



Australian Government

Cancer Australia
National Centre for
Gynaecological Cancers

National Centre for Gynaecological Cancers Newsletter

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What's New

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Release of the online education resource: *The psychosexual care of women affected by gynaecological cancers (PSGC)*

The new online educational resource entitled *The psychosexual care of women affected by gynaecological cancers (PSGC)*, will soon be released onto the Cancer Learning website www.cancerlearning.gov.au. Developed for Cancer Australia by Professor Patsy Yates and team at Queensland University of Technology, this module aims to develop the skills of health professionals in providing effective psychosexual care to women affected by gynaecological cancers.

Jeannie Ferris National Centre for Gynaecological Cancers Consumer Churchill Fellowship

Applications for the 2011 consumer fellowship opened 1 November and will close 28 February 2011. The Centre hopes to award a second consumer fellowship which will contribute to reducing the impact of gynaecological cancers on those affected. Further information on the application process can be found on The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust website www.churchilltrust.com.au

Development of a National Gynaecological Cancer Service Delivery and Resource Framework

The final draft of the National Gynaecological Cancers Service Delivery and Resource Framework (*National Framework*) has been released for public feedback and the National Framework steering committee is reviewing the feedback. Cancer Australia will be working with the committee and Royal Australian New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) to finalise the framework for publication.

Identifying strategies to address the broader recommendations and directions identified in the National Framework has begun as part of the state and territory gynaecological cancer workforce projects. Spanning all states and territories, these projects continue to provide a local approach to implementing change within the gynaecological cancer sector. The state and territory projects aim to implement elements of the *National Framework* and include a focus on referral practices and enhancing supportive care for people affected by gynaecological cancers within their jurisdiction.

A workshop in Adelaide was held in November, involving the project officers from each state and territory. As well as discussing the broader service delivery and workforce elements identified within the National Framework, project officers were able to share their experiences, expertise and learnings to address common issues across jurisdictional projects.

Clinical practice guidelines for the management of women with endometrial cancer

1. Investigations of abnormal vaginal bleeding leading to a diagnosis of endometrial cancer

The Centre recently invited submissions on its clinical practice guidance material for general practitioners and gynaecologists entitled *Abnormal vaginal bleeding in pre, peri and post menopausal women: Investigations leading to a diagnosis of endometrial cancer*.

A final working group meeting was held to discuss the feedback and recommendations made by a number of health professionals and

“...these projects continue to provide a local approach to implementing change.”

colleges. The resulting two guides will soon be available on the Centre's website and disseminated widely.

2. Management of endometrial cancer

The NCGC is working in partnership with Cancer Council Australia to develop clinical practice guidelines for the management of women with endometrial cancer in the following four identified areas of priority:

- Early stage low-risk endometrial cancer
- Early stage high-risk endometrial cancer
- Metastatic endometrial cancer (both nodal and widespread)
- Recurrent endometrial cancer

This work builds on the first phase of our work around endometrial cancer. The guidelines for the management of women with endometrial cancer are being developed with the assistance of an expert working group, chaired by Dr Alison Brand.

Guidelines work has commenced with the management of apparent early stage (low and high risk) endometrial cancer which will cover clinical questions in the following three areas:

- Pre-operative
- Surgery
- Adjuvant therapy

Once developed, the guidelines will be available in a Wiki-based format which will provide the infrastructure for ongoing updates from expert panels as new published evidence becomes available.

For further information about these guidelines, contact Ella Curnow at ella.curnow@canceraustralia.gov.au

Gynaecological Cancers Data and Reporting Project

Pilot testing of the Gynaecological Cancers Clinical Data Set Specification for ovarian, cervical and endometrial cancers has been completed and feedback from the sites involved has been used to inform the final version of the data set. We acknowledge the valuable contribution of:

- Royal Hobart Hospital
- Flinders Medical Centre, Adelaide
- Epworth Healthcare, Victoria
- Queensland Centre for Gynaecological Cancers
- Western Australia Gynecological Cancer Centre
- Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne
- Sydney Gynaecological Oncology Group
- Hunter New England Centre for Gynaecological Cancer

It is anticipated that the final data elements will be submitted to the National Health Information Standards and Statistics Committee for endorsement as a Data Set Specification early in 2011. This will not establish the data set as mandatory, but will recommend it as best practice.

In addition to pilot testing the proposed data set, the project also involves the provision of a brief scoping study of surgical synoptic reporting for gynaecological cancers.

The reports on both elements of the project are currently being reviewed and will be available on the website when they are finalised.

2010 Priority-driven Collaborative Cancer Research Scheme (PdCCRS)

Cancer Australia and its funding partners have finished assessing applications for the 2010 PdCCRS and funding offers have been announced. The NCGC is thrilled to be offering funding for the following two research projects:

S. Garland (University of Melbourne) - Genetic and environmental factors in invasive cervical cancer: a twin study

M. Friedlander (University of Sydney) - A randomised, placebo-controlled trial of concurrent cediranib [AZD2171] with platinum-based chemotherapy and maintenance cediranib in women with platinum-sensitive relapsed ovarian cancer: ICON 6.

NHMRC - NCGC Translating Research into Practice (TRIP) Fellowship

This fellowship aims to provide the opportunity for early-mid career health professionals to improve the translation of research findings into clinical practice and improve care and outcomes for women affected by gynaecological cancers.

The Centre is hoping to fund up to two TRIP fellowships in 2011. A call for applications will be announced in February 2011.

Upcoming in 2011

ABC Health minutes

Health Minutes on gynaecological cancers are being filmed for ABC online in the New Year. These four brief video segments have been informed by members of the NCGC Advisory Group in the following areas:

- Vaginal bleeding in post menopausal women and abnormal vaginal bleeding in pre and peri menopausal women
- The importance of pap smears: the need for young women to continue to have smears even when if they have been vaccinated; and breaking down the myth that Pap smears will detect ovarian cancer
- All itches are not thrush: information on the signs and symptoms of vulval cancer
- Highlighting the increased risks of endometrial cancer in obese menopausal women

Keep a look out for these Health Minutes on Cancer Australia's website or alternatively www.abc.net.au/health/minutes

Rural Health Education Foundation broadcasts

The NCGC is funding two Rural Health Education Foundation broadcasts which will be shown live on 8 March and 12 April. The two programs will involve a panel discussion, facilitated by Dr Norman Swan, and include representation from a number of key disciplines relevant to the two topics:

8 March 2011 - Gynaecological cancers: Psychosexual care

Key issues for discussion will include: the psychosexual effects of gynaecological cancers; the need for psychosexual assessment; and evidence based approaches to treatment of psychosexual sequelae of gynaecological cancers.

12 April 2011 - Endometrial cancer: Investigations and appropriate referral

Key issues for discussion will include: risk factors; signs and symptoms; investigations and diagnosis; and the importance of referral to a multidisciplinary care team. For more information about these programs, see *Upcoming Programs* at www.rhef.com.au

And finally to all those who have contributed to the work of the National Centre for Gynaecological Cancers throughout 2010, we wish you a happy and safe Christmas and look forward to working with you in the New Year.

National Centre for Gynaecological Cancers

PO Box 1201

Dickson ACT 2602

P: 02 6217 9817

F: 02 62179844

www.gynaecancercentre.gov.au