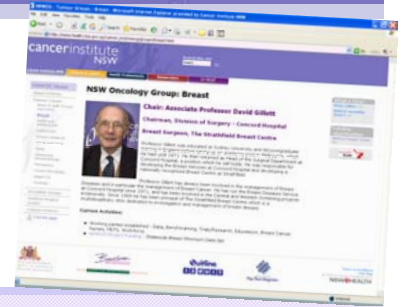


NSWOG is on the web, with a special NSWOG tab now located on the Cancer Institute NSW homepage, under Health Professionals. Features include individual NSWOG pages with Chair biographies, NSWOG Project information, past issues of *NSWOG News* and an online gallery showcasing previous NSWOG events. So add www.cancerinstitute.org.au/nswog/ to your favourites now!



NSWOG General Practice Advisory Committee

Patient Management Frameworks

The Victorian Patient Management Frameworks (PMF) have been a hot topic at NSW Oncology Group meetings, and the NSWOG General Practice Advisory Committee are the latest group to review the documents and feed back recommendations on how the documents can be translated into a NSW setting.

An initiative of the Victorian Department of Human Services, the frameworks were developed to improve patient outcomes through facilitating consistent care across Victoria. They provide a clear description of the tumour-specific care pathway, identifying critical points and the optimal model of care.

Developed in collaboration with a range of Victorian health professionals and consumers, the NSWOG's emerged as the perfect vehicle to explore the possibility of adapting these for the NSW health system and implementing the frameworks in a two state initiative.

The specialised General Practice NSWOG are now examining the GP components of the frameworks, before they are piloted in a Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) setting through the

recent allocation of MDT grants.

Over \$3 million worth of funding has been allocated across twenty MDTs to complete seven projects, which includes trialling the frameworks for a minimum of six months across both a rural and metropolitan centre. MDT's trialling the PMF's include; Breast, Lung, Prostate, Colorectal and Melanoma. The NSWOG General Practice Advisory committee was established in 2005 and is chaired by Professor Michael Kidd. Cancer Institute NSW GP projects have included the Cancer Leads Program and the Southern Highlands Pilot Project on smoking cessation.

Community Corner

Sophie Noble
NSWOG Melanoma

After being diagnosed with a malignant melanoma in 2004, I underwent surgery to remove both the pelvic and groin centennial nodes in my left leg. It was during this time that I could appreciate first-hand the absolutely incredible hard work and dedication shown to me by all the doctors and nurses involved in my case at RPAH. Post-surgery, I spent 10 days in hospital and was approached to take part in a volunteer-based clinical trial that would monitor my progress, and hopefully assist in the ongoing research into melanoma. Whilst this trial has now finished, it was here that I also came into contact with a wonderful group of people whose caring and understanding knew no bounds. So when I was asked to join NSWOG Melanoma as its consumer representative, I didn't hesitate.

**"I'm witness to an
inspirational team at work"**



This committee works tirelessly across a myriad of cancers - not just melanoma. From research to surgery, trial updates and data, each member provides an invaluable source of information, all working to provide the best treatments possible for those suffering from the disease. By joining the committee, I'm witness to an inspirational team at work - privy to all the progress that is being made, and hopefully learning a thing or two along the way myself. It is a relatively small group, but it is vital, representing the many, many people who are committed to beating cancer. It's an immense privilege to be a part of it.

March & April Meetings



Prof John Thompson

NSWOG Melanoma discussed additions to the minimum data set and development of the draft data dictionary; work towards a collaborative approach to tumour banking and the relationship between the NSWOG Melanoma and the NSW Melanoma Network. Work is expected to commence shortly at the Sydney Melanoma Unit on the "Recurrence of Melanoma in NSW" Cancer Institute NSW project



A/Prof Michael Boyer

NSWOG Lung were updated on the Lung patterns of care study and the NSWOG Lung Fact Sheet which was developed by the Cancer Institute NSW. The group also ratified details of a Draft Data Dictionary for their lung cancer dataset extension and discussed initiatives to promote Lung Cancer Month in November. Michael Boyer stepped down as chair and thanked the committee for the privilege. The group are currently electing a new chair and deputy chair by secret ballot.

NSWOG Palliative Care were updated on the Clinical Trial Partnerships between the Cancer Institute NSW, Kendle Pty Ltd and the NHMRC. The palliative care sector has traditionally been under-represented in clinical trials and it is hoped this partnership will provide necessary support in trial design, initiation and management. A summary of the findings of the gap analysis project for palliative care information systems was provided by NSW Health, in addition to an update on the development and implementation of the Electronic Medical Record. A report was also given by the Department on the establishment of the Statewide Centre for the Improvement of Palliative Care (SCIP) which will initially be developing the NSW strategic plan for palliative care.



A/Prof Richard Chye

Annette Pantle, Director of Clinical Practice Improvement Projects, Clinical Excellence Commission (CEC) presented to **NSWOG Child & Adolescent** on the NSW Incident Information Management System (IIMS), with focus on incidents involving medication error. The NSWOG has identified medication error as an area of particular concern in paediatric cancer services. A report was received on School and Learning Problems in Child Cancer Patients; it was agreed to meet with a representative of Ronald McDonald Charities to discuss possible collaboration in this area. Other issues discussed included progress with the Cancer Institute NSW projects and provision of funding to Multidisciplinary Teams in Paediatric and Adolescent/Young Adult Cancers to further develop MDT care for these patient groups.



Prof Glenn Marshall



A/Prof Michael Bilous

NSWOG Pathology were updated on the SESI NSWOG Colorectal/Pathology Harmonisation project at their March meeting. Draft synoptic histopathology reports for colorectal cancer have been provided to NSWOG Colorectal for comment and recommendations and a website containing links to the definitions has been proposed. Progress on setting up the NSWOG Pathology Workload Audit project was discussed, in addition to possible synergies between this and similar pieces of work commissioned by the RCPA.

NSWOG GPAC identified their priorities for 2007 which included improving Discharge Plans for patients with cancer; improving communication between GPs and multidisciplinary teams treating patients with cancer; identifying gaps in cancer services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and improving breast/cervical screening participation rates via GP-based strategies. The committee were also given updates on the Cervical and Bowel Screening awareness media campaigns and discussed the HPV vaccination program and Medicare benefit items for multi-disciplinary team meetings.



Prof Michael Kidd

NSWOG Upper GI ratified details of a draft data dictionary for the Upper GI dataset extension at their March meeting. The group were presented the NSWOG Upper GI Fact Sheet which summarises key information and details on utilising additional resources. The fact sheet is available on the Cancer Institute NSW website. The NSWOG Upper GI project to conduct a Statewide survey of surgical treatment of oesophago-gastric and pancreatic cancer is currently being finalised with the Sydney Upper Gastrointestinal Surgical Society (SUGSS).



Dr Andrew Brooks

NSWOG Urology discussed the Cancer Institute NSW project to develop a strategic Urology Oncology Plan for the next ten years and were given updates on a patterns of care study in prostate cancer. The committee agreed on a 2007 work plan which included focus areas of protocols, outcomes of bladder cancer and tissue banking, MDTs synoptic pathology reporting for prostate cancer and identifying gaps in clinical trial accrual.

May/June Calendar

4 May: NSWOG Neuro-Oncology

7.30am - 9am: ATP Boardroom

10 May: NSWOG Cancer Genetics

3.30pm - 5.30pm: Cancer Institute NSW Boardroom

14 May: NSWOG Executive

4pm - 6pm: ATP Boardroom

14 May: NSWOG Head and Neck

6pm - 8pm: ATP Boardroom

16 May: NSWOG Breast

5pm - 7pm: ATP Boardroom

21 May: NSWOG Complementary Therapies

4pm - 6pm: ATP Boardroom

24 May: NSWOG Gynae-Oncology

3.30 - 5pm: Macquarie Hospital, North Ryde

25 May: NSWOG Rural Oncology

1.30pm - 5pm: T2 Function Centre, Sydney Domestic Airport

28 May: NSWOG Bone and Soft Tissue Sarcoma

6pm - 8pm: ATP Boardroom

30 May: NSWOG Haematology Oncology

4pm - 6pm: ATP Boardroom

4 June: NSWOG Urology

6.30pm - 8.30pm: ATP Boardroom

5 June: NSWOG Pathology

6pm - 8pm: ATP Boardroom

12 June: NSWOG Melanoma

6pm - 8pm: ATP Boardroom

7 June: NSWOG Palliative Care

9.30am - 12pm: ATP Boardroom

13 June: NSWOG Child & Adolescent

4pm - 6pm: Cancer Institute NSW Boardroom

15 June: NSWOG Lung

3pm - 5pm: Cancer Institute NSW Boardroom

20 June: NSWOG Colorectal

5.30pm - 7.30pm: ATP Boardroom

22 June: NSWOG Neuro-Oncology

7.30am - 9am: Cancer Institute NSW Boardroom

Research Round-up

A note from the Director

The Research Team, together with the Communications Division, is continuing to organise this year's Premier's Awards for Outstanding Cancer Research, to be held on Wednesday 23 May at Doltone House, Pyrmont.

Tickets for this event are on sale now, and can be purchased at www.cancerresearchawards.org.au

The night will recognise and reward some of NSW's most outstanding cancer research talent. With MC's Peter FitzSimons and Lisa Wilkinson, entertainment from Katherine Hunter, John Morrison and Jelly Bean Jam, it promises to be a wonderful celebration for all.

I hope you are all able to attend what will no doubt be another wonderful evening.

Yours in Research,

Carmel Edwards
Director, Research Programs



Grants...

Cancer Institute NSW Review of Cancer Research 2007

As part of the Cancer Institute NSW commitment to foster state-wide collaboration and build capacity in cancer research we are currently conducting our triennial review of cancer research in NSW. The survey has been sent to over 180 cancer research leaders in NSW across many hospitals, universities and independent research organisations. As a follow up to the 2001-2003 audit, the 2004-2006 review will critically impact on the development of the Cancer Institute NSW cancer research strategy. The information gathered about each research group is extremely important to ensure the Cancer Institute NSW has adequate and appropriate information on which to base future funding. It also provides an important opportunity for cancer researchers and their teams to be identified and targeted for future funding opportunities. The survey is due to conclude at the end of April and a report should be available in the coming months. For further information on the Cancer Institute NSW Review of Cancer Research 2007, please contact Garry Way, Grants Project Officer, on 8374 5638 or email research.secretariat@cancerinstitute.org.au

Clinical Trials...

The development of the NSW Cancer Trials Network is continuing, with key documentation regarding the structure and implementation of the Network currently being finalised. A meeting will be held in early May to roll out the model and establish the Executive Committee for the Network, which is chaired by Prof Robyn Ward.

We have recently completed a review of our current funding for clinical trial nurses and data managers grants. The review demonstrated that there has been an increase in the number of clinical trials being conducted in NSW along with the number of patients on trials. The data collected will be presented in a monograph shortly.

Ethics...

Single Ethical Review

Our move toward single ethical review continues with speed. The Cancer Institute NSW has submitted applications for accreditation of the Clinical Research Ethics Committee and the NSW Population & Health Services Research Ethics Committee as lead HRECs under this model. It is anticipated that this model will be 'live' from 1st July.

Data Governance Project

The Research Division, in conjunction with the Information & registries Division, have been working on developing policy and procedure around the release of data from the various health information registries managed by the Cancer Institute NSW. It is anticipated that these documents will be implemented over the next few months.

If you have any questions relating to either of these initiatives, please feel free to contact Kirsten Legione, Ethics Project Officer, on 02 8374 5759 or email ethics@cancerinstitute.org.au.

NSW Oncology Groups
Cancer Institute NSW
PO Box 41 - Alexandria NSW 2145
Phone: 02 8374 5600 - Mobile: 0434 565 869 -
Fax: 02 8374 5700 - nswog@cancerinstitute.org.au