

NEWSLETTER | ISSUE 7 | NOVEMBER 2010

Welcome to the October edition of the ANZMTG Newsletter. The second half of 2010 has proved a busy and productive period for the group so far with open trials progressing well and several proposed new trials currently in the review and planning stages. ANZMTG continues to support and work with other melanoma groups and bodies, several of which are featured in this edition of the newsletter including The Cancer Council and Melanoma Patients Australia. If you would like any further information in regard to any of ANZMTG's events or activities, please check the website or contact +61 2 9911 7200.

EORTC collaboration with Melanoma Quality of Life Study

The Melanoma Quality of Life Study (ANZMTG RP01.09, the "MEL-QOL" study) was presented on 23 September at the Autumn Meeting of the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) Quality of Life Group in Leipzig, Germany. Chief Investigator, Associate Professor Julie Winstanley, presented an update on the preliminary results observed and the study progress.

A proposal has been submitted to the EORTC Quality of Life Module Development Committee to expand the MEL-QOL study to include seven countries in total, to develop a melanoma-specific module with cross cultural validity. In Australia, the study has already commenced and the ANZMTG has approved funding to support the Australian and New Zealand contribution to the international project. The EORTC proposal will expand the study to include Germany, Sweden, The Netherlands, Italy and the UK. The aim of the study is the development of a melanoma-specific QOL questionnaire which would assist in the early detection of psychological distress and evaluate the impact of current treatment side effects. This may improve the assessment of overall QOL and aid future resource allocation to support patients and families following a melanoma diagnosis.

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Left to right: Associate Professor Julie Winstanley with the EORTC team in Leipzig; Associate Professor Julie Winstanley presents the Melanoma Quality of Life Study to members of the EORTC

Invitation to ANZMTG Annual General Meeting

All ANZMTG members are warmly invited to attend the 2010 ANZMTG Annual General Meeting. The AGM will be held on Saturday 6 November, 1pm, in the Bayside Boardroom, Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour. For further information or if you would like to attend, please contact Marianne Byrne on +61 2 9911 7351 or Marianne.Byrne@melanoma.org.au.

Cancer Council – Resources for Melanoma Patients in NSW



Cancer Council Helpline

The Cancer Council Helpline is a free, confidential information and support service run by Cancer Councils in each state and territory. They are staffed by oncology health professionals who respond to enquiries relating to all aspects of the cancer journey including prevention, early detection, screening, treatment, practical support and palliative care. Cancer Council Helpline consultants also assist with practical and emotional support and advise callers about specific services appropriate to their needs and location. The Cancer Council NSW Helpline can be contacted on 13 11 20 and is staffed between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday. The NSW Cancer Council Helpline function is to answer questions on cancer from the people of NSW.

From January 01 to December 31, 2010, 297 of the calls to the NSW Cancer Council helpline were specifically related to melanoma. The great majority of calls about melanoma came from the Sydney metropolitan area. The main concerns of callers are outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: Main concerns of people contacting Cancer Council NSW Helpline for melanoma related enquiries (January 1 – December 31, 2010)

Psychological/Emotional Support	84	28%
Treatments	52	18%
Diagnosis/Diagnostic Procedures	34	11%
Practical Issues	34	11%
General Information/Publications/Donations	20	7%
Early Detection/Screening/Self Exam	18	6%
Side Effects of Treatment	15	5%
Prevention/Risk Factors	14	5%
Palliative Care Issues	12	4%
Recurrence/Progression of Disease	9	3%
Symptoms	5	2%
Total	297	100%

Cancer Council Support Services

In addition to providing information and support, Cancer Council NSW Helpline Consultants also refer callers to relevant support services. The Cancer Council NSW runs several free support programs aimed at assisting everyone in the community affected by cancer (i.e. cancer patients, survivors, their carers, family and friends).

These programs include:

Call Back Service – A team of trained volunteers provide follow-up phone calls approximately two weeks after initial contact to the Helpline. This is to ensure callers have received their information and their needs have been met. If additional information or services are required callers are referred back to the Helpline for further assistance.

Cancer Council Connect – A peer support program connecting cancer patients with specially trained volunteers who have had the same diagnosis and treatment and a similar experience. This service is only available to people with localised cancer.

Telephone Support Groups – A forum which enables people affected by cancer who are geographically or physically isolated and unable to attend face-to-face support groups, to participate in support groups via the telephone. Groups can be either site specific or situation specific e.g.: bereavement, carers, lung cancer patients, etc. The support groups are conducted by two trained facilitators using the mutual aid model.

Cancer Counselling Program – A partnership program between Cancer Council NSW and counselling professionals which provides subsidised face-to-face and telephone one to one counselling.

Understanding Cancer Program – Community based education program on cancer diagnoses and treatments for newly diagnosed patients and their family members.

Living Well After Cancer Program – A two-hour community program for cancer survivors, carers, family and friends which allows them to manage the social and emotional aspects of cancer and develop skills to manage the changes, challenges and opportunities after cancer treatment.

Legal & Financial Assistance Program – The Cancer Council also provides a one-off \$250 grant for financially disadvantaged cancer patients and provides a pro bono legal service and early access to superannuation.

As well as the above programs, Cancer Council Helpline consultants refer callers to appropriate external services. The table below shows the most common referral services for melanoma specific enquiries.

Table 2: Most common services melanoma related enquiries were referred to in 2010.

Melanoma Clinical Nurse Consultants - Royal Prince Alfred Hospital
Cancer Information & Support Centre - Royal Prince Alfred Hospital
Sydney Melanoma Unit - North Sydney
Calvary Mater Newcastle Melanoma Unit
Skin and Cancer Foundation Australia – Darlinghurst and Westmead branches
Offspring
CanTeen
Telephone Support Group TSG (Advanced Cancer Parent Group) – Cancer Council NSW
Melanoma Information & Support Group - The Sydney Adventist Hospital
Melanoma Foundation
Cancer Care Centre - Westmead Hospital

Helpline consultants also mail appropriate literature and information resources as well as refer callers to appropriate websites. The Cancer Council NSW produces a range of publications for the community about cancer prevention and site-specific cancers. Table 3 below shows the most common written resources sent to Helpline callers enquiring about melanoma during 2010.

Table 3: Top 20 common publications sent to people enquiring about melanoma by Cancer Council Helpline Consultants.

Publication	Organisation
Understanding Melanoma	Cancer Council NSW
Support and Information Pack for Cancer Patients	Cancer Council NSW
Understanding caring for someone with cancer	Cancer Council NSW
Skin cancer prevention brochures including: - Save your Own skin - Skin Spots to watch - SunSmart UV Alert -The facts about sunscreen - The top 10 myths about sun protection	Cancer Council NSW
Understanding Living with Advanced Cancer	Cancer Council NSW
When a parent has cancer: how to talk to your kids	Cancer Council NSW
Understanding Emotions and Cancer	Cancer Council NSW
Understanding Clinical Trials	Cancer Council NSW
Macmillian Cancer Support Website	
Understanding Palliative Care	Cancer Council NSW
Understanding Radiotherapy	Cancer Council NSW
Understanding Chemotherapy	Cancer Council NSW
Understanding Skin Cancer	Cancer Council NSW
Life After Cancer - A guide for Cancer Survivors	Cancer Council Victoria
Understanding Food and Cancer	Cancer Council NSW
Cancer- How are you travelling?	National Breast & Ovarian Cancer Centre
After your Cancer Treatment: A guide for eating well & being active	Cancer Council NSW
Website - Now What?	Now What
Website - Cancer Council NSW	Cancer Council NSW
Website – Canteen	Canteen

The Melanoma Molecular Map Project (MMMP)

The Melanoma Molecular Map Project (MMMP) is an open access, interactive and web-based databank



dedicated to research on melanoma biology and therapy (www.mmmp.org). Launched in 2007, the MMMP now ranks first as "melanoma database" in the Google search engine and its Scientific Advisory Board can count on most of the worldwide known melanoma experts.

The aim of this non-profit project is to create, organise and continuously update dedicated databanks collecting the huge and ever growing amount of scientific knowledge on melanoma, currently scattered in thousands of articles published in hundreds of journals. Six databases containing published information from peer-reviewed articles are available, which are named Biomaps, Biocards, Melanoma Molecular Profile, Drug Development Database, Clinical Trial Database and Targeted Therapy Database.

The spirit of the MMMP is that of sharing scientific knowledge on melanoma to make the most of current research and speed up the discovery pace of novel therapeutic strategies. Accordingly, the MMMP mostly relies on the support from individual researchers who submit their scientific contribution either spontaneously or following formal invitation from the MMMP Team.

The information provided by the MMMP is aimed to allow investigators to formulate new mechanistic/therapeutic hypotheses and thus might further stimulate basic, translational and clinical research. Special interest has been raised by the recently implemented Targeted Therapy Database (TTD), a manually annotated database where the relevant data on anti-melanoma therapies are gathered in a formal representation that can be computationally analysed. Dedicated algorithms have been set up for the identification of the prevalent therapeutic hypotheses based on the available evidence from clinical and preclinical studies published in the literature. Therefore, treatments can be ranked on the basis of the molecular profile of individual patients. However, it must be noticed that - in the light of its theoretical nature - the prediction performance of this model must be validated before it can be implemented in the routine clinical setting.

For more information about the MMMP website please log on to www.mmmp.org
Alternatively you can contact the MMMP Team at the following address: mmmpteam@mmmp.org

Apex Australia

Established in 1931, Apex Australia has made significant contributions to communities and various causes at both the local community and national level through its extensive volunteer service. To fulfil Apex's vision of giving all young Australians the opportunities to fulfil individual potential and promote community participation in the 18-45 yr old age group, the group relies on its various fundraising activities and does not receive direct government funding. Acting as a trustee over contributions, the Apex Foundation manages numerous trusts supporting children's leukaemia and cancer, diabetes and the underprivileged. The Melanoma Trust specifically provides financial support to the Melanoma Foundation for public education and awareness of Melanoma and skin cancers; specialised education of children and medical personnel; and support of specific research projects. ANZMTG is grateful for the support received from MIA and Apex which has been used to support the Mel-D trial (ANZMTG 02.09, the "Mel-D" study).



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

The purpose of this trial is to assess the feasibility, safety and toxicity of a high loading dose of Vitamin D followed by monthly oral dosing of Vitamin D tablets for 2 years. This is a single centre clinical trial with an accrual target of 75 patients over 2 years. ANZMTG is the coordinating centre with statistical support provided by the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre, University of Sydney.

For further information on the trial, contact Valerie Jakrot on +61 2 9911 7306 or email valerie.jakrot@melanoma.org.au.

ANZMTG RP1.09 Improving Quality of Life (QoL) 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

Analysis of data from 32 semi-structured interviews with melanoma patients and relatives most closely involved in their care has been completed. The Chief Investigator, Julie Winstanley, has attended 3 successive EORTC Quality of Life Group (QLG) meetings (Autumn 2009, Spring 2010 and Autumn 2010) to present preliminary results to a core group of interested QLG members. Between June and November 2010, patients and family members are being approached to participate in the second phase of the MEL-QOL validity and reliability study, establishing a normative dataset on a large Australian sample.

A proposal to expand the study to include 7 countries in total (3 English speaking and 4 non English speaking) has been developed, together with applications for funding the EORTC QLQ-MEL (acronym for the new international development project) project. In July 2010, the ANZMTG Executive Committee approved a funding contribution to the international project to support the module development activities in Australia and New Zealand. The proposal was also submitted to the EORTC Quality of Life Module Development Committee in June 2010 for a 'matching' funding contribution for module development activities in Europe (Germany, Sweden, The Netherlands, Italy and UK) and presented by Julie Winstanley on 23 September during the EORTC Autumn 2010 Quality of Life Group Meeting.

For further information on the research project, contact Bridget Myles on +61 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: Dr. Matthew Foote; 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 approved by ethics. International interest has been expressed for this study. The Trans-Tasman Radiation Oncology Group is the lead group co-ordinating the trial in collaboration with ANZMTG.

For further information on the trial, contact Janelle Meakin by phone +61 7 3240 2498 or email janelle.meakin@health.qld.gov.au.

New ideas?

If you have any ideas for new research we welcome new proposals for consideration. For more information or to submit a new proposal the **ANZMTG Clinical Trial Protocol Synopsis/Research Proposal Synopsis** is available for download and completion through the ANZMTG website.

Current Clinical Trials Update Continued

ANZMTG 01.07 Whole Brain Radiotherapy (WBRT) following local treatment of intracranial metastases of melanoma - A randomised phase III trial (*Acronym: WBRT-MEL*)

Chief Investigator: Dr Gerald Fogarty; Trial Co-ordinator: Marianne Byrne

Currently, 11 Australian and 1 international site are open to recruitment. Site-specific approval is currently pending at the Townsville Cancer Centre and central ethics approval is pending in the UK where 10 sites will be opened. To date 30 patients have been randomised. The trial was recently presented at several conferences, including the RANZCR Annual Scientific Meeting and the TROG Trials Review Meeting, and will be presented at the 4th Interdisciplinary Melanoma / Skin Cancer Centres Meeting and the COSA Annual Scientific Meeting.

An Investigator Meeting will be held in Sydney on Wednesday 3 November and will be attended by Investigators from open and pending sites as well as members of the Trial Management Committee and Trial Executive Committee.

For further information on the trial, contact Marianne Byrne on +61 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 both nationally and internationally. The accrual target for this study is 1925 patients (worldwide) to be randomised over 7 years following 3 year follow-up. To date, 1092 patients have been randomised worldwide including 234 from Australia. Multicentre Selective Lymphadenectomy Trial I (MSLT I) follow-up data collection continues, pending final analysis.

For further information on both trials, contact Lisa van Kreuningen on +1 310 5827053 or email lvk@jwci.org. For Melanoma Institute Australia co-ordinators, email Jo Dalton and Valerie Jakrot on jo.dalton@melanoma.org.au and valerie.jakrot@melanoma.org.au respectively.

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

A third analysis of the trial has recently been completed by Dr Richard Fisher, the trial statistician. This showed no change in the major outcomes of the trial but it also revealed some interesting subgroup analysis outcomes. The major endpoints of the trial will be submitted to the Lancet for publication and a draft manuscript has been prepared and is being circulated to the chief investigators. Oral presentations on the trial have been given at the Australian and New Zealand Head and Neck Society meeting in Sydney in September and at the International Melanoma Congress to be held in Sydney in November.

For further information on the trial, contact Juliana Di Iulio on +61 3 9656 3786 or email juliana.diiulio@petermac.org.

Cancer Australia

ANZMTG would like to acknowledge funding received from the Australian Government through Cancer Australia.



Society of Melanoma Research Congress 2010



Melanoma 2010 will be held from 4-7 November 2010 at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre in Sydney, Australia. The overall meeting 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. The congress will comprise of 4 independently structured but integrated meetings:

- 7th International Congress of the **Society for Melanoma Research** (Nov 4 - 7)
- 4th Meeting of **Interdisciplinary Melanoma / Skin Cancer Centres** (Nov 4 & 5)
- 3rd Melanoma Pathology Symposium of the **International Melanoma Pathology Working Group** (Nov 7)
- The opportunities provided by the above combined meetings have allowed the evolution of **Melanoma Update for Primary Care Clinicians** (Nov 4)

For details of the program and further information, visit the conference website www.melanoma2010.com

Clinical Oncological Society of Australia's Annual Scientific Meeting 2010



The 37th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia (COSA) will be held from 9-11 November 2010 at the Melbourne Convention Centre in Melbourne, Australia. The theme of the conference is 'Cancer and beyond' and the tumour streams to be highlighted are breast and gynaecological cancers, melanoma, familial cancers and urological cancer, tied together through a focus on translational research and survivorship. For further information and a detailed program, visit the conference website www.cosa2010.org.

Melanoma Patients Australia – Support Groups

As part of its objective to improve access to information, treatment options, and contact with fellow melanoma patients and survivors, Melanoma Patients Australia (*mpa*) provides a forum for melanoma patients to meet and share common experiences. *mpa* holds melanoma support groups, information sessions and consumer forums throughout QLD, NSW, VIC and the ACT. For further information visit the *mpa* website: www.melanomapatients.org. For information on upcoming groups please contact Herman Herlaar (Manager Support Services) on (07) 3314 2201 or mobile 0430 770 173 or herman@melanomapatients.org.



2010 Calendar

Date	Name of meeting	Place	Secretariat contact details
<i>November</i>			
4-7	7th International Melanoma Congress and 4th Meeting of the Interdisciplinary Melanoma/Skin Cancer Centres	Sydney Australia	Arinex Pty Ltd E: melanoma2010@arinex.com.au W: www.melanoma2010.com
6	ANZMTG Annual General Meeting 2010	Sydney Australia	ANZMTG Office E: anzmtg@sydney.org.au W: www.anzmtg.org.au
9-11	37 th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia (COSA)	Melbourne Australia	ASN Events Pty Ltd W: www.asnevents.com.au/cosa
18-20	7th International Sentinel Node Society Meeting (ISNS2010)	Yokohama Japan	Keio University School of Medicine E: isns2010@convention.jp W: www2.convention.co.jp/isns2010

2011 Calendar

Date	Name of meeting	Place	Secretariat contact details
<i>March</i>			
11	Melanoma Network New Zealand Summit 2011	Te Papa Wellington	MelNet NZ E: melnet@melanoma.org.nz W: www.melanoma.org.nz/MelNet
<i>April</i>			
11-14	TROG Annual Scientific Meeting - 2011	Adelaide Australia	TROG Office E: trog@trog.com.au W: www.trog.org.au
<i>August</i>			
10-12	Medical Oncology Group of Australia (MOGA)	Adelaide Australia	E: moga@moga.org.au W: www.moga.org.au
<i>September</i>			
15 – 17	15th Congress of the European Society of Surgical Oncology (ESSO)	Bordeaux France	European CanCer Organisation (ECCO) E: ESSO2010@ecco-org.eu W: www.ecco-org.eu
23-27	Joint European CanCer Organisation (ECCO) 16 th -36 th European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) Multidisciplinary Congress	Stockholm Sweden	W: www.essoweb.org
<i>November</i>			
9-12	Society of Melanoma Research and 5th International Melanoma Centers Meetings	Tampa Florida USA	