



Latest News and Courses: 1 September 2016

Don't delay! Register for Wellington or Hamilton Course

To ensure you have a place, register now for one of two remaining 2016 one-day Common Skin Lesions and Dermatoscopy courses in either [Wellington](#) or Hamilton. MelNet, with the support of the HPA, will be hosting the courses.

All health professionals from around 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 Wellington course on 17 September [here](#). You can register for the Hamilton course on 1 October [here](#).

New-look DermNet NZ site

Congratulations to the DermNet New Zealand Trust, especially Associate Professor Amanda Oakley (Website Manager and Chief Editor, DermNet NZ), for the launch of DermNet's new-look website. <http://www.dermnetnz.org/>

Online for 20 years and upgraded in June 2016, the site has:

- Skin conditions, including melanoma, and treatment topics
- Dermatoscopy and dermatopathology
- CME courses and quizzes
- Faster topic search
- Terminology tips.

The website presents authoritative facts about the skin cancer,

including melanoma, for consumers and health professionals in New Zealand and around the world. Visit the new site [here](#).

Regional event provides training to professionals

In early August 120 GPs, practice nurses, DHB nurses and pharmacists attended a skin cancer training session in Palmerston North organised by the Central PHO, MidCentral DHB and the Cancer Society Manawatu.

Kerry Hocquard of the Cancer Society Manawatu described the attendees as “wanting to be more accurate in their diagnosis, rather than being part of the ‘if in doubt, cut it out’ brigade.” They were there “to improve survival for people diagnosed with melanoma and other skin cancers... While the photos they used told their own clinical stories..., they also were a snapshot of a person's life, a family, a workplace, a community all affected by melanoma. Our health professionals are vital partners in our wellbeing, and I thank them for their dedication, their compassion and their desire to learn and be as accurate as they can be.”

PHARMAC funding for pembrolizumab (Keytruda) begins today

As of today (1 September 2016) oncologists will be able to offer pembrolizumab (Keytruda) to patients with unresectable or metastatic melanoma

PHARMAC’s decision to fund pembrolizumab (Keytruda) followed a brief period of consultation. The MelNet Executive Committee’s submission to PHARMAC 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. For more information and to register please [click here](#).

Recent MelNet website postings

Check out our website for the [latest news](#), including:

Melanoma in situ: trends and clinical features

Opdivo seen to improve quality of life

Analysing biopsies during treatment could help predict therapy response

Adolescent sun-protection: new approaches needed

Topical treatment plus vaccine may improve immune therapy response

Summary of US guidelines on systemic therapy for melanoma

Predictors of worry among melanoma patients

Management of melanoma patients at higher risk of a new primary

Use of morphologic characteristics in dermoscopic diagnosis

Tumour response and survival with Pembrolizumab

What to tell melanoma patients about Vitamin D

Pembrolizumab shows early promise in melanoma brain metastases

Lifestyle factors linked with sunscreen use among young adults

PD-1–blocking antibodies may trigger neurologic effect

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