The year 2009 has been extremely productive for ANZMTG and has included the approval of 3 new clinical trials (Mel-D, MEL-QOL and RTN2) and continued and ongoing support of active trials. Also, this year the ANZMTG protocol development and synopsis process has been rolled out, resulting in several other projects which are in the pipeline for development.

The increase in ANZMTG activities is a reflection of the commitment and enthusiasm of the ANZMTG Executive Committee, staff and the membership. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Cancer Australia, Clinical Oncological Society of Australia (COSA) and University of Sydney who have provided funding and continued support to ANZMTG.

ANZMTG continues to explore and expand collaboration opportunities with other groups; ANZMTG looks forward to supporting melanoma research activities and clinical trials in 2010 and beyond.

Finally, I would like to congratulate and encourage all who have contributed to the achievements of ANZMTG thus far and wish you and your family a safe holiday over the Christmas season.

Staff News — Arrivals

We warmly welcome Marianne Byrne, who joined ANZMTG in October 2009 as a Project Officer. Marianne joins the group after having worked at The George Institute for International Health on Neurological and Mental Health studies primarily in stroke. She graduated from the University of Sydney in 2006 with a B.Sci (Hons) and has recently completed a Graduate Certificate in Clinical Trials Management at the University of Canberra.

Marianne looks forward to providing exceptional co-ordination of the Whole Brain Radiotherapy Trial and to assist ANZMTG in other trials.

36th Clinical Oncological Society of Australia Annual Scientific Meeting

The 36th COSA ASM was held from 17-19 November 2009 at the Gold Coast. This successful multidisciplinary event was attended by health professionals from Australia and New Zealand with key speakers from renowned international Cancer Centres as well. This year ANZMTG provided travel grants to six members to enable them attend the conference.

“The conference program was very comprehensive and of exceptional quality”

Sally Blandford, Oncology Research, Frankston Hospital
Melanoma Network of New Zealand (MelNet)

Melanoma Network of New Zealand (MelNet) was established when over 230 health professionals gathered in Wellington in November 2008 for the inaugural New Zealand Melanoma Summit. The impetus for the Summit came, in part, from those involved in developing the Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Management of Melanoma in Australia and New Zealand. At the Summit’s conclusion, participants unanimously agreed to establish a network to link all health professionals working in melanoma.

MelNet’s objectives are:
- To be the umbrella network for melanoma control in New Zealand, supporting others working in melanoma control/management
- To facilitate and promote the advancement of professional practice and coordination in melanoma control
- To be involved in strategic change projects
- To provide a home for associated organisations and committees

The MelNet Establishment Committee is co-chaired by Associate Professor Graham Stevens ( Radiation Oncologist) and Dr Gary Duncan (Plastic Surgeon). Membership is open to professionals, including health promoters, health professionals, researchers and policy makers. During the past year MelNet has continued to consolidate its role in coordinating melanoma activities in New Zealand. In addition to overseeing the Network, the Establishment Committee provides advisory service to the core membership of the group and the New Zealand Guidelines Group (NZGG) on the development of an implementation plan for the Melanoma Guidelines.

In July 2009 MelNet launched its website to provide a resource and communication centre for those involved in the melanoma sector in New Zealand. Funded by the Health Sponsorship Council and the Melanoma Foundation, the site features a password-protected area for professionals and regular updates on published research and clinical trials.

To learn more about the group and/or to obtain more information, visit www.melanoma.org.nz/melnet or contact Betsy Marshall, MelNet Co-ordinator by phone +64 274 715 931 or email melnet@melanoma.org.nz.

Society of Melanoma Research (SMR) Congress 2010

The Society of Melanoma Research (SMR) holds Annual Meetings to provide researchers with an opportunity to collaborate, meet and share ideas about all forms of melanoma research. The 7th International Melanoma Congress and the 4th Meeting of Interdisciplinary Melanoma/Skin Cancer Centres will be held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre from 4-7 November 2010. The meeting represents a fantastic opportunity for melanoma researchers and health professionals to meet and hear about progress in research and treatment. The conference will also feature a patient forum and update on the latest treatments.

The Congress theme is Pathways to Treatment, which encapsulates the ongoing translation of our basic knowledge of the cellular pathways underlying melanoma development to the design of new molecular therapies to treat this disease.

Abstracts for proffered papers will be requested in April 2010. This event is sponsored by the University of Sydney and is hosted by the Melanoma Institute Australia.

For more information visit www.melanoma2010.com.
Announcements

Professor Rebecca Mason awarded for her work in vitamin D research

Professor Rebecca Mason is a leading academic at the University of Sydney and is involved in research on vitamin D and the mechanisms which regulate calcium and phosphate concentrations and bone mass.

A key finding of her research group was that vitamin D compounds, which are made in skin, also provide considerable protection from UV-induced DNA damage in human cells, mice and people.

Professor Mason is President-Elect of the Australian and New Zealand Bone and Mineral Society, a Board member of Osteoporosis Australia and a member of the ANZMTG.

Recently, at the 14th Workshop on Vitamin D in Brugge, Belgium, Professor Mason was honoured in recognition of her career contributions to vitamin D research.

ANZMTG supports Professor Mason’s clinical trial research in melanoma and would like to congratulate her on this great achievement.

The Launch of the Communication Workshop Initiative; tailored for Melanoma researchers

ANZMTG has provided funding support to Melanoma Institute Australia (MIA) to enable the hosting of a series of Communication Workshops.

The workshops are designed to address both clinical and administrative staff who deal with melanoma patients and their family members. The facilitator will address the following topics:

- Dealing with patients in waiting rooms
- Patients who have received bad news
- Melanoma in young patients (family issues)
- Melanoma terminology and how familiar is this to the general population

The first workshop was successfully held on 26 November 2009.

Future plans for the workshop include a revised format for clinical staff to be held in 2010 and expansion to involve staff in other states.

Please stay tuned on www.anzmtg.org for updates on this initiative.
Current Clinical Trials Update

ANZMTG 02.09
Vitamin D following primary treatment of melanoma at high risk of recurrence - a pilot placebo controlled randomised trial (Acronym: Mel-D)
Chief Investigator: Dr Robyn Saw; Trial Co-ordinator: Valerie Jakrot

This protocol is currently in development. The purpose of this trial is to assess the feasibility, safety and toxicity of a loading dose of Vitamin D (500,000IU) followed by monthly oral dosing of Vitamin D tablets (50,000IU) for 2 years.

Ethics approval has been obtained for this protocol. This will be a single centre clinical trial with an accrual target of 75 patients over 2 years. ANZMTG is the Co-ordinating Centre with statistical support provided by the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre, University of Sydney.

For more information contact Valerie Jakrot by phone +61 (0)2 9911 7306 or email valerie.jakrot@melanoma.org.au.

ANZMTG RP1.09
Improving Quality of Life measurement for melanoma patients: Validity and reliability study of QoL instruments in a NSW population (Acronym: MEL-QOL Research Study)
Chief Investigator: Associate Professor Julie Winstanley; Trial Co-ordinator: Bridget Myles

This Quality of Life (QoL) study has progressed tremendously well with funding support from the University of Sydney and ANZMTG. To date, 32 interviews have been conducted (22 patients and 10 relatives). Transcripts have been prepared and content analysis has commenced. These results will be presented at a Research Workshop in December 2009.

Pertinent melanoma QoL issues will be identified and new items generated through this research. Clinicians at the Melanoma Institute of Australia (MIA) will be asked to review current QoL items used in other generic cancer QoL questionnaires (including FACT-G, FACT-M, MM Module) and the new QoL issues and items generated from the interviews. Telephone interviews to representatives of several advocacy groups (CanTEEN, Melanoma Patients Australia and Cancer Council NSW) will be conducted and the data analysed.

It is anticipated that the item development and pre-testing phase will be completed by late 2009 and a progress report will be submitted to the EORTC QoL Group for approval, together with an application for funding in April 2010.

For information contact Bridget Myles by phone +61 (0)2 9911 7371 or email bridget.myles@melanoma.org.au.

ANZMTG 01.09, A randomised trial of post-operative radiation therapy following wide excision of neurotropic melanoma of the head and neck (Acronym: RTN2)
Chief Investigator: Associate Professor Bryan Burmeister; Trial Co-ordinator: Janelle Meakin

This trial is open and recruiting at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, QLD. Other Australian sites will follow once amendment to the current protocol has been finalised. International interest has been expressed for this study. The Trans Tasman Radiation Oncology Group Inc (TROG) is the lead group co-ordinating the trial in collaboration with ANZMTG.

For information contact Janelle Meakin by phone +61 (0)7 3240 2498 or email janelle.meakin@health.qld.gov.au.
Current Clinical Trials Update

ANZMTG 01.07
Whole Brain Radiotherapy (WBRT) following local treatment of intracranial metastases of melanoma - A randomised phase III trial (Acronym: WBRT in melanoma)
Chief Investigator: Dr Gerald Fogarty; Trial Co-ordinators: Alan Lucas and Marianne Byrne

All Australian sites have been activated and are open to recruitment together with the Radium Hospital in Norway actively screening as well. To date 6 patients have been randomised on this protocol.

The trial was presented at the 3rd World Interdisciplinary Melanoma/Skin Cancer Centres Meeting (Berlin, Germany) and at the 36th Clinical Oncological Society of Australia (COSA) Annual Scientific Meeting (Gold Coast). The trial has been advocated at various other forums and it is anticipated that with continued trial exposure and support, more international sites may come on board of this trial.

ANZMTG would like to thank all sites for actively screening for eligible patients; in particular staff at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPAH)/Melanoma Institute Australia (MIA) (NSW) and Princess Alexandra Hospital (QLD).

For more information contact Marianne Byrne by phone +61 (0)2 9911 7351 or email marianne.byrne@melanoma.org.au.

A phase III multicenter randomized trial of sentinel lymphadenectomy and complete lymph node dissection versus sentinel lymphadenectomy alone, in cutaneous melanoma patients with molecular or histopathological evidence of metastases in the sentinel node (Acronym: MSLT II)
Chief Investigator: Dr Don Morton; Trial Co-ordinator: Lisa van Kreuningen

MSLT II continues to actively recruit patients and the active Australian sites include: Melanoma Institute Australia (MIA); Alfred Hospital, Newcastle Melanoma Unit, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and Princess Alexandra Hospital.

The accrual target for this study is 1925 patients (worldwide) to be randomised over 7 years following 3 year follow-up. To date, 879 patients have been randomised worldwide.

Multicenter Selective Lymphadenectomy Trial I (MSLT I) follow-up data collection continues, pending final analysis. ANZMTG has provided funds to both, MSLT I and MSLT II active Australian sites to subsidise study costs during 2008/2009 and 2009/2010.

For more information on both trials, contact Lisa van Kreuningen by phone +1 310 5827053 or email lvk@jwci.org.

ANZMTG 01.02
A randomised clinical trial of surgery versus surgery plus adjuvant radiotherapy for regional control in patients with completely resected macroscopic nodal metastatic melanoma
Chief Investigator: Associate Professor Bryan Burmeister; Trial Co-ordinator: Juliana Di Iulio

This clinical trial was ANZMTG’s very first undertaking. The trial accrued successfully in September 2007 (250 patients) and recently an interim analysis was completed, the report of which was presented at the 45th American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting in Orlando, USA. Follow-up of all trial participants will continue for at least 5 years from end of accrual. In the interim, processes have begun to publish the interim trial results.

For more information contact Juliana Di Iulio by phone +61 (0)3 9656 3786 or email juliana.diiulio@petermac.org.
The South Australian Melanoma Research and Education Day

On 4 December 2009, Professor Michael Brown (Director of Cancer Clinical Trials at the Royal Adelaide Hospital) and Professor Dorothy Keefe (Clinical Director of the Royal Adelaide Hospital Cancer Centre and The Cancer Council SA Chair in Cancer Medicine) hosted the South Australian Melanoma Research and Education Day at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

Allied health professionals, General Practitioners and specialists attended this informative session to listen to renowned local and interstate speakers on new approaches to the treatment and management of melanoma, which continues to rise in incidence in the Australian community.

2010 ACORD Workshop

The 4th biennial Australia and Asia Pacific Clinical Oncology Research Development (ACORD) Workshop will be held from 12-18 September 2010 at the Sunshine Coast, QLD, Australia. This event is proudly presented by the Medical Oncology Group of Australia (MOGA) in partnership with the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) and the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia (COSA).

The workshop provides comprehensive training in clinical trials design and access to a world-class expert faculty for participants from any cancer related specialty from Australia, Asia Pacific and beyond.

For further information on the ACORD Workshop, email moga@moga.org.au.

ANZMTG Annual General Meeting, 30 October 2009

The ANZMTG 2009 Annual General Meeting was held on 30 October in North Sydney, NSW.

To obtain the minutes for this proceeding, please email anzmtg@usyd.edu.au.
### 2010 Calendar of Oncological Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name of meeting</th>
<th>Place</th>
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<td>March</td>
<td>7th International Symposium on Melanoma and other Cutaneous Malignancies</td>
<td>New York USA</td>
<td>Physician’s Education Resource E: <a href="mailto:info@cancerlearning.com">info@cancerlearning.com</a> W: <a href="http://www.cancerlearning.com">www.cancerlearning.com</a></td>
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<td>April</td>
<td>Asian Oncology Summit (AOS) 2010</td>
<td>Bali Indonesia</td>
<td>Elsevier (S) Pte Ltd E: <a href="mailto:aos@elsevier.com">aos@elsevier.com</a> W: <a href="http://www.asianoncologysummit.com">www.asianoncologysummit.com</a></td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Annual Scientific Congress</td>
<td>Perth Australia</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Australasian College of Dermatologists 43rd Annual Scientific Meeting</td>
<td>Darwin Australia</td>
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<td>2010 American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>2010 World Cancer Congress</td>
<td>Shenzhen China</td>
<td>2010 World Cancer Congress E: <a href="mailto:secretariat10@uicc.org">secretariat10@uicc.org</a> W: <a href="http://www.worldcancercongress.org">www.worldcancercongress.org</a></td>
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<td>September</td>
<td>15th Congress of the European Society of Surgical Bordeaux Oncology (ESSO)</td>
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<td>October</td>
<td>35th European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) Congress</td>
<td>Milan Italy</td>
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<td>November</td>
<td>7th International Melanoma Congress and 4th Meeting of the Interdisciplinary Melanoma/Skin Cancer Centres</td>
<td>Sydney Australia</td>
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<td>7th International Sentinel Node Society Meeting (ISNS2010)</td>
<td>Yokohama Japan</td>
<td>E: isns2010@ convention.jp W: www2.convention.co.jp/isns2010</td>
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