

NEWSLETTER | ISSUE 5 | APRIL 2010

2010 has started off with excitement for ANZMTG, with the relocation of the offices late January. ANZMTG is now housed at The Poche Centre, a state of art clinical care facility for melanoma patients in North Sydney, NSW. ANZMTG would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Greg Poche for his generous donation towards the development of The Poche Centre.

ANZMTG, in collaboration with Melanoma Institute Australia has now successfully co-ordinated a series of pilot Communication Workshops in Sydney. These workshops were well received by attendees from melanoma treatment centres in NSW and QLD. These workshops are now being expanded to other ANZMTG members in other states with two workshops at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre scheduled in April 2010.

ANZMTG has also been busy with applications to funding bodies for infrastructure and support grants. ANZMTG is currently funded by the Cancer Australia, with the funding period ending in June 2010.

The Inauguration of The Poche Centre



The Poche Centre

The Poche Centre, Melanoma Institute Australia's (MIA) new home was officially opened on Wednesday 24 March 2010 by Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales and His Eminence George Cardinal Pell AC, Archbishop of Sydney.

To celebrate the event, MIA hosted a series of seminars in the evenings during the week commencing 22 March 2010 including a full-day *Melanoma Update for Surgeons* on Saturday 27 March 2010. International guests and distinguished melanoma survivors attended to mark this auspicious celebration.

ANZMTG - Call for New Proposals

ANZMTG is now calling for submission of new investigator-initiated proposals to the ANZMTG Executive Committee. ANZMTG members and other interested individuals are encouraged to submit proposals for clinical trials to the Committee for review. The ANZMTG Clinical Trial Protocol Synopsis/Research Proposal Outline form is available online, www.anzmtg.org. All submissions must be made electronically to anzmtg@sydney.edu.au. If you have any queries, contact us on +61 2 9911 7352.

National Melanoma Clinical Trials Map

ANZMTG is in the early stages of developing a national clinical trials map in melanoma. The aim of this initiative is to improve access to information regarding melanoma clinical trials across Australia. Currently, various national registries exist with information on clinical trials. These include but are not limited to, the Australia New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry, Western Australia Cancer Clinical Trials Registry, and clinical trials databases/listings of the NSW Cancer Trials Network, Victorian Cancer Trials Link, Melanoma Network and Australian Cancer Trials Online.

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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 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 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

Recruitment for the interview phase of the study has now closed. Preliminary results from qualitative data gathered during the series of interviews were presented at the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer group for research into Quality of Life (EORTC QoL) meeting in Pamplona, Spain. With the completion of data analysis of these qualitative data, there has been identification of many QoL issues amongst melanoma patients and relatives which had not been previously captured in any of the QoL questionnaires. This in turn has prompted the development of new melanoma QoL items. These results are due for presentation at the next EORTC QoL meeting in Rome, Italy in April 2010.

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: 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 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.

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-ordinator: Marianne Byrne

Currently, 11 Australian and 1 international site are open to recruitment. With agreements finalised, it is anticipated that the Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust (UK), will be on board by June 2010 as well. This lead site in UK will have ten other satellite sites, four of which will be activated by December 2010 followed by the remaining six sites in 2011. To date 10 patients have been randomised on this protocol. Screening continues at all sites and ANZMTG would like to thank all site staff for their continued diligence and support to this protocol. The trial will be presented at the 2010 Trans-Tasman Radiation Oncology Group Annual Meeting in Queenstown, New Zealand.

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, 944 patients have been randomised worldwide with 213 patients recruited from within Australia.

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 the last two financial years.

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

The trial continues to follow-up on patients. Survival analysis is planned at approximately 3 years following end of accrual (last patient accrued in September 2007). This was an independent investigator initiated co-operative group trial, sponsored by the ANZMTG, University of Sydney in collaboration with Trans-Tasman Radiation Oncology Group. The trial is co-ordinated by the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

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

Structured Pathology Reporting Protocol for Melanoma



The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia

The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia, in conjunction with the Cancer Institute NSW and Cancer Australia, with funding from the Department of Health and Ageing, have now successfully completed structured pathology reporting protocols for the six most common cancers: *prostate, breast, lung, melanoma, lymphoma and colorectal*.

The protocols were officially launched on Friday 26 February 2010. To access the protocols, visit www.rcpa.edu.au/Publications/StructuredReporting.htm. Work is also underway to develop Health Level 7 (HL7) messaging standards and archetypes based on all the six protocols developed. This undertaking is in conjunction with the National E-Health Transition Authority and Ocean Informatics.

For further information on the project, contact Meagan Judge on +61 2 8356 5854 or email meaganj@rcpa.edu.au.

“Melanoma March” in New Zealand

The Melanoma Foundation of New Zealand organised the Melanoma Awareness program for March 2010, *Let's Make March Melanoma March*. The program was aimed for patients, relatives and friends of patients and the general public. To mark the event, there were photographic exhibitions, *SCAR: a mark of hope*, at Auckland, Wellington and Tauranga. There were also free information evenings during the month of March with invited speakers involved in melanoma detection, treatment and research.



Photographic exhibition at Westfield Albany, NZ

There are similar plans for Christchurch, Hamilton and Whangarei later in the year.

Communication Workshops in Melanoma

@ Melanoma Institute Australia, Sydney

ANZMTG, in collaboration with Melanoma Institute Australia (MIA), has conducted two Communication Workshops in Sydney in recent months. These workshops were pitched at professionals who regularly deal with melanoma patients. The workshops were facilitated by Professor Stewart Dunn and Associate Professor Francis Boyle from the University of Sydney Northern Clinical School. Topics included, dealing with patients in waiting rooms, patients who have received bad news, melanoma in young patients, melanoma terminology and its familiarity in general population, dealing with patient interest in recent melanoma advancements and informed consent procedures in melanoma clinical trials.

"The role playing was extremely well done and was managed expertly by the facilitator".

Bridget Myles (MIA)

@ Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne

With the success of the first two Communication Workshops in Sydney, ANZMTG has decided to expand this initiative to Victoria. Communication Workshops have been scheduled for 22 April at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne, VIC. The workshops are open to administrative and clinical professionals who are involved in the care of melanoma patients. For further information and registration, contact ANZMTG on +61 2 9911 7352 or email anzmtg@sydney.edu.au.



Pauline Hanharan, Clinical Trials Manager of Newcastle Melanoma Unit, enacting a patient scenario with actor, Julian Dibley at the workshop

Both the workshops were very well received by attendees from St Vincent's Hospital, St George Hospital, Newcastle Melanoma Unit, Northern Beaches Palliative Care, Westmead Hospital, MIA, Royal North Shore Hospital and Princess Alexandra Hospital (QLD).

Regional Multi-site Capacity Building Clinical Trials Network (Regional Network)

In 2009, Cancer Australia piloted the establishment of the Regional Multisite Clinical Trials Capacity Building Network (Regional Network) with an aim to increase the capacity of regional sites to activate cancer clinical trials conducted by the Multi-site Collaborative National Cancer Clinical Trials Groups, and thereby increasing access to high-quality clinical trials to regional patients.

Funding was awarded to five regional centres for staff support in the conduct of clinical trials. These sites were Bendigo Health Care Group, Border Medical Oncology Research (Albury/Wodonga), North Coast Cancer Institutes at Coffs Harbour Health Campus and Port Macquarie Base Hospital and Royal Hobart Hospital. Each Multi-site Collaborative National Cancer Clinical Trials Group was asked to nominate one trial for inclusion in the portfolio. All the ten clinical trials nominated have been activated by at least one regional site in the Regional Network. Currently, an ANZMTG clinical trial, "Whole Brain Radiotherapy following local treatment of intracranial metastases of melanoma - A randomised phase III trial" is open for recruitment at the North Coast Cancer Institute (NCCI) at Port Macquarie Base Hospital.

The NCCI is part of the North Coast Area Health Service and has been formed to provide integrated cancer services to the North Coast of NSW. It is anticipated that with the opening of an ANZMTG trial at NCCI, melanoma patients will be able to better access treatment options on site or alternatively be referred appropriately to other cancer care centres to ensure continuity of care. To assist these regional sites with the implementation of the program, Cancer Australia has also established a National Regional Co-ordinating Secretariat to provide liaison and secretariat services as required. These activities are currently being provided by Cancer Trials Australia up to 30 June 2010.

The regional initiative has now been extended to 30 June 2010 and up to three more sites will be included. During the next funding period (now up till 2011), the Multi-site Collaborative National Cancer Clinical Trials Groups are allowed to nominate as many trials as they like.

For further information on this regional network initiative, visit www.canceraustralia.gov.au or contact Sarah Bascomb on +61 3 9342 7525 or email s.bascomb@cancertrialsaustralia.com.

Clinical Oncological Society of Australia Annual 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 for this year is *Cancer and Beyond*. The disease focus in 2010 is on breast cancer, gynaecology cancer, urological cancer, melanoma cancer and translational research.

All groups within COSA will have the chance to partake in this learning opportunity, as well as to contribute by disseminating their own experiences.

For further information including registration and abstract submissions, visit conference website www.asnevents.com.au/cosa.



Society of Melanoma Research Congress 2010

The 7th International Melanoma Research Congress will be held from 4-7 November 2010 at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre in Sydney, Australia. The congress will be held in conjunction with the 4th Meeting of Interdisciplinary Melanoma/Skin Cancer Centres.

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.

Registration and abstract submissions open in April 2010. For further information, visit conference website www.melanoma2010.com.



2010 Calendar of Oncological Meetings

Date	Name of meeting	Place	Secretariat contact details
<i>April</i>			
9-11	Asian Oncology Summit (AOS) 2010	Bali Indonesia	Elsevier (S) Pte Ltd E: aos@elsevier.com W: www.asianoncologysummit.com
<i>May</i>			
1-4	New Zealand Dermatological Society Annual Meeting	Christchurch New Zealand	SP Conference Management E: suepeck@xtra.co.nz W: www.dermnet.org.nz
4 - 7	2010 Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Annual Scientific Congress	Perth Australia	Royal Australasian College of Surgeons E: conferences.events@surgeons.org W: www.surgeons.org
16-19	43 rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australasian College of Dermatologists	Darwin Australia	Australasian College of Dermatologists E: admin@dermcoll.asn.au W: www.dermcoll.asn.au
<i>June</i>			
4-8	46 th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)	Chicago USA	American Society of Clinical Oncology E: ascoregistration@jspargo.com W: chicago2010.asco.org
<i>July</i>			
14-16	Sydney Cancer Conference 2010	Sydney Australia	Usyd, Cancer Research Network E: merilynh@health.usyd.edu.au W: www.cancerresearch.med.usyd.edu.au/SCC2010
<i>August</i>			
18-21	2010 World Cancer Congress	Shenzhen China	2010 World Cancer Congress E: secretariat10@uicc.org W: www.worldcancercongress.org
<i>September</i>			
15 – 17	15 th 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
<i>October</i>			
8-12	35 th European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) Congress	Milan Italy	European Society for Medical Oncology E: congress@esmo.org W: www.esmo.org
<i>November</i>			
4-7	7 th 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
18-20	7 th International Sentinel Node Society Meeting (ISNS2010)	Yokohama Japan	Keio University School of Medicine E: isns2010@convention.jp W: www2.convention.co.jp/isns2010
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