

## The Cancer Council Victoria Victorian Cooperative Oncology Group

### Highlights - 1976 – 2007

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| <b>1976-1981</b> | <p><b>1976</b> <b>Inaugural meeting of Victorian Cooperative Oncology Group</b> at The Cancer Council Victoria, June. Membership - multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional representation. Inaugural Chair : Dr Douglas Pearce.</p> <p><b>1977</b> <b>Cancer Chemotherapy infrastructure support - 3 year grants</b> to hospitals* toward improving and increasing facilities, totaling \$200,010 over 3 years. (*Alfred, Austin, Prince Henry's, Queen Victoria, Royal Melbourne, St Vincent's, Geelong)</p> <p><b>1977</b> <b>Breast Cancer Committee -Formed</b> to provide advice on all aspects of breast cancer and collaborate in clinical research. Inaugural Chair: Mr Ian Russell.</p> <p><b>1977</b> <b>Cancer Trials Office - Formed</b> to provide central trial coordination management, assist in protocol preparation and collection and monitoring trial data.</p> <p><b>1977</b> <b>Breast Cancer Newsletter</b> – inaugural issue – disseminated throughout Victoria to all oncology health professionals with an interest in breast cancer – articles include reports on clinical trials, oncology meeting reports and other cancer management issues.</p> <p><b>1979</b> <b>Gastrointestinal Cancer Committee - Formed</b> to provide advice on all aspects of gastrointestinal cancer and collaborate in clinical research. Inaugural Chair : Dr D James St John</p> <p><b>1979</b> <b>Chemotherapeutic Oncology Services in Victoria - Report</b> presented to the Department of Human Services.</p> <p><b>1980</b> <b>Endometrial cancer study group</b> - Formed to develop clinical trials.</p> <p><b>1981</b> <b>Gastrointestinal Cancer Newsletter</b> – inaugural issue – disseminated throughout Victoria to all oncology health professionals with an interest in gastrointestinal cancer – articles include reports on clinical trials, oncology meeting reports and other cancer management issues.</p>  |
| <b>1982-1986</b> | <p><b>1982</b> <b>International Trial of Endometrial Cancer (COSA-NZ-UK E1/82) – Initiated</b> by Victorian gynaecologists and centrally coordinated through the Cancer Trials Office – 1012 patients.</p> <p><b>1983</b> <b>Standard terminology in recording of data on cancer patients - Recommended</b> adoption by cancer services and Victorian cancer registry.</p> <p><b>1983 -</b> <b>Bone Marrow Transplantation Services in Victoria – Report</b> presented to the Department of Human Services.</p> <p><b>1983</b> <b>Insufficient evidence for bowel cancer screening by FOBT kits – Statement</b> by VCOG Gastrointestinal Cancer Committee</p> <p><b>1984</b> <b>Palliative Care Services in Victoria – Report</b> presented to the Department of Human Services.</p> <p><b>1984</b> <b>Cancer Services in Victoria – Submission to Review Committee</b> - VCOG made specific comments regarding the multi-disciplinary approach to the management of cancer, and on the importance of collaborative clinical trials.</p> <p><b>1984</b> <b>Alternative Medicine - Submission to Parliamentary Inquiry</b></p> <p><b>1984</b> <b>Gynaecological Cancer Committee - Formed</b> to provide advice on all aspects of gynaecological cancer and collaborate in clinical research. Inaugural Chair: Mr Barry Kneale.</p> <p><b>1985</b> <b>Prescribing regulations for cancer pain relieve drugs - Lobbied</b> for government review for amendment of restrictive regulations.</p> <p><b>1985</b> <b>Breast Cancer Screening and Management Summit – initiated</b> by VCOG Breast Cancer Committee to achieve consensus agreement in Australia.</p> <p><b>1986</b> <b>Standardisation hormone receptor assays and reports on breast cancer tissue - Funded</b> facilitation laboratory quality control for reporting to Victorian Cancer Registry.</p> <p><b>1986</b> <b>Review of prevention and treatment of cervical cancer activities – Conducted</b> by VCOG Gynaecological Cancer Committee, which lead to development of a public education campaign by the Cancer Council.</p> |

- 1987-1991**
- 1987 **Heroin not recommended for relief of chronic cancer pain - Policy Statement**
  - 1987 **Availability of chemotherapy drugs - Submission** to Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Benefits seeking amendment to prescribing limitations.
  - 1987 **Pilot Mammographic Screening Project – collaboration** of VCOG Breast Cancer Committee, Cancer Council and Royal Melbourne Hospital.
  - 1987 **Evidence supporting FOBT for bowel cancer screening – Endorsed** by VCOG Gastrointestinal Cancer Committee.
  - 1988 **Cancer Trials Management Scheme - Established** to increase participation of clinicians in clinical trials. Grants, totaling \$100,000, awarded to 8 hospitals toward appointment of trial managers - 600 new patients recorded on clinical trials.
  - 1988 **State Register of Insitu & Small Breast Cancers – Initiated** by VCOG Breast Cancer Committee to record management of tumours < 10mm – 1987-1992.
  - 1988 **National Trial of Advanced Ovarian Cancer (COSA 8901) – Initiated** by VCOG Gynaecological Cancer Committee – 178 patients.
  - 1988 **State Register of Familial Adenomatous Polyposis – Initiated** by VCOG Gastrointestinal Cancer Committee, operated by Victorian Cancer Registry.
  - 1988 **Palliative Medicine Committee - Formed** to provide advice on all aspects of palliative medicine in cancer care and collaborate in clinical research. Inaugural Chair : Dr Ruth Redpath
  - 1988 **Educational Needs of the Medical Profession in Palliative Care – Consultation** workshop hosted by VCOG Palliative Medicine Committee.
  - 1988 **The Role of the Doctor in Palliative Care – Submission** to Palliative Care Council, Department of Human Services Victoria.
  - 1990 **Survey of Management of primary operable breast cancer in Victoria in 1986 – Published** – Medical Journal Australia
  - 1990 **Improvement in cervical smear technique — Recommendations** by VCOG Gynaecological Cancer Committee lead to educational strategies and subsequent improvements in quality.
- 1992-1996**
- 1991 **Guidelines on handling of cytotoxic drugs – Recommended review** to Clinical Oncological Society of Australia.
  - 1992 **Survey of Investigation, follow-up and recurrence after resection of colorectal cancer – Published** – ANZ Journal of Surgery
  - 1993 **Clinical Trials - Policy Statement** – *“The VCOG believes that the majority of cancer patients in Victoria should be either enrolled in clinical trials or treated according to protocols that enable aggregated experience to be analysed.”*
  - 1993 **Lung Cancer Committee - Formed** to advice on genetics in relation to lung cancer, with particular advice on clinical research. Inaugural Chair: Dr Gary Richardson.
  - 1993 **Funding to increase patient recruitment to clinical trials – Lobbied** Health Minister - grant received.
  - 1993 **Cancer Trials Management Scheme** – \$300,000 in grants to 10 hospitals. 1200 new patients, 2690 follow-up patients recorded on clinical trials.
  - 1993 **Screening and Management of Breast Cancer – Submissions** to Federal Government inquiries (Senate and House of Representatives)
  - 1993 **Guidelines for management of women with established gynaecological cancer – Produced** and disseminated by VCOG Gynaecological Cancer Committee
  - 1994 **Survey of changes in the investigation and management of primary operable breast cancer in Victoria in 1990 – Published** MJA
  - 1994 **Audit of stage and incidence of invasive cervical cancer, 1982, 1987, 1992 – Initiated** by VCOG Gynaecological Cancer Committee - **Published** MJA
  - 1994 **Cancer Genetics Advisory Committee - Formed** to advice on genetics in relation to cancer, with particular advice on clinical and scientific data and services. Inaugural Chair: Professor Robert Burton

- 1994 **Urological Cancer Committee - Formed** to advise on all aspects in relation to urological cancer and collaborate in clinical research. Inaugural Chair: Mr Rodney Syme.
- 1994 **Prostate cancer screening Statement – Recommended against population screening** - based on insufficient evidence to fulfill criteria for population screening programs. **Developed** by VCOG Urological Cancer Committee.
- 1995 **Transmission of Cancer by Blood Transfusion – Statement** provided to Red Cross Blood Bank regarding prospective blood donors who have had cancer.
- 1995 **Trial of High-dose chemotherapy trial in breast cancer (IBCSG 15-95) –** Initiated through VCOG Breast Trials Sub-committee
- 1995 **Cancer & Heart Offensive – Submission** to Department Human Services Victoria re: cancer reporting; evidence-based management guidelines; cancer genetics; familial cancer registers; professional education.
- 1995 **Cost equity of cancer drugs – Submission** to State and Commonwealth Departments of Health.
- 1995 **Report on cancer genetic testing and counselling in Victoria – Commissioned** by VCOG Cancer Genetics Advisory Committee
- 1995 **Colorectal Cancer Genetics Service in Victoria – Proposed** Cancer Genetics Advisory Committee – Submitted to Department of Human Services, Victoria – Adopted and Funded 1996
- 1995 **Provision of inpatient palliative care services –** Submission to Department of Human Services
- 1995 **Lung Cancer Newsletter –** inaugural issue – disseminated throughout Victoria to all oncology health professionals with an interest in lung cancer – articles include reports on clinical trials, oncology meeting reports and other cancer management issues.
- 1995 **Urological Cancer Newsletter –** inaugural issue - disseminated throughout Victoria to all oncology health professionals with an interest in urological cancers – articles include reports on clinical trials, oncology meeting reports and other cancer management issues
- 1995 **Information for GPs on prostate cancer screening – Prepared** by VCOG Urological Cancer Committee
- 1996-2001**
- 1996 **Criteria for gynaecological histo-pathology reporting – Developed** by VCOG Gynaecological Cancer Committee
- 1997 **Breast Cancer Trials Management Grant - Received** from Kathleen Cunningham Foundation and Victorian Breast Cancer Research Consortium for \$150,000.
- 1997 **Skin Cancer Committee – Formed** to advise on all aspects in relation to melanoma and NMSC and collaborate in clinical research. Inaugural Chair : Prof John Kelly
- 1997 **Regulations for Practitioners of Traditional Chinese Medicine – Submission** to Department of Human Services inquiry.
- 1997 **Impact of funding regulations on prescribing of cancer drugs – Survey Report** on cost shifting and inequity of access to Federal and State Governments, lead to **amendment** of regulations in 1988.
- 1997 **Victorian Trial of Rectal cancer (GI 1-97)– Initiated** by VCOG Gastrointestinal Cancer Committee – 42 patients
- 1997 **State Register of Insitu & Small Breast Cancers – 1987-1992 – 5 year follow-up Published**
- 1997 **Guidelines for management of familial ovarian cancer – Developed** by VCOG Gynaecological Cancer Committee; **Incorporated** in national Familial Cancer Genetics management document
- 1997 **Radical Prostatectomy Register – Initiated** by VCOG Urological Cancer Committee to prospectively record cases over 5 years to provide long term quality outcome data
- 1998 **State Plan for Family Cancer Genetics Services in Victoria – Developed** by VCOG Cancer Genetics Advisory Committee – **Submitted** to Department Human Services – Adopted and Funded 1999
- 1998 **Cancer Trials Management Scheme –** \$752,474 in grants to 14 hospitals. 1560 new patients, 3270 follow-up patients recorded on clinical trials.

- 1998 **Psycho-Oncology Committee – Formed** to advise on all aspects in relation to clinical psychology and supportive care and collaborate in research. Inaugural Chair : Prof Raymond Snyer
- 1998 **Regulations for prescribing narcotic analgesics for cancer pain – Lobbied** State Government for amendment.
- 1998 **Community Representatives - Invited** onto VCOG advisory committees.
- 1998 **Medical Oncology Registrars - Introduction to VCOG and Cancer Council** – Program established.
- 1998 **Skin Cancer Newsletter** – inaugural issue - disseminated throughout Victoria to all oncology health professionals with an interest in skin cancer – articles include reports on clinical trials, oncology meeting reports and other cancer management issues
- 1998 **ACN Non-Melanocytic Treatment Guidelines - Initiated** by VCOG Skin Cancer Committee.
- 1999 **Victorian Trial of Locally Advanced Breast cancer (VCOG BR1-99)– Initiated** by VCOG Breast Trials Sub-committee – 40 patients.
- 1999 **Neuro-Oncology Committee – Formed** to advise on all aspects in relation to CNS tumours and collaborate in research. Inaugural Chair: Prof Mark Rosenthal
- 1999 **Head & Neck Cancer Committee – Formed** to advise on all aspects in relation to H&N cancers and collaborate in research. Inaugural Chair : Prof Andrew Sizeland
- 1999 **Fact Sheet on Clinical Trials for people having cancer treatment – Produced** and widely disseminated to cancer treatment centres.
- 1999 **Victoria averages 51% Australia’s accrual (11% international) to Ludwig/IBCSG trials 1-15.**
- 1999 **Undergraduate curriculum in palliative medicine— Recommendations** to Universities of Melbourne and Monash.
- 1999 **Guidelines for community based palliative care nurses to carry analgesic opioids— Recommendation** to Department of Human Services, lead to amendment regulation.
- 1999 **Prospective standardised clinical and outcome data for head and neck cancer** – Supported by VCOG Head & Neck Cancer Committee
- 2000 **Campaign for legislation restricting smoking in public places – Supported** by VCOG Lung Cancer Committee – **introduced 1.7.2001.**
- 2000 **Survey of Breast cancer surgical management in Victoria in 1995 – Published**
- 2000 **Survey of Lung cancer management in Victoria in 1993 – Published – MJA**
- 2000 **Survey of Prostate cancer management in Victoria in 1993 – Published - MJA**
- 2000 **Promoting Quality of Medical Care in Palliative Care Services – Submission** to Department of Human Services.
- 2001 **NHMRC Health Volunteer Silver Award to VCOG** – Victorian Health Promotion Organisation
- 2001 **Victorian Trial of Ketamine for refractory cancer pain (VCOG PM 1-00) – Initiated** by VCOG Palliative Medicine Committee in Victoria – 50 patients;
- 2001 **Survey of Testicular cancer management in Victoria, 1988-1993 – Published - MJA**
- 2001 **Thank you function for breast cancer trials patients – Hosted** by VCOG Breast Cancer Committee; 200 participants
- 2001 **Communication skills training for cancer clinicians program – Development Supported** by VCOG Psycho-Oncology Committee
- 2001 **Study of utility of a depression checklist for use by oncologists – Initiated** by VCOG Psycho-Oncology Committee
- 2002-2006**
- 2002 **Survey of Colorectal cancer survival in Victoria – 10 year follow-up- Published** – ANZ Journal Surgery
- 2002 **Survey of Rectal cancer management in Victoria in 1994 – Published – ANZJS**
- 2002 **Survey of Ovarian cancer management in Victoria 1993-95 – Published - MJA**

- 2002 **Audit of toxicity and morbidity of radiation and lymphadenectomy for endometrial cancer in 1995–Published** - Journal Gynaecological Cancer
- 2002 **Protection of Human Genetic Information – Submission** - Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) by VCOG Cancer Genetics Advisory Committee
- 2002 **Update on Gynaecological Cancer & Pre-Cancer for GPs – Hosted by** VCOG Gynaecological Cancer Committee; 60 participants
- 2003 **Cancer Trials Management Scheme** – \$722,000 in grants to 17 hospitals. 1275 new patients, 4870 follow-up patients recorded on clinical trials.
- 2003 **National Trial of Prostate cancer (Timing Of Androgen Ablation)– Initiated** by VCOG Urological Cancer Committee. – 450 accrual target.
- 2003 **Cancer Service Framework for Victoria – Submission** to Department of Human Services Victoria
- 2004 **HNPCC Gynaecological cancer surveillance screening statement – Initiated** by VCOG Hereditary Bowel Cancer Group and Gynaecological Cancer Committee – Implemented by Familial Cancer Centres.
- 2004 **Haemato-Oncology Committee – Formed** to advise on all aspects of haematological malignancies and collaborate in clinical research. Inaugural Chair : Professor Jeff Szer
- 2004 **Survey of Early Breast carcinoma management in Victoria in 1999 – Published** 2004
- 2004 **Synoptic reporting for melanoma – Statement** regarding adoption of the NHMRC guidelines. **Submission** by VCOG Skin Cancer committee to Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia
- 2004 **Revision of the NHMRC Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Management of Cutaneous Melanoma – Submission** by VCOG Skin Cancer Committee to Australian Cancer Network.
- 2004 **National Clinical Core Data set – Submissions** from all VCOG committees
- 2004 **Renal Cell Cancer – Patterns of practice survey –Initiated** by VCOG Urological Cancer Committee to collect 6-month demographic information about patients undergoing nephrectomy and the type of surgery (open or laparoscopic; total or partial nephrectomy).
- 2004 **Chemotherapy in the management of glioblastoma multiforme – Trial Results referred** by VCOG Neuro-Oncology Committee to Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee for PBS listing.
- 2005 **Cancer Services Framework for Victoria – Patient Management Frameworks – Contributions** from all VCOG advisory Committees
- 2005 **Brain tumour resources for patients and carers – Developed** with joint input from VCOG Neuro-Oncology Committee, Brain Foundation Victoria and Brain Tumour Australia.
- 2005 **Survey of Superficial Bladder cancer in Victoria in 1990 & 1995 – Published** -ANZJS
- 2005 **Cancer Genetic Risk Information Disclosure to at risk relatives –Project** developed by VCOG Cancer Genetics Advisory Committee – Funded by Department of Human Services
- 2005 **IHC testing recommended in CRC patients < 50 years - Statement** developed by Hereditary Bowel Cancer Group – disseminated to Pathologists and CRC surgeons
- 2005 **Synoptic reporting for Head & Neck cancers** - Developed by VCOG Head & Neck Cancer Committee and **Disseminated** to pathology services in Victoria
- 2005 **Senate Inquiry into Cancer Treatment and Services in Australia – Submission** by Victorian Cooperative Oncology Group.
- 2005 **Cytotoxic agents as adjuvant therapy for stage 1 and 2 NSCLC – Trial results referred** by VCOG Lung Cancer Committee to Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee for PBS listing
- 2006 **VCOG 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**
- 2006 **Survey of Muscle-invasive Bladder cancer in Victoria 1990-95 – Published** - ANZJS
- 2006 **Survey of Glioma management in Victoria 1998-2000 – Published** - MJA
- 2006 **Doxetaxel in advanced prostate cancer** - VCOG Urological Cancer Committee referred Position Statement to VCOG Executive and Director, regarding PBS listing.

- 2006 **Senate Inquiry into Gynaecological Cancer** – submission by VCOG Gynaecological Cancer Committee
- 2006 **Synoptic Pathology Reporting of Lymphoma** prepared by VCOG Haemato-Oncology Committee and forwarded to the RCPA for consideration of endorsement.
- 2006 **Sarcoma Advisory Committee - Formed** – Professor Peter Choong inaugural chair
- 2006 **Cancer Trials Management Scheme** – \$750,000 in grants to 18 hospitals. 1659 patients recruited to clinical trials
  
- 2007-**
  - 2007 **Trial of Genetic Risk Information Disclosure**, developed by VCOG Cancer Genetics Advisory Committee and coordinated by CCRC Clinical Trials Office, initiated at 4 Family Cancer Centres. Target accrual 40.
  - 2007 **GP Melanoma workshop** – initiated by VCOG Skin Cancer Committee, developed and implemented in collaboration with Cancer Education Unit.
  - 2007 **HNPCC Family Information Day – initiated** by VCOG Hereditary Bowel Cancer Group, hosted by CCRC – well received by 20 participants
  - 2007 **Statement on IHC testing for CRC patients <50 years – Revised** removing reference to patient consent. RCPA endorsed. Disseminated to public and private pathology providers and hospital surgical units.
  - 2007 **Taxotere for metastatic prostate cancer –Statement – recommending** PBS listing – Subsequently approved 1 November. **Developed** by VCOG Urological Cancer Committee.
  - 2007 **Clinical Research Professionals Committee - Formed.** Inaugural Chair: Mr Peter Midolo
  - 2007 **Advances in Gynaecological Cancer & Pre-Cancer for GPs Conference – Hosted** by VCOG Gynaecological Cancer Committee; 60 participants
  - 2007 **The use of chemotherapy in patients with gliomas: Patterns of care in Victoria from 1998-2000. Published** - J Clinical Neuroscience.
  - 2007 **Brain stem gliomas: Patterns of care in Victoria from 1998-2000 - Published** - J Clinical Neuroscience.
  - 2007 **Intramedullary spinal cord tumours: patterns of care in Victoria from 1998-2000 - Published** - J Clinical Neuroscience.
  - 2007 **The management of primary cutaneous melanoma in Victoria 1996 and 2000. Published** – Medical Journal Australia 2007