



Latest News: 6 October 2016

New-look SunSmart website

The refreshed SunSmart website [<http://sunsmart.org.nz/>] is now live and includes an easy link to the Sun Protection Alert [<http://sunsmart.org.nz/sun-protection-alert>]. Users click on city/town and the recommended time to be SunSmart “pops out”. Links to the Sun Protection Alert and other ways of knowing the UVI, including the uv2Day smartphone app, also are available via the MelNet homepage [<http://www.melnet.org.nz/>].

Melanoma the burning issue

A number of South Island MelNet health professionals, spanning the spectrum from primary prevention to diagnosis, treatment and research, feature in “Melanoma the burning issue” - an excellent 30-minute documentary produced by Southern Television. You can watch the documentary here

<http://www.channel39.co.nz/content/melanoma-burning-issue>

ILI Services in New Zealand

Prior to, during and after the development of the *Standards of Service Provision for Melanoma Patients in New Zealand – Provisional (2013)*, MelNet has raised with the Ministry of Health the need for a national Isolated Limb Infusion (ILI) service.

Due to PHARMAC’s recent decision to fund several new immunotherapy agents (which will widen the treatment options available for patients with advanced melanoma), the Ministry has decided to defer consideration of including ILI in the Service Coverage Schedule.

Instead, the Ministry has informed MeINet that the Waitemata DHB will consider ILI referrals for suitable candidates, in consultation with the referring DHB and the patient. Also, the Ministry will work with Waitemata DHB over the next two years to monitor demand for ILI.

Survey of high-risk melanoma (stage III) patients

Clinicians in New Zealand are invited to take part in an Australian survey to ascertain the current day-to-day practice of follow-up for patients with stage III melanoma. The findings, which may help to support the need for new follow-up guidelines, will be presented at national/international symposia depending on the rate of participation. You can complete the 5-minute survey here [<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/L9SLTZB>]

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](#).

Notice of MeINet AGM

The MeINet AGM will be held in Wellington on Friday 9 December at 12.30 pm at the offices of the Health Promotion Agency.

Members are invited to submit nominations for the Executive Committee in writing no later than 5 pm on 25 November. These should include the nominee's name, a brief bio and the signatures of two members.

According to the MelNet rules, the Committee shall comprise at least eight and no more than ten members, with consideration to be given to occupations that span the continuum. Vacancies exist for those with oncology and pathology expertise. Other members will be serving the second year of their two-year term.

Also, all members are invited to submit to the [MelNet Coordinator](#) by no later than 5 pm on 25 November any remits and other matters to be considered at the AGM.

A media training workshop that is open to all members will take place immediately after the AGM. All members are invited to take part.

Recent MelNet website postings

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

[*Three ways to know UVR levels in NZ*](#)

[*Review identifies effective UVR exposure interventions*](#)

[*Month of birth and melanoma risk*](#)

[*Asian Australian skin cancer risk*](#)

[*SPF \$\geq\$ 15 sunscreens reduce melanoma risk*](#)

[*Small sun exposures sufficient for vitamin D*](#)

[*Location not a significant prognostic factor for CHNM*](#)

[*Response of acral and mucosal melanomas to PD-1 blockade*](#)

[*De novo melanomas more aggressive than nevus-associated melanomas*](#)

[*Small series supports RT following ipilimumab*](#)

Betsy Marshall
MelNet Coordinator
melnet@melnet.org.nz

