



Courses & Latest News 4 July 2016

Registration opens for Auckland and Wellington Courses

Registration is now open for the one-day Common Skin Lesions and Dermatoscopy courses in [Auckland](#) and [Wellington](#). MelNet, with the support of the HPA, will be hosting the courses.

All health professionals from throughout NZ, including doctors and nurses with a specialist role in dermatology (e.g., dermatology nurses and melanographers), are invited to register. MelNet is offering a subsidised fee for general practice registrars.

You can register for the Auckland course on 3 September [here](#). You can register for the Wellington course on 17 September [here](#).

Registration for the Hamilton course on 1 October will open shortly. Please contact the [MelNet Coordinator](#) if you would like to be notified.

1 July a landmark day

As of Friday 1 July oncologists are able to offer patients with advanced melanoma the PD1 inhibitor nivolumab (Opdivo). Until 1 July, patients in New Zealand did not have publicly funded access to any of the latest treatments available overseas.

PHARMAC's decision to fund Nivolumab (Opdivo) as of 1 July followed a brief period of consultation. The MelNet Executive Committee's submission to PHARMAC can be found [here](#).

MelNet welcomes sunbed age restriction

MelNet welcomes the passing of the The Health (Protection) Amendment Bill making sunbeds R18.

In its [submission](#) on the bill, MelNet congratulated the Minister and Ministry of Health for recognising the need to protect young consumers from the established dangers of sunbeds.

The submission also highlighted MelNet's position that such restrictions are only an incremental step towards the ultimate goal of achieving:

- A total ban of commercial sunbed services
- A total ban of the importation, manufacture, sale and rental of sunbeds for commercial and private use.

The Ministry of Health now will be looking into whether licensing of premises and operators, and the introduction of mandatory standards, are appropriate, according to the Minister of Health's [media release](#). You can see the MelNet media release [here](#).

PHARMAC seeking feedback on pembrolizumab (Keytruda) funding proposal

As announced on 28 June, PHARMAC is seeking feedback on a proposal to fund pembrolizumab (Keytruda) from 1 September 2016 for patients with unresectable or metastatic melanoma. Feedback should be submitted in writing by 11 July 2016. Further information is available on the PHARMAC [website](#).

The MelNet Executive welcomes member input into its submission before the closing date. Please send your recommendations to the [MelNet Coordinator](#) no later than Sunday morning 10 July.

MSD is providing a bridging programme for current melanoma patients on Keytruda and for melanoma patients who would like to start Keytruda treatment, according to their media release. The programme provides melanoma patients with two months' supply of Key paid for by MSD

A wide range of media responses to PHARMAC's proposal can be found [here](#).

Australasian Melanoma Conference 2016

To be held 28-29 October 2016 in Sydney, this two-day conference will feature keynote addresses by international melanoma experts Dr Vernon K Sondak, Associate Professor Jennifer Wargo and Professor Thomas Gajewski. Concurrent sessions will be scheduled and both invited presentations and free papers will be delivered during the event.

The conference will be of interest to researchers, primary care and specialist clinicians, pathologists, students, trainees, nurses and allied health workers involved in any aspect of melanoma treatment, patient care or research.

Early bird registration closes on 21 July 2016. For more information and to register, please click [here](#).

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Please "Like" us on Facebook! Just go to MelNet's [home page](#) and click the Facebook icon in the upper right corner.

"Liking us" will show your support for MelNet and our efforts to:

- facilitate communication and collaboration
- promote evidence-based best practice
- advocate for reduced rates of melanoma (and non-melanoma skin cancer) in New Zealand.

Recent MelNet website postings

Check out our website for a long list of recent [media](#) postings, along with the [latest news](#), including:

[MelNet welcomes sunbed age restriction](#)

[PHARMAC funds Nivolumab \(Opdivo\) for advanced melanoma](#)

[PHARMAC proposes to fund pembrolizumab \(Keytruda\)](#)

[Impact of legislation on indoor tanning](#)

[Mood changes after indoor tanning](#)

[Australian melanoma risk prediction model](#)

[Survival for patients discontinuing nivolumab plus ipilimumab](#)

[CheckMate 067: Longer Follow-Up Shows Melanoma PFS Still Better with Combo Nivolumab/Ipilimumab](#)

[Immunotherapy: ASCO's Advance of the Year](#)

[Radiotherapy and immune checkpoints inhibitors for advanced melanoma](#)

[Auckland Common Skin Lesions and Dermatoscopy Course](#)

[Wellington Common Skin Lesions and Dermatoscopy Course](#)

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