

## Welcome...

to the first edition of *NSWOG News*, a bi-monthly newsletter to keep you up to date on all the hard work and progress of the 20 NSW Oncology Groups. All NSWOG's are fully operational, and a big thank you to all Chairs and members for volunteering their time to the committees. We welcome your ideas and feedback on this newsletter and invite you to pass this on to any interested colleagues who are not members of an NSWOG.

## Cancer Plan 2007-2010

The University of Sydney played host to the first of a series of seven consultative workshops on the Cancer Plan 2007-2010. Dr. Norman Swan kicked off the NSWOG

## NSWOG consultative workshop

Workshop on 3 August, which also featured a presentation from Susan Fitzpatrick, Executive Officer of NSWOG's older sibling, the Victorian Cooperative Oncology Group (VCOG). As well as

critiquing the effectiveness of the NSWOG's themselves, the group canvassed issues ranging from workforce and rural services to evaluation and interaction with AHS's.

Right: Facilitator Dr. Norman Swan, Professor Jim Bishop, Chief Cancer Officer & CEO, Cancer Institute NSW and Ms Susan Fitzpatrick, Executive Officer, Victorian Cooperative Oncology Group & Centre for Clinical Research in Cancer, The Cancer Council Victoria.



Above (L,R): A/Prof Graham Young (RPA) NSWOG Malignant Haematology, Prof Judy Kirk (Westmead) NSWOG Cancer Genetics, Kathryn Nattress (RPA) NSWOG Gynae-Oncology, Dr Kerry Tiller (POW) Patient Support and Dr Luciano Dalla-Pozza (CHW) NSWOG Child and Adolescent.

## NSWOG Activities...

### NSWOG Funded Projects Deadline

Applications for NSWOG project funding must be received by 30 September:

**NSWOG Projects Grants**  
Cancer Institute NSW  
PO Box 41  
Alexandria NSW 2145

### Patient Management Frameworks

NSWOG Groups have been asked to review the Victorian Department of Human Services Patient Management Frameworks for specific cancers by September, with the view to adapting them for NSW Health.

### Minimum Dataset Additions

NSWOG Groups continue to collate recommendations to the Cancer Institute NSW for possible dataset additions to the Clinical Cancer Registry Minimum Dataset.

## September      October Calendar

**4 September: NSWOG Melanoma**  
6pm - 8pm: Cancer Institute Boardroom

**8 September: NSWOG Lung**  
3pm - 5pm: Cancer Institute Boardroom

**12 September: NSWOG Pathology**  
6pm - 8pm: Cancer Institute Boardroom

**13 September: NSWOG Child and Adolescent**  
4pm - 6pm: Cancer Institute Boardroom

**14 September: NSWOG Palliative Care**  
9.30am - 12.30pm: Room 7ABC, Bay 8, ATP

**14 September: NSWOG Cancer Genetics**  
3.30pm - 5.30pm: Cancer Institute Boardroom

**18 September: NSWOG Complementary therapies**  
4pm - 6pm: Cancer Institute Boardroom

**18 September: NSWOG Urology**  
6.30pm - 8.30pm: Room 7ABC, Bay 8, ATP

**22 September: NSWOG Neuro-oncology**  
7.30am - 9am: Cancer Institute Boardroom

**4 October: NSWOG Upper GI**  
7pm - 9pm: Cancer Institute Boardroom

**18 October: NSWOG Colorectal**  
5.30pm - 7.30pm: TBC

**20 October: NSWOG Rural Oncology**  
9am - 2pm: TBC

**30 October: NSWOG GPAC**  
4.30pm - 6.30pm: Cancer Institute Boardroom

## August Meetings



Prof. Ken Bradstock

The **NSWOG Malignant Haematology** are considering three proposals for Cancer Institute NSW project funding:

- A central infrastructure to help build capacity to undertake and participate in state clinical trials.
- Piloting of a haematology minimum data set.
- Developing clinical guidelines and protocols for the management of malignant haematology.

The **NSWOG Neuro-Oncology** selected their project for Cancer Institute NSW funding from three high quality proposals. *Community Participation and Challenging Behaviours: Trailing a Behavioural Consultancy Model for People with Brain Tumour* (Submitted by Teresa Simpson, Kylie Wright, Rochelle Firth) was the chosen application. The group are also preparing for their inaugural Annual General Meeting in December 2006.



A/Prof Michael Barton



Dr. Gary Morgan

Items discussed at the August meeting of the **NSWOG Head and Neck** meeting were:

- Potential projects for Cancer Institute NSW funding.
- Clarification of the additional data items to be included in the Minimum Data Set currently collected by the Clinical Cancer Registry.
- A motion recommending the 2005 NCCN guidelines be adopted by the group was tabled.

The **NSWOG Breast** finalised their Cancer Institute NSW funding application to request placement of two part-time project officers located in a Sydney Metropolitan location (possibly North Sydney Central Coast) and a rural location (possibly Sydney South West or North Coast) to collect breast specific data. The group also worked on clarifying items to be included in the Minimum Data Set and finalising NBCC items not currently part of the MDS.



A/Prof David Gillett



Prof. Phil Crowe

**NSWOG Bone and Soft Tissue Sarcoma** finalised their Cancer Institute NSW project for funding at their meeting on 28 August. Other major items were:

- NCCN guidelines were adopted as a guide only.
- The group agreed to feedback MDS data additions.
- Standard radiotherapy protocols for sarcoma will be considered by the group.
- Data collection, clinical trials and tissue banking were identified as priorities of the group going forward.

## Contact Us...

We would love to know what you think of the first *NSWOG News*, so please drop us a line with your suggestions on how we can deliver you the most interesting updates and news.

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**NSWOG Team (L,R):** Dr. Cynthia Lean, Manager for Information and Collaboration, with Secretariats Catherine Bullivant & Raquelle David.