



Cancer Learning News: June 2009

Welcome to the first winter edition of the [Cancer Learning](#) update! Despite the cold the team has been very busy in the past months with several projects in development, pilots underway and new resources launching in June 2009.

EdCaN learning resources live and launched today!

We are excited to be housing the fantastic new [EdCaN](#) learning resources, featuring 11 [video case studies](#) that follow cancer patients of different demographics on their cancer journeys. Developed particularly for cancer nurses, the cross disciplinary information provided in the [case studies](#), together with the [supporting modules](#) and activities, will be relevant and useful for any health professionals or consumers who wish to build their knowledge of the multi-faceted issues faced by cancer patients from different walks of life and with different types of cancer; and as professional development activities to develop the competencies required for various cancer treatments and approaches to care. All of the [EdCaN](#) learning resources are now live on [Cancer Learning](#) on the [EdCaN learning resources](#) page in the [Build](#) section following their launch this morning at the [12th CNSA Winter Congress](#) in Newcastle. See below in the [EdCaN](#) on Cancer Learning section for further information about the launch.

Cancer Learning Activities

10th National Rural Health Conference

It was very nice to escape wet, cold Sydney to head to gorgeous North Queensland for a few days for the recent rural health conference in Cairns! Many thanks to all those who came to the [Cancer Learning](#) booth to hear about our projects and share your experiences and suggestions. We are grateful for the positive and constructive feedback we received and were very pleased at the high level of interest from the extended medical community in our programs that support professionals who work in cancer care. A report about the conference including the communiqué and priority recommendations is available on the [conference website](#).

Train the Trainer workshop report

The month long pilot of the Train the Trainer workshop and online forum wrapped at the end of May. A large group of volunteers viewed the video presentations and participated in online discussions to assist them to draft professional development plans to implement in their cancer service networks. Many thanks to all those involved in the workshop, particularly at a very busy time when swine flu was increasing the work loads of everyone involved in health care! The resources developed for the workshop are now freely available for all to access on the [Cancer Learning](#) website on the [Using Cancer Learning](#) page in the Build section. They feature a PowerPoint presentation that introduces you and shows you how to make optimal use of the website and Flash videos that guide you through each step of designing and implementing a network professional development plan, providing tips about how to address the barriers that often impede successful PD programs.

Preview of Clinician: Manager Connect module

A new module is under development to address some of the issues that can affect the working relationship between Clinicians and Health care managers. The causes of conflict and the priorities and pressures of each are explored, with an emphasis on identifying the common goals between the two professions in order to improve communication and understanding and establish productive working relationships. A pilot of the module will be conducted in the coming months.

Endorsements

We are delighted to announce the formal endorsement of the Cancer Learning project by several professional bodies, including Medical Oncologists of Australia (MOGA), Cancer Nurses Society of Australia (CNSA), Royal College of Pathologists Australasia (RCPA) and Australian Institute of Professional Counsellors (AIPC) which greatly heightens our reputation as a credible medical education website.

We have also the formal support of Cancer Voices, the peak advocacy group for people affected by cancer which provides us with public recognition that the aims of the Cancer Learning project are also highly regarded by cancer consumers.

EdCaN on [Cancer Learning](#)

This morning, Friday 19th June 2009 at the [12th CNSA Winter Congress](#) in Newcastle, Professor David Currow, Chief Executive Officer of Cancer Australia, and Dr Ian Roos, Chair of the EdCaN Steering Committee launched the brand new [EdCaN Learning Resources](#) which are housed on the Cancer Learning website.

Those attending the launch were provided with an EdCaN Resource Kit containing the [2nd Edition of EdCaN's National Professional Development Framework for Cancer Nursing](#) and their own digital copy of the new multimedia [EdCaN learning resources](#). You can check out these fantastic professional development resources, including video-based case studies, supporting modules and Educator's manual in the [Build](#) section of Cancer Learning. You may need to download [Adobe Flash Player](#) to view the resources.

New resources on [Cancer Learning](#) in June

[Search](#)

The [search](#) feature is up and running in the **top right hand corner** of the [Cancer Learning](#) website, so use it to find that resource you once saw but can't relocate, or to find information on a wide range of evidence-based resources, professional development activities and learning modules pertinent to cancer care.

Evidence-based medicine case study:

[WCMICS develop guidelines for consistent upper GI cancer follow-up](#)

A great example of how identified gaps in practice can be managed, this case study shows how Western and Central Melbourne Integrated Cancer Service (WCMICS) Upper GI Tumour Group developed uniform guidelines to standardise practice when there was a lack of available evidence and published guidelines.

Mentoring case study:

[GWAHS/RCST mentoring for regional hospitals and cancer professionals program](#)

Learn from the experiences of staff from rural and regional hospitals who had the opportunity to be mentored by cancer professionals based in metropolitan areas. The final report provides examples of the extensive, transferable resources that were developed for the project including a mentoring handbook, a mentoring journal, a reflective practice tool and a participant survey.

COSA report: [Tissue Banking for Cancer Clinical Trial](#)

A report of the one day workshop convened in 2008 by COSA exploring a coordinated approach to the collection, storage and efficient utilisation of clinical trial specimens, and funding for tissue banking among Australian clinical trials groups.

Cancer Forum – Adolescent and Young Adult issue

The March 2009 edition of *Cancer Forum*, the journal of the Cancer Council of Australia and Clinical Oncological Society of Australia, focuses on Adolescent and Young Adult Cancers and issues associated with them, including palliative care for adolescents and young adults and psychosocial assessments of young people with cancer.

Program of Experience in the Palliative Approach (PEPA)

The PEPA project provides opportunities for health care professionals to attend in situ placements in palliative settings in order to learn the concepts of palliative care. This program provides primary carers with an ideal opportunity to learn from experienced specialist staff to enhance skills, knowledge and experience in the palliative approach.

'Cancer in rural Australia' fact sheet

In conjunction with COSA, the National Rural Health Alliance have produced this fact sheet detailing some of the issues specific to cancer in rural and remote Australia, including incidence and survival rates in these areas and barriers to treatment access.

Role of pathologists in cancer management

An article providing information for health professionals about the role of pathologists in cancer care and links to resources available on the RCPA website, including the RCPA manual, a user friendly, online directory that explains the selection and interpretation of pathology tests relevant to cancer and other diseases.

About radiation oncology and radiation therapy

Information from the Australian Government regarding aspects of radiation oncology including possible radiotherapy treatment options and government assistance available to patients.

Centre for Clinical Effectiveness toolkits

Developed by the Centre at Monash University, these two guides introduce the principles of evidence based practice and provide a foundation for developing appropriate questions to assist clinicians to quickly find the best available evidence to answer their questions.

Regulation of complementary medicines

Information and guidelines from the Australian Government Department of Health & Ageing Therapeutic Goods Administration regulating the therapeutic use of complementary medicines in Australia.

Localised prostate cancer: a guide for men and their families

Developed by Andrology Australia from the clinical guidelines produced by NHMRC, these guidelines assist health professionals to help consumers understand and manage localised prostate cancer.

IAHA website

Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA) is the peak body for indigenous allied health professionals. The website allows Indigenous allied health professionals and students the opportunity to network, share information and contribute to the establishment of an Indigenous allied health professionals association.

[Palliative care resources in languages other than English](#)

Provided by Palliative Care Australia, these resources provide information and guidelines regarding the palliative care approach in languages other than English.

[AIPC Counselling Connection Blog](#)

The official, moderated blog of the Australian Institute of Professional Counsellors (AIPC), registered users can contribute to enhance networking and communication between counsellors and share information about the latest techniques and developments in the industry.

[CI-SCaT is evolving into eviQ](#)

CI-SCaT, the Cancer Institute NSW database that has provided access to approved protocols for cancer treatments and detailed information regarding symptoms, drugs and management to NSW clinicians for the past few years is getting a facelift! The website has evolved into [eviQ](#): www.eviQ.org.au and will provide primary carers free 24 hour access to standardised, evidence based, current, peer reviewed cancer treatments and information relevant to the Australian context. The [new site](#) will be available from June 2009. The current CI-SCaT site will be available until September 2009.

Don't forget that you can [submit](#) any resources you find useful to us so we can share them with others on the Cancer Learning site. We value your feedback and are always looking for ways to improve the website, so please complete the brief [evaluation form](#) to tell us how you use the website and how it could better meet your needs.

Until next month, stay warm and happy learning!

The Cancer Learning Team

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