



Strengthening cancer care through education and development

## Cancer Learning

### Review of Cancer Australia education and professional development resources

**Have Your Say:** contribute to the continuous improvement of education and professional development resources for cancer care professionals by participating in a brief online survey by clicking the following link:

<http://questionpro.com/t/ABJkZHc8S>

*Siggins Miller* has been commissioned by Cancer Australia to undertake an independent review of the recently developed education and professional development resources, including Cancer Learning, EdCaN, EPICC and the Primary Health Care section of *eviQ* Cancer Treatments Online.

As an important key stakeholder with an interest in the continuous improvement of Cancer Australia education and professional development resources, we invite you to complete a brief online survey regarding your experience using these resources and potential impact they may have had on your professional practice. Participation in the survey will take 5 -10 minutes and all responses are anonymous and confidential. If you would like any further information regarding the survey or the Review please contact Melissa Williams by email [Melissa.Williams@sigginsmiller.com.au](mailto:Melissa.Williams@sigginsmiller.com.au)

### April News

We hope you had a wonderful Easter break! It is fantastic that we have received so much interest in the Clinician: Manager Connect module pilot. If you would like further information about participating in the pilot for this new learning activity, please contact Ana: [ana.munro@sydney.edu.au](mailto:ana.munro@sydney.edu.au)

#### EdCaN

Keep an eye out for the May 2010 update that will feature the new supporting modules and case study that will shortly be added to the suite of EdCaN learning resources!

#### Media release: Delivering regional cancer centres

The Australian Government announces they will invest \$560 million in new or upgraded cancer centres in regional and rural communities across Australia.

[http://www.aushealthcare.com.au/news/news\\_details.asp?nid=16793](http://www.aushealthcare.com.au/news/news_details.asp?nid=16793)

### Events

Run by the *NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation* (formerly Greater Metropolitan Clinical Taskforce) the annual **NSW Gynaecological Oncology Nurse Seminar**, "Advances in Gynaecological Cancer" will be held Friday 21 May 2010 from 8.30am – 4.00pm at the Kerry Packer Education Centre, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Camperdown. For information and to register, please

visit: [http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/resources/gmct/gynaecnc/go\\_cancer\\_seminar\\_pdf.asp](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/resources/gmct/gynaecnc/go_cancer_seminar_pdf.asp)

The Local Organising Committee of the **Cancer Nurses Society of Australia (CNSA)** invites you to attend the 13th Winter Congress on 29-31 July 2010 at the Hyatt Regency, Perth. The CNSA is an independent body for cancer nurses in Australia who are committed to achieving and promoting excellence in cancer care. The theme for this Congress is "Leadership, Diversity and Innovation: The Global Picture". Please visit the website <http://www.cnsa2010.com> for further information and to register.

Following the success of the first two courses, *Cancer Pharmacists Group of Australia* again offer the **Clinical Skills for Cancer Pharmacy Practitioners** course on 21-22 August 2010 at the Novotel Hotel, Brisbane. Designed to assist pharmacists in developing their clinical skills in cancer pharmacy practice, the 2-day course combines informative lectures with interactive workshops to assist practitioners in developing their skills and abilities in the many processes involved in providing cancer treatment to patients. The course is aimed at pharmacists who are already working in the area of cancer but have less than 2 years experience. \$440 for CPG members or \$495 for non members. See <http://cpg.iamevents.com.au/index.php> further information and to register.

*Cancer Council Queensland* warmly invites you to the **33rd Annual Oncology Nurses Group Conference**, 'Multidisciplinary care: We are all in this together', to be held 9-10 September 2010 at Radisson Resort Gold Coast. The program will offer a range of topics relevant to health professionals caring for people and their families by cancer from pre-diagnosis through all stages of the illness trajectory regarding current trends in diagnosis, treatment, psychosocial care, research and health education relevant to everyday clinical practice in both regional and metropolitan settings. And, as a conference first, a special breast cancer stream will be available for delegates to attend. For further details regarding abstracts, travel grants, and to register for this special event please visit the conference website <http://www.ongconference.org.au>

Save the date! The *Clinical Oncological Society of Australia* invites you to attend the **37th Annual Scientific Meeting** to be held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, 9-11 November 2010. Further information and registration details will be available soon.

## **New on Cancer Learning in April**

### **Key documents**

#### **"Delivering better cancer care" booklet**

"Delivering better cancer care" is an information booklet about cancer in Australia and what the government is doing about it, particularly in rural, regional and remote areas of Australia. Published in April 2010, the booklet demonstrates the Government plans to prevent cancer, improve access to cancer care services in regional areas of Australia, to strengthen care for cancer patients and to build a world class cancer care system in Australia.

#### **Core capabilities in genetics for medical graduates**

Every physician, particularly those working in cancer care, in the 21st century will need to have a practising knowledge of the principles of human genetics and their application to a wide variety of clinical settings. The Human Genetics Society of Australasia established a working group of genetics experts to establish guidelines about the extent and level of genetic knowledge, skills, and behaviours that all doctors need at the start of their careers.

### **Coordination of care resource**

#### **Speech pathology brochures - Radiation to the Head and Neck**

Information brochures for clinicians detailing the therapeutic interventions that a Speech Pathologist can offer to cancer patients with head and neck cancers undergoing radiation

therapy. Information is available on a range of common side effects and issues related to treatment including Trismus, Dysphagia, Xerostomia, Humidification, Mouth issues, Dysphonia, Odynophagia and Stoma management. Clinician fact sheets to complement the brochures are also available from: Senior Speech Pathologist - Acute Department, Princess Alexandra Hospital, 199 Ipswich Rd, Woolloongabba QLD 4102.

## **Coordination of care activities**

### **Pathways for Patient Safety**

Pathways for Patient Safety are a series of Web tools you can use to increase awareness, knowledge and implementation of best practices for reducing the risk of patient harm in physician practices. The modules are:

- Working as a Team - outlines actions required for building high-performing patient safety teams and techniques for effective communications among care givers to reduce patient harm;
- Assessing Where You Stand - provides practical steps toward minimizing medical errors by assessing current patient-safety procedures, addressing practice culture and setting goals;
- Creating Medication Safety - describes factors practices should consider when implementing or augmenting a medical reconciliation process, and when prescribing or administering medications that may be harmful to patients.

### **Physician Practice Patient Safety Assessment® (PPPSA)**

The Physician Practice Patient Safety Assessment® (PPPSA) is a self-assessment tool that helps physician practices evaluate their patient-safety processes and detect areas for improvement. PPPSA is designed to enhance physician awareness of patient safety; heighten provider knowledge of characteristics that make a practice safer; and create baseline comparisons for practices to use to enhance and support patient safety. The tool can be used by physicians to provide safer and better care, reduce liability and facilitate conversation among staff to identify opportunities for increasing patient safety in areas regarding medication safety; patient handoffs and transitions; surgery and invasive procedures; personnel qualifications and competency; practice management and culture; and patient education and communication.

## **Evidence and latest treatments**

### **National Centre for Asbestos Related Diseases (NCARD) website**

<http://www.ncard.org.au>

National Centre for Asbestos Related Diseases (NCARD) is a research centre funded by the federal government as part of the Government's Strengthening Cancer Care package with measures aimed at prevention, treatment and support for cancer patients and their families. NCARD is a collaboration of researchers who have a national and strategic focus for research into asbestos related diseases and cancers and provides a platform to build on Australia's existing research expertise and encourages strong organisational and linkages to ensure our research is systematic and complementary to existing research efforts in the area of asbestos related diseases. The website provides information regarding NCARD projects and publications and provides links to information regarding asbestos related diseases including mesothelioma and lung cancer.

## **Fundamentals of Oncology**

### **International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care (ISNCC) Webinars**

The major objective of the new ISNCC webinar program is to offer ISNCC members and non-members the opportunity to engage in nursing educational opportunities on a range of cancer and cancer nursing topics at a reasonable cost and in the convenience of their own office or home. Participants and speakers only require internet and phone access; therefore, webinars provide informative, timely and cost-effective international education. Multiple participants at one institution can benefit from the same webinar by using a speakerphone and communal monitor/projector. The application typically lasts 1 hour and can consist of more than one speaker. Questions from the audience are usually

addressed at the end of the presentations thus providing a fully interactive learning medium.

## **Supportive Care**

### **Advance Care Planning e-learning course**

The Advance Care Planning (ACP) course is Part 1 of the Respecting Patient Choices (RPC) education course geared to provide a broad introduction to ACP. The course consists of six modules that take approximately one hour to complete and cover basic definitions, legal aspects, considerations regarding end of life decision-making and communication, the actual process of holding advance care planning conversations, as well as systemic matters that underpin ACP. Part 2 is a full day workshop that focuses on communication skills giving you the opportunity to train and build your advance care planning skills in an applied setting to assist you in leading end of life decision-making discussions.

### **Gynaecological cancer elearning modules for health professionals**

Information presented as elearning modules (generally Powerpoint/voice over format) that support health professionals to increase their knowledge and understanding about the various issues of patients diagnosed with gynaecological cancer. The modules include: Gynaecological cancer patient management, psychosocial distress, sexuality, complementary therapies, pain management, end of life and survivorship.

We invite you to [submit](#) any resources, learning activities or information you know of or have developed that we may be able to add to Cancer Learning to share with others working in cancer care. We also welcome your [feedback](#) about the Cancer Learning website, the recent improvements and any areas of cancer care that you would like included on the site.

Til next month, happy learning!

The Cancer Learning Team