clinician interaction with industry.

COSA convened a forum of medical and radiation oncologists, surgeons, cancer nurses, allied health and other professionals, consumer and industry representatives in Sydney on Friday 30th October 2009. Facilitated by Ian Olver, the forum for health care professionals and industry representatives was attended by **Catherine Johnson** (NSW) and **Keith Cox** (NSW). Keith represented CNSA and provided a brief presentation on CNSA relationship with industry and nurses' relationship with industry. To view the official report please visit

<http://www.cosa.org.au/File/Reports/COSA%20clinicians-industry%20forum%20report%20FINAL.pdf>

### HAND HYGIENE AUSTRALIA

Infection control is critical in cancer care; please review these online resources to develop your own hand hygiene programs.

<http://www.hha.org.au/ForHealthcareWorkers.aspx>

## REGIONAL GROUPS

### Hunter Regional Group: New Year, New Committee

After a busy and successful year in 2009 with Winter Congress, the Hunter Regional Group is all refreshed and ready to tackle 2010 head on. With a new committee finding its feet we are now ready to find out what the real needs of the members are.

We have devised an online needs analysis survey collecting not only demographics but also the educational requirements of the members.

This year we are planning to have two study days in March and September. In previous years these have been a very successful part of our educational calendar.

We have recognised the need for resilience workshops in order to help prevent burnout. We are working on ways in which the Hunter Group can offer a program during the year.

**Gillian Blanchard - Chair, Hunter Regional Group**

### Adelaide Regional Group

The Adelaide Regional Group committee met in early December 2009 to discuss what had been a very productive and successful year engaging with cancer nurses from all areas of the state. Four education sessions, a day symposium and an evening workshop were held throughout 2009. The committee line up in Adelaide for 2010 remains unchanged from last year with a truly wonderful group of people contributing to the ongoing education programme for South Australia.

Congratulations to **Tracey Doherty** who was elected to represent South Australia on the National Executive Committee. We look forward to supporting Tracey in this role and hearing about all things happening at a National level for CNSA.

The committee plans to meet in early 2010 to lock in the education timetable details for 2010, which is sure to be another great year ahead.

**Sharon Reinbrecht - Chair, Adelaide Regional Group**

### Hello from the Sydney Regional Group

Welcome to 2010! Hope you all had a lovely holiday season. Thank you so much to all of those people that reply to our test email. We are confident that the kinks have been ironed out with our member lists so look forward to lots of exciting emails coming your way about SCNSA events in 2010!

The SCNSA committee members for 2010 are:

- Kerrie Murphy (Chair)

- Ellen Barlow (Joint Treasurer)
- Beth Ivimey (Joint Treasurer)
- Tracy Cosgrove (Communication officer)
- Keith Cox
- Natalie Byrne
- Alison Hession (Joint Secretary)
- Laraine Cobbing (Joint Secretary)

The SCNSA executive first meeting of the year will be a planning meeting to confirm our plans and actions for 2010. The first education session will be held in March and will be combined with the delayed 2009 AGM. Information flyer will go out soon with the final details.

The SCNSA is looking for any motivated cancer nurses to join our team in 2010. We have a number of places and we welcome all new comers. Being part of the SCNSA regional group provides you with the opportunity to network with your colleagues from cancer centres around NSW and to provide valuable input to the professional development of cancer nurses Australia wide. Also please remember if you have an idea for the SCNSA regional group or for topics for the education session don't hesitate to let us know. For all enquires please contact any member of the SCNSA group.

Remember "Bowser busters" are still on so if you would like some "petrol support" and live in outer Sydney and wish to attend a SCNSA education session, give us a call.

**Kerrie Murphy - Chair, Sydney Regional Group**

### Melbourne Regional Group

As we head into 2010 the CNSA Melbourne Regional Group maintains its commitment to ensuring cancer nurses within both regional and metropolitan Victoria are provided with opportunities for professional development and networking.

At the end of 2009 the tenure of two executive committee members **Ellen Haywood** (Chair) and **Janelle Peppin** (Treasurer) concluded, the incumbent committee would like to acknowledge and thank them for their valued contribution.

The newly elected executive committee:

- Catherine Johnston (Chair)
- Michael Cooney (Deputy Chair)
- Carmen Di Corletto (Treasurer)
- Samantha Kelly (Database)

along with the two new members:

- Shelley Firth (Sponsorship)
- Taryn Robinson (Promotion)

look forward to representing and promoting issues

important to cancer nurses within Victoria and contributing to CNSA nationally.

In the year ahead the committee will continue to promote and actively seek new CNSA membership. Bimonthly education sessions will continue and focus on new issues and trends in relation to breast cancer surgery, lung and ovarian cancer. Also on the 2010 executive calendar is the planning of an information day for cancer nurses within regional Victoria, this is in response to a request from Hume RICS. The executive are very keen to foster relationships, promote CNSA and support cancer nurses within the regional Victoria.

**Catherine Johnston - Chair, Melbourne Regional Group**

#### MELBOURNE

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#### HUNTER, NSW

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Ph: 0405 149 160

#### ELECTRONIC MAILOUT – A reminder...

Please ensure your e-mail address remains up to date. If you wish to change the manner in which you receive your newsletter, please email us at: [info@cnsa.org.au](mailto:info@cnsa.org.au).

## CNSA MEMBERS GET INVOLVED

CNSA members are currently involved in a number of external projects. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their involvement and provide an outline of the project aims and progress.

### COSA Nutrition/Head and Neck Project

**Megan Nutt** (ACT) is our representative on this project aimed at providing expert advice regarding the nutritional issues and interventions related to head and neck cancers during evidence based guideline development. Here she provides us with an overview of progress in the early stages of this project and the basis for the way forward.



**Megan Nutt**

The membership of the committee comprises Dietitians, Surgeons, Medical Oncologist, Radiation Oncologist, Cancer Nurse Care Coordinator (CNSA Rep), Palliative Care, Psycho-oncology, Social Work, Pharmacist, Speech Pathologist, CEO Cancer Council, Radiotherapist and a Consumer. The Project Dietitian is Teresa Brown from Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, QLD.

Two meetings planned for 2010 will involve consultation with the aim of reaching a consensus and two meetings in 2011 will incorporate the final endorsement stages. A dietitian subcommittee has been formed separately to draft clinical questions and a survey of dietitians to assess baseline clinical practice.

Phase 2 of the project will involve literature searching, retrieval and appraisal by the Project Dietitian and Dietitian subcommittee. Following this, there will be broad consultation with health professionals to develop consensus-based recommendations. These will become Suggestions for Clinical Practice in the final guideline document. Draft guidelines will then be circulated to the Multidisciplinary Steering Committee under Phase 3 and then onto independent peer review by early 2011.

The desired outcomes will be endorsed national guidelines by COSA, CINSWOG (H&N) and the Dietitian Association of Australia, and publication.

## Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia nursing working party

**Pauline Thomson** (NSW) is involved in this project, part of which has involved the creation of the following website [www.prostatecarenurse.com](http://www.prostatecarenurse.com) as a resource for nurses working with men who have prostate cancer and their families.

## Breast Care Nurses for NBOCC Working Groups

**Jennie MacIndoe** (Vic) and **Sholeh Boyle** (WA) are both currently involved with working parties assisting the National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre (NBOCC) to review and update their *Clinical practice guidelines for the management of early breast cancer* (second edition) and *Clinical practice guidelines for the management of advanced breast cancer*. Jennie is focussing on the use of hypo fractionated radiotherapy in early breast cancer and Sholeh has a focus on the use of bisphosphonates in early and advanced breast cancer. The working parties are responsible for:

- advising on research questions, strategies for literature searches and additional relevant international evidence reviews and research
- providing expert comment on systematic reviews of research evidence
- providing expert input into the writing of guideline recommendations
- advising on the update of associated information for consumers and general practitioners.

## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

### CNSA Clinical Practice Committee

The Cancer Nurses Society of Australia (CNSA) invites members with an interest/background in clinical practice to apply for a position on the Clinical Practice Committee. The aim of this committee is to provide leadership, support, and advice to CNSA members practicing in a clinical setting. Members from all cancer related clinical backgrounds are encouraged to apply including; surgery, radiation oncology, medical oncology, haematology and the community setting. The term on the committee is 2 years and the mode of communication will be through emailing, teleconferences and at Winter Congress.

Interested applicants should forward a brief expression of interest stating reasons for applying along with a short CV detailing current employment to both [louise.nicholson@dhhs.tas.gov.au](mailto:louise.nicholson@dhhs.tas.gov.au) and [tracey.doherty@health.sa.gov.au](mailto:tracey.doherty@health.sa.gov.au)

Closing date for expression of interest is **31st March 2010**.

### CNSA Research Committee

The CNSA Research Committee is seeking expressions of interest from CNSA members who would like to further contribute to the society.

The work of this new committee will make an important contribution to achieving the strategic aims of CNSA. The work of the Committee is sporadic throughout the year and includes:

- Providing expert knowledge, advice and information relevant to cancer nursing research
- Advising the CNSA NEC on research matters as relevant to CNSA strategic priorities

This is an ideal opportunity for you to contribute and to foster collegial relationships with other CNSA members. Research experience is desirable but not essential as new members, or those with minimal research experience are well supported by a 'buddy system', to mentor members transitioning on to the committee.

Membership on this committee involves a 2 year commitment beginning in approximately May 2010.

Enquiries can be directed to: **Leanne Monterosso** on 08 9266 1755, email: [l.monterosso@curtin.edu.au](mailto:l.monterosso@curtin.edu.au)

If you work in cancer nursing research or you are interested in the area and you are motivated to be an active member of this very important committee please send an expression of interest, including why you want to be on the committee, what you would contribute (maximum one page) and a one page CV outlining relevant experience to [donna.milne@petermac.org](mailto:donna.milne@petermac.org) or hard copy to:

Dr Donna Milne, Senior Clinician Researcher

Department of Nursing and Supportive Care Research  
Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Locked Bag 1 A'Beckett  
St Victoria 8006

Closing date for expression of interest is **31st March 2010**.

### CNSA Radiation Oncology Nursing Specialist Interest Group (RONSIG) - Chair

50-60% of patients diagnosed with cancer receive radiotherapy as an integral part of their cancer therapy. Radiation therapy is often delivered in combination with chemotherapy and so the toxicities experienced by patients is increasing and their nursing care needs are ever more complex. And yet, nursings' contribution to the care of these patients is often undervalued and misunderstood.

RONSIG is seeking expressions of interest from CNSA members who would like to further contribute to the society by chairing the RONSIG.

RONSIG currently has a membership of over 30 nurses

working in diverse settings throughout Australia and functions to:

- Provide a collegial network for practice development
- Promotes evidence implementation activities and
- Increase the profile of radiation oncology nursing as an exciting and essential sub-specialty of oncology nursing.

The SIG meets face to face once a year at Winter Congress and conducts all other business by email.

Membership on this committee involves a 2 year commitment beginning in approximately April 2010.

Enquiries can be directed to: **Mei Krishnasamy** on 0437627100, email: [meinir.krishnasamy@petermac.org](mailto:meinir.krishnasamy@petermac.org)

Please send an expression of interest, including what you would contribute (maximum one page) and a one page CV outlining relevant experience to **Mei Krishnasamy**, email: [meinir.krishnasamy@petermac.org](mailto:meinir.krishnasamy@petermac.org) or hard copy to:

Dr Mei Krishnasamy, Nurse Director, Clinical Practice  
Department of Nursing, Nursing Administration

Ground Floor

Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Locked Bag 1 A'Beckett  
St Victoria 8006

Closing date for expression of interest is **31st March 2010**.

## CALENDER REMINDERS – EVENTS



**7th–11th March 2010**

**International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care  
16th International Conference on Cancer Nursing**  
Atlanta, Georgia, USA

[www.isncc.org](http://www.isncc.org)

**24th–26th March 2010**

**Cancer Care Coordination Conference**  
Crowne Plaza, Surfers Paradise

<http://www.asnevents.com.au/cccc>

**22nd-24th April 2010**

**The Inaugural Advance Care Planning Conference**  
Melbourne Convention Centre

[www.internationalacp2010.com](http://www.internationalacp2010.com)

**Resilience in the Workplace Workshops**

**Cancer Council NSW**

- Managers: 14th-16th May 2010
- Allied Health Workers: 4th–6th June 2010,
- Nurses: 25th-27th June 2010

Spaces are limited and application deadlines apply.

[http://www.cancercouncil.com.au/html/healthprofessionals/conferences/downloads/Resilience\\_invite.pdf](http://www.cancercouncil.com.au/html/healthprofessionals/conferences/downloads/Resilience_invite.pdf)

**29th-31st July 2010**

**CNSA Winter Congress**

Leadership, Diversity and Innovation: The Global Picture  
Hyatt Regency, Perth, WA

[http://www.cnsa.org.au/CNSA\\_Winter\\_conference.htm](http://www.cnsa.org.au/CNSA_Winter_conference.htm)

**6th-8th September 2010**

**8th Australian Conference on Safety and Quality in Health Care**

Convention and Exhibition Centre, Perth

[www.aaghc2010.org.au](http://www.aaghc2010.org.au)

**12th-17th September 2010**

**4th Australia and Pacific Clinical Oncology Research Development Workshop (ACORD)**

Novotel Twin Waters Resort, Sunshine Coast

[www.acordworkshop.org.au](http://www.acordworkshop.org.au)

**7th–9th October 2010**

**3rd Australian Lung Cancer Conference**

Sofitel on Collins, Melbourne

Nurses Satellite Workshop 6th October 2010

Registration opens 1st March 2010

[www.alcc.net.au](http://www.alcc.net.au)

**9th–11th November 2010**

**COSA ASM**

Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

<http://www.cosa.org.au/ASMEvents/ASM%202010.htm>

## NBOCC – NEW RESOURCES

### New online assessment tool for breast diagnostic services

National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre (NBOCC) has developed an online tool to assist breast diagnostic services to self-assess their practices against the NBOCC *Standard of care for breast diagnostic services*.

Facilities offering the triple test (clinical examination, imaging and fine needle aspiration/core biopsy) to investigate a new breast symptom as part of the one episode of service are invited to participate in this quality improvement activity.

Services completing the online tool will receive a confidential summary report of their results, which can be incorporated into an existing risk management framework to support ongoing quality improvement.

Encourage your breast cancer diagnostic service to assess their service online. For more information, visit

<http://nbocc.org.au/health-professionals/standards-of-care/standards-of-care>.

For further information please contact **Katie Allen** on 02 9357 9409.

### Breast cancer risk factors: a review of the evidence

National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre (NBOCC) is pleased to announce the release of the report *Breast cancer risk factors: a review of the evidence*.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in Australian women and represented over a quarter of all new cancer cases in women in Australia in 2006. As incidence of breast cancer increases worldwide, investigation into its causes and risk factors continues to attract a high level of interest from media, researchers, clinicians and the community.

The review provides an up-to-date overview and analysis of epidemiological studies about factors associated with risk of breast cancer, including gender, age, family history, place of residence, levels of hormones within the body, lifestyle factors, medical history and environmental factors.

The report also presents information about lifestyle factors which can be modified to influence risk for breast cancer.

To view or download please visit [www.nbocc.org.au/view-document-details/rfrw-breast-cancer-risk-factors-a-review-of-the-evidence](http://www.nbocc.org.au/view-document-details/rfrw-breast-cancer-risk-factors-a-review-of-the-evidence). For further information please contact **Jane Salisbury** on 02 9357 9432 or email [jane.salisbury@nbocc.org.au](mailto:jane.salisbury@nbocc.org.au)

## ANZMTG – JOIN NOW

The Australia and New Zealand Melanoma Trials Group (ANZMTG) is one of the 12 Cancer Co-operative Groups of

Australia. The Commonwealth support is provided through Cancer Australia.

ANZMTG functions to centrally promote and support melanoma trials for investigators and consumers. The group's specific aims are:

- To bring together researchers, clinicians, health care professionals and consumers with an interest in melanoma clinical trials to foster collaboration and the exchange of ideas
- To develop and support large-scale, multi-centre melanoma studies of clinical relevance and importance which would be difficult for any single centre to complete
- To provide a single point of contact for sponsors and investigators wishing to undertake melanoma trials in Australia and New Zealand

Currently, there are 4 active clinical trials with the latest trial being Whole Brain Radiotherapy (WBRT) post local treatment in melanoma, the first ever WBRT trial in the world lead by Professor Gerald Fogarty.

Additionally, there are some very interesting trials in the pipeline including:

- Post-operative Radiation Therapy following wide excision of neurotropic melanoma of head and neck
- Vitamin D following primary treatment of melanoma at high risk of recurrence
- Improving Quality of Life measurement for melanoma patients

CNSA fully supports membership by CNSA members to this important group and would encourage any interested parties to visit [www.anzmtg.org](http://www.anzmtg.org)

ANZMTG membership is free and does not need to be renewed annually. Being a member entitles you to attend the ANZMTG Annual General Meeting (AGM) and other melanoma meetings arranged by ANZMTG. ANZMTG aims to facilitate collaborative research, and welcomes members' initiatives on this front.

## CALL FOR FEEDBACK

### Interactive training module for health professionals

The Australian Government, through Cancer Australia's National Centre for Gynaecological Cancers has commissioned QUT's Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation (IHBI) to develop an interactive web based training module and supporting resources for health professionals to build their knowledge and skills in the psychosexual care of women affected by gynaecological cancers.

QUT is working in collaboration with gynaecological cancer

nurses, psychologists, social workers and surgeons from the Sydney Cancer Centre and Westmead Hospital. In addition, insight and feedback is being gathered from a Project Working Group, comprising members from key professional bodies, multiple disciplines and backgrounds including women affected by gynaecological cancers, and clinical and academic experts.

Once developed, the module and supporting material will provide training to professionals across all levels of health care, including general practitioners, nurses and oncologists. The module will focus on understanding sexuality, the woman's experience of the psychosexual effects of a gynaecological cancer, sexual function, assessment and advanced therapeutic interventions.

The modules, which will be structured to enable a range of health professionals who care for women with gynaecological cancers to tailor the content to their needs, will be delivered in both electronic and hard copy format to promote flexibility and accessibility. In addition, supporting resources will include psychosexual assessment and referral tools, as well as information about psychosexual support and other resources that health professionals can offer to patients to support the counselling process.

The module will contain case studies which draw on the real - life experiences of women treated for gynaecological cancers to ensure an engaging training experience for health professionals.

It is anticipated that the module will be available through the Cancer Learning website in the second half of 2010.

QUT is interested in receiving feedback on this important issue, to learn more please visit:

<http://www.hlth.qut.edu.au/nrs/research/researchprojects/gyn/welcome.jsp>

## CNSA EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

The CNSA Education Committee held a teleconference in September, during which we:

- Provided comment on content, validity and stylistic concerns to the NEC regarding the ANMC document *A Nurse's Guide to Professional Relationships*.
- Provided extensive critique on the CNSA's *Draft Position Statement on the Minimum Education and Safety Requirements for Nurses Involved in the Administration of Anticancer Drugs*.

All members of the Committee, including the Chair, had served a 2 year term by the end of 2010, and were eligible to nominate for a further 2 year term. Calls for nominations for the Committee and Chair of the Committee closed in September/November respectively. The NEC have endorsed the following members for 2010-2011:

Continuing members are:

- Nicole King (Chair)
- Sandie McCarthy
- Alayne Reid
- Leisa Brown
- Pauline Rose

New members are:

- Ray Chan
- Lucy Patton
- Liz Pascoe

We thank all those who have worked so hard in their roles over the past 2 years and extend a warm welcome to all new and continuing members of the Education Committee.

Sandie McCarthy, while continuing to serve on the Education Committee, will be stepping down as Chair so that she can devote more time to NEC responsibilities. The Education Committee thank Sandie for her leadership and dedication over the last two years.

**Nicole King - Chair, Education Committee**

## CNSA GRANTS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

### Round 2, 2009 CNSA Travel Grants

We are pleased to announce the following recipients of the Travel Grants.

**Tish Lancaster** (NSW): ICCN Conference 2010 - presenting paper

**Kerin Young** (WA): HAA Conference 2009 - presented poster

**Jacqueline Jagger** (NSW): HAA Conference 2009 - presented paper

**Ann Williamson** (Vic): COSA 2009 - presented paper

**Pauline Tanner** (WA): ANZGOG 2010 - submitting abstract, clinical visits

### Pam Renouf Memorial Awards

Eight applications were received across two of the three categories for this inaugural award. The successful recipients are listed below:

**Category A: Shannon Philp** (NSW RPA Nurse - funding for Master Nurse Practitioner Course)

**Category C: Keith Cox** (NSW RPA nurse - funding to support travel tour to ICCN conference and clinical visits to discuss Nurse Practitioner issues at Cleveland Cancer Centre, Dame Fabra Centre Boston)

**Jayne Maidens** (NSW Royal North Shore - funding to support travel to 13th Biennial Meeting of International Gynaecologic Society Prague)

**Leanne Monterosso - Chair, Grants and Awards Committee**

## 2010 CNSA Executive Contact Details

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