



This document sets out highlights and significant achievements for VCOG in 2012, covering our committee activities, clinical trials projects, advocacy work and educational events.

## Committees Highlights

- Our 15 committees had 44 committee meetings, equating to 792 hours of VCOG member's time at meetings.
- 34 health professionals joined VCOG.
- 9 new Chairs or Deputy Chairs took up positions.

### Executive Committee

- Miss Orla McNally acted in the role of Chair for 6 months while A/Prof Jeremy Millar was on extended recreational leave.
- A/Prof Michael, Miss Orla McNally, Dr Craig Underhill, Ms Nicola Quinn and Ms Rachel Whiffen as delegates of the Executive met with Department of Health to formally present VCOG's Agenda for Cancer Control.
- A/Prof Jeremy Millar has been working closely with Todd Harper, CCV CEO, on VCOG's Agenda for Cancer Control, attending a meeting with the Health Minister in 2013.
- Provided oversight of VCOG's member engagement review.

### Breast Cancer Committee

- The committee welcomed new Chair, Mr Greg Mitchell and joint Deputy Chair's Miss Jane O'Brien and Miss Caroline Baker to their positions.
- A meeting focused on data integration including a presentation on clinician driven information management for cancer care.
- Developed an MSAC submission – Review of Interim Funded Service: Breast MRI. Chair, Greg Mitchell worked with the VCOG team on submitting a response to the public consultation on behalf of the committee.
- Breast Cancer Screening Forum on Aug 14: An overview of the spectrum of evidence by Professor Dallas English. [Watch the presentation online](#). This has received over 120 views over 3 months.

### Clinical Research Professionals Committee

The committee has focused on a number of advocacy issues this year:

- A proposal outlining the issues with Good Clinical Practice training and establishing an Australian minimum standard was sent to Medicines Australia.
- Work began on contributing to a Cancer Council/VCOG position paper on the current state of the conduct of cancer clinical trials in Australia.
- A presentation on the Victorian Streamlined Ethical Review Process and Interstate Mutual Acceptance regarding the metrics of clinical trial activity.
- A submission made to the ARCS review on clinical trials governance and three members attended ARCS workshop in December.

### Familial Cancer Committee

- The committee began work on designing an audit for the introduction of IHC for MMR proteins as a screening test for Lynch syndrome in Victorian women with endometrial cancer.
- The committee began work developing:
  - A position statement on aspirin in prevention of colorectal cancer and adenomas.
  - A how to prescribe guide for SERM medical prevention of breast cancer.
- Developed a set of bowel cancer suite of fact sheets for patients for GP Education.

### Gynaecological Cancer Committee

- The committee agreed to support the International Gynaecological Cancer Society Biennial Meeting 2014
- The committee hosted a dinner meeting 'Post-IGCS update, 2012', which included the following:
  - Medical Oncology Update by Dr Geraldine Goss.
  - VCOG Case Presentation by Dr Adam Pendlebury.

### Gastrointestinal Cancer Committee

- The committee welcomed Mr Ian Faragher as Chair.
- Made a submission to the Royal Australasian College of Pathologists structured reporting protocols relating to:
  - Tumours of the Oesophagus and Gastro-Oesophageal Junction and; Endoscopic Resection (ER) of the Oesophagus and Gastro-Oesophageal Junction.

- Call to expand National Bowel Cancer Screening Program. Over 200 VCOG members put their name to a joint statement between VCOG and CCV to call for the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program to become fully funded and accessible to all adults aged over 50 years.
- Visiting guest presenters:
  - Prof Graeme Young on March 28, presented 'How to improve CRC screening?'
  - Dr Anne Zauber on October 18, presented 'Colonoscopic Polypectomy & Long-Term Prevention of Colorectal-Cancer Deaths in the National Polyp Study'.

### Haemato-Oncology Committee

- The Committee welcomed Dr Bill Renwick to the role of Chair.
- Presentations included:
  - 'Victorian Epigenetics Group' by Dr Melita Keneally presented to the committee regarding the current work of the Victorian Epigenetics Group (VEG).
  - 'Forgotten Cancers Project' by A/Prof Gianluca Severi.

### Lung Cancer Committee

- The committee hosted a Mesothelioma presentation evening. This was an opportunity for members to hear from researchers funded by Slater & Gordon Asbestos Research Fund.
- Organised a local researchers presentation evening, inviting speakers from the 2012 Australian Lung Cancer Conference.

### Neuro-Oncology Committee

- The committee welcomed new Chair, Dr Anthony Dowling.
- Presentations included:
  - 'Late Effects Clinic Overview' by Dr Greg Wheeler
  - 'Highlights from ASCO' by Mr Lawrence Cher. Lawrence gave a presentation summarising three trials that were presented at ASCO.
  - 'Discussion of difficult or unusual cases' by Dr Tony Dowling.
  - 'Whole Brain Radiotherapy for Metastatic Melanoma trial' by A/Prof Kate Drummond. Kate presented on an international clinical trial being run at multiple centres in Melbourne.

### Palliative Medicine Committee

- A presentation on the Fellow experience by Dr Peter Eastman. Peter gave some insights into his experience, including objectives, his experience and challenges overcome.
- Presentations on Advance Care Planning:
  - 'ACP in Peter Mac – All talk no action'? by Dr Odette Spruyt.
  - 'Department of Health Advance care planning portfolio' by Bernadette Pound.
  - 'Advance care planning in 3 steps' by Dr Barbara Hayes.

- 'Combining Emergency and Future Plans – A Warrnambool Approach' by Dr Eric Fairbank
- 'Advance Care Planning – A CCV overview' by Karen Conte.
- Clinical use of ketamine in cancer pain – this meeting was an opportunity for members to discuss the findings of a publication in the Journal of Clinical Oncology and the publicity generated by this article.

### Psycho-Oncology Committee

The committee welcomed new Chair Ms Alison Hocking, and new Deputy Chair Dr Grey Searle.

- Presentations included:
  - NEMICS Survivorship care plans, an overview of the pilot project.
  - Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre Australian Cancer Survivorship Centre by Silvana Cavalli,
  - "Complementary and Supportive therapies – highlights from the Churchill Fellowship to the US and UK". Chris Scott, Director, Oliva Newton John Wellness Centre.
- Forums organised by the committee:
  - Aug 16 Forum: 'Grief and Loss – when no-one has died'.
  - Nov 29 Forum: 'Talking about sexuality and cancer: why it's important and practical strategies for clinical practice'.

### Sarcoma Advisory Committee

- A presentation on 'Cancer 2015: genomics, cancer medicine and the health care system' by Dr David Thomas.
- The committee received research updates including on the Survey of Clinical management of Sarcoma in Victoria 2003-2007.

### Skin Cancer Committee

- Over 160 VCOG members called on the Victorian Government to ban solariums in Victoria in late September. Victorian Premier and Health Minister announced a ban on commercial sunbeds, effective from the end of 2014.
- Ongoing discussion on Melanoma in situ.
- Developed a submission to Victorian Skin Cancer Prevention Framework.

### Urological Cancer Committee

- Updates from members from surgical, medical and radiation perspectives including conference updates.
- Annual Urological Cancer Forum 'Two tales in genitourinary cancer research', including two presentations:
  - 'Accelerated BEP (Phase II Trial results)' by Dr Peter Grimison and
  - 'The role of exercise in prostate cancer survivors' by A/Professor Trish Livingston.

## VCOG Committee

- Endorsed the VCOG Strategic Plan 2013-2015.
- Undertook a review of purpose and function to be implemented in 2013.

## VCOG in 2012

- We appointed a clinical advisor to support the team, A/Prof Michael Jefford and welcomed Lauren Howes and Rachel Whiffen to the team.
- We launched the new website and blog. Traffic has continued to climb with almost 5700 visitors to the website over the year.
- Catriona Parker attended the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting in Chicago.
- A VCOG engagement strategy to inform future VCOG priorities was developed and recommendations endorsed by the VCOG Committee.

## Clinical Trial Highlights

- **CCV Helpline nurses talked about clinical trials more than 300 times to callers to the helpline in 2012.**
- **The Victorian Cancer Trials Link website received more than 14500 visits (approximately 1200 per month).**
- **We gave \$800,000 to clinical trial sites across Victoria in recognition of recruiting almost 2000 patients.**
- **VCOG launched a new clinical trials fact sheet for patients.**

VCOG managed the Victorian Cancer Trials Link: [www.cancervic.org.au/trials/](http://www.cancervic.org.au/trials/). The website was re-launched in March with an enhanced interface and new user friendly features.

We were successful in obtaining a \$1m grant from Victorian Cancer Agency to investigate clinical trials funding models, the AFIT study (Additional Funding Intervention Trial).

In 2013 VCOG will be running this trial, in addition to the normal CTMS funding mechanism, to investigate whether increased funding to oncology clinical trial departments in Victoria, is associated with increased accrual of patients. The Principle Investigator is A/Prof Jeremy Millar with Associate Investigators A/Prof Ray Snyder and Ms Catriona Parker. This trial will utilise the pre-existing CTMS mechanism and provide additional "intervention funding" to randomised sites.

## Advocacy Highlights

- **VCOG members and chairs worked with the VCOG management team and developed over 20 submissions, responses to guidelines, letters and position statements relating to cancer care.**

In particular:

- Developed a COSA submission relating to Regional Cancer Centres.
- Participated in the Cancer Act Review.
- Developed a statement on the Victorian Shortage of Radiation Oncology Medical Physicists (ROMPs).
- Developed a response to the Tripartite National Strategic Plan for Radiation Oncology.
- Contributed to the Cancer Council Victoria Advocacy Agenda.
- Provided feedback to the Department of Health about the Integrated Cancer Services Review.

Over 360 VCOG members signed statements supporting the call for the expansion of the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program and to ban solarium use in Victoria.

## Agenda for Cancer Control

VCOG's overarching advocacy platform, this project highlights the priorities for VCOG for improving cancer care in Victoria.

Statements outlining the perceived problems in and recommended strategies for each of these priority areas have been developed:

- Improving access to radiotherapy.
- Improving access to Cancer Care Coordinators.
- Improving access to Victorian Patient Transport Assistance Scheme.
- Integrating IT and data to support improved cancer care.
- Encouraging participation in the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program.

These have been presented to key Department of Health representatives by delegates of the VCOG Executive and sent to the Minister for Health, the Hon David Davis.

Rachel presented at the 2012 COSA Annual Scientific Meeting on the Agenda for Cancer Control platform.

## Optimising Cancer Care reports

In 2011, VCOG surveyed Victorian cancer clinicians and health professionals to ascertain the strategies clinicians believed were important to optimising cancer care in Victoria. Over 190 Victorian clinicians participated.

The survey results will be used to:

- inform advocacy initiatives for VCOG and Cancer Council Victoria;
- identify perceptions about the Cancer Services Framework reforms;
- identify strategies needed to optimise cancer care in Victoria;
- map the cancer clinical workforce in Victoria.

For a copy of the report go to [www.cancervic.org.au/vcog](http://www.cancervic.org.au/vcog).

### Educational Event Highlights

- We held 10 educational events with approximately 500 health professionals attending these events.

- A Victorian Cancer Registry 101 Information session by Helen Farrugia, Director, Victorian Cancer Registry.
- Chairs Training – this focussed on how Chairs can engage and support committee members and improve the effectiveness of meetings.
- VCOG Media Training – aimed to up-skill clinicians when providing comment and communicating key messages to the media on behalf of CCV. The feedback received was fantastic:

“The media training was incredibly useful, both to understand how the media operates, but also to understand that interviews are NOT conversations. Learning a few methods to turn an interview back to what I want to say was very useful.”

A/Prof Jennifer Philip – Deputy Director Palliative Medicine and Centre for Palliative Care, St Vincent’s Hospital

### VCOG in 2013

- Will have a name change to CCV’s Clinical Network.
- We will be implementing 2013-2015 strategic plan.
- Continuing our advocacy work including building on the foundations of the Agenda for Cancer Control.
- Work in clinical trial capacity building.
- Engaging our membership with Cancer Council Victoria and undertaking a strategy to engage with potential members.

- Continuing on in the area of General Practitioner Education and beginning to consider how we work with primary and community based care.
- Jessica Delaney has been appointed to undertake a review of the Patient Management Frameworks as well as develop patient journey resources for consumers. This project is funded by the Department of Health.

There will be opportunity to input into this work and we look forward to your involvement.

### Review of Patient Management Frameworks

In 2012, the Department of Health funded the Cancer Council Victoria to conduct a review of the Patient Management Frameworks which were developed in 2006 to guide the optimal care management of patients with cancer. In addition to reviewing the current frameworks, the Cancer Council Victoria will also develop adjunct patient journey resources to assist new cancer patients, their families and carers understand the cancer journey. The VCOG Chair, Jeremy Millar, will sit on the Project Steering Committee. If you are interested in assisting with the redevelopment or design of the Patient management frameworks please contact Ms Jessica Delaney on 9635 5199.

### Relocation of CCV

Cancer Council Victoria has been searching for new accommodation as our current facilities are no longer fit for purpose and our staff team are spread over two sites.

We are pleased to advise that we have secured new accommodation at 615 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne.

Although a little further away from our current offices, we will have public transport at our doorstep so travel to/from the CBD will not be difficult. We will also have ample parking onsite for visitors.

Our estimated move date is not until the last quarter of 2013, but we will keep you appraised of our move dates and new contact details in due course

*The 2013 meeting dates are now on the website. We look forward to working with you in 2013.*