



Mid-year Clinical Network Committee highlights

Breast Cancer Committee

Two interesting meetings have been held so far this year with regular clinical trial updates and news from members. The committee received an update by A/Prof Kelly Phillips, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre on medical prevention for breast cancer. Read about Kelly's recently published research in the Journal of Clinical Oncology [here](#). A meeting focused on discussing Breast Cancer & Women from CALD communities. This meeting generated important discussion. Useful resources and PowerPoints from the night can be found under the [committee webpage](#).

Clinical Research Professionals Committee

The committee have plans for educational presentations particularly improving clinical governance barriers, ongoing progress on position statements, and a focus on information sharing and professional development. The committee also contributed a Submission to the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority (IHPA): Discussion Paper on the Development of a table of standard costs for conducting clinical trials in Australia.

Familial Cancer Committee

The committee has provided guidance and input into the "managed introduction of IHC for MMR proteins as a screening test for Lynch Syndrome in Victorian women with endometrial cancer". They have also developed a prescribing guide for aspirin and SERM and have recently nominated A/Prof Lara Lipton as the incoming Chair. The committee thank Dr Gillian Mitchell and Prof Finlay Macrae for their contribution as Chair and Deputy Chair.

Gastro-intestinal Cancer Committee

The committee are hosting Professor Sir John Burn, Clinical Genetics, Institute of Genetic Medicine, Newcastle University, UK, to present an overview of his research relating to the role of aspirin in bowel cancer prevention. The committee is in the early stages of working with CCV's Cancer Screening Team (Prevention Division) to inform communication initiatives that aim to increase uptake by eligible adults to the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program. The committee are also developing a series of position statements to assist members in consistent messaging to the public on key topics relating to bowel cancer, particularly to support members with media queries. These will be made available when completed.

Gynaecological Cancer Committee

The committee has been working with the Victorian Cancer Registry and Department of Health to further investigate inferior outcomes data for Victorian women when compared with other jurisdictions which was published in the Lancet in 2010. The committee has also been providing input into the International Gynaecological Cancer Society Annual Meeting scheduled for Melbourne 2014 as well as the Australian Society for Gynaecological Oncology also in 2014.



Haematological Cancer Committee

The committee held a think tank session to discuss the future and purpose of the committee. The committee have also written a letter to the Department of Health, seeking a round table discussion with relevant stakeholders to collectively assess the implications and options available for any current or future proposed funding changes to the Victorian Cancer Cytogenetics Service (VCCS). This was co-signed by the Leukaemia Foundation.

Lung Cancer Committee

The Lung Cancer Committee will be hosting GP training in partnership with Austin Health. Training is scheduled for Saturday 16 November 2013.

Neuro-Oncology Committee

The Neuro-Oncology Committee is working in collaboration with Austin Health to put on a Brain Tumour Clinical Professionals Day - October 11th more information to follow soon. The second meeting for this year focused on highlights from the American Society of Clinical Oncology Annual Meeting held in May.

Palliative Medicine Committee

Presentations on the [Palliative Care Clinical Network \(PCCN\)](#), and *“Understanding substance addiction. What does the palliative care doctor need to know?”*, A/Prof Alan Gijbser, Royal Melbourne Hospital, Head Addiction Medicine Service, have been a focus of the meetings so far. Further, the committee have also hosted Palliative Medicine Registrars and Trainee meetings, and provided input on a proposed webinar to be hosted by the McCabe Centre for Law and Cancer – “the legal role of health professionals in end-of-life decision-making”.

Psycho-Oncology Committee

A research project looking at the evidence for psycho-social care in cancer, lead by a RMIT Masters of Social Work student on placement with the Clinical Network, is a major focus for the committee. A literature review and report will inform a committee position statement outlining priorities for committee advocacy in this area. A forum exploring the Primary Health and community based care-addressing how to improve the link between cancer services is in planning phase.

Sarcoma Advisory Committee

The Sarcoma Advisory Committee will be considering how it can support and promote next year's Sarcoma week.

Skin Cancer Committee

A small sub-committee working group of dermatopathologists have been formed to review the issues regarding diagnosis and treatment of lentigo maligna (melanoma in-situ).

Urological Cancer Committee

The World Prostate Cancer Congress is currently being hosted in Melbourne, with many Committee members involved in convening this prestigious event. This event has followed the recent ANZUP Annual Scientific Meeting held on the Gold Coast. For ANZUP meeting highlights [click here](#).