

MelNet Update May 2016

PHARMAC seeks feedback on nivolumab (Opdivo) funding proposal

PHARMAC is seeking feedback on a proposal to fund nivolumab (Opdivo) from 1 July 2016 for patients with unresectable or metastatic melanoma. Feedback should be submitted in writing by Friday 25 May 2015. Further information is available at:

<https://www.pharmac.govt.nz/news/consultation-2016-05-04-nivolumab/>

Representatives of the MelNet Executive have been invited to meet with PHARMAC before the submission closing date. Recommendations for this meeting should be emailed to the [MelNet Coordinator](#) no later than Tuesday morning 9 May.

A wide range of media responses to PHARMAC's proposal can be found [here](#) (<http://melnet.org.nz/media>) .

NZ's melanoma rates highest in the world

New Zealand has the highest per capita rates of invasive melanoma in the world, according to a new [study](#) by Professor David Whiteman and colleagues.

Thanks to a pre-publication alert from Professor Whiteman, MelNet and Melanoma New Zealand issued a joint media release calling for a greater Government commitment to primary prevention. Interviews with media spokespeople Associate Professor Tony Reeder and Dr Ben Tallon can be found [here](#) (<http://melnet.org.nz/media>). As a follow-up to this publicity, the MelNet Executive is seeking increased resources for prevention from the Minister of Health.

South Island Common Skin Lesions and Dermatoscopy Course: 18 June

Conducted by Honorary Associate Professor Amanda Oakley, this one-day course in Christchurch on 18 June will address the clinical and dermatoscopic diagnosis of common benign and malignant skin lesions, particularly pigmented lesions.

All South Island general practitioners and nurses who undertake skin examinations are invited to attend, whether new to or experienced in dermatoscopy.

As the course is heavily subsidised by the Ministry of Health Faster Cancer Treatment Initiative, enrolment is restricted to GPs and specialised nurses within the South Island. To register your interest, please contact the [MelNet Coordinator](#).

Auckland and Wellington Skin Lesions and Dermatoscopy Courses

MelNet will be offering one-day courses in **Auckland** on Saturday **3 September** at the Waipuna Hotel and in **Wellington** on 17 September.

All health professionals from throughout NZ, including doctors and nurses with a specialist role in dermatology (e.g., dermatology nurses and melanographers), will be invited to register.

MelNet research stocktake

Many thanks to those who contributed to the 2015 stocktake of melanoma-related research in New Zealand.

Results, which were presented at the Melanoma Summit research workshop, are now available [here](http://melnet.org.nz/news/2016/2015-stocktake-of-melanoma-related-research-in-new-zealand) (<http://melnet.org.nz/news/2016/2015-stocktake-of-melanoma-related-research-in-new-zealand>)

The report provides a useful snapshot in time of New Zealand researchers and the research they are conducting into the control or understanding of melanoma. This includes all melanoma-related research, including epidemiology, prevention, diagnosis, treatment, care, genetics, tumour biology, etc.

Upcoming overseas conferences

3-7 June

[American Society of Clinical Oncology \(ASCO\)](#)

Those from NZ attending are invited to contact [Jon Mathey](#) to meet for discussion and networking at ASCO.

14-15 July

[Melanoma-2016 Oncology & Cancer Conference](#)

Brisbane, Australia

28-29 October

[The Australasian Melanoma Conference](#)

Sydney, Australia

Recent MelNet website postings

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

[Study finds NZ's melanoma rates highest in the world](#)

[Sun protection poor for NZ secondary students](#)

[Sun protection policies important in New Zealand secondary schools](#)

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

[Social media sunbed advertising](#)

[Education versus regulation: The case for sunbed regulation](#)

[Melanomas often diagnosed in people with a limited number of moles](#)

[Melanoma and NMSC in psoriatic patients treated with UV](#)

[Link between Parkinson's disease and melanoma](#)
[Liquid biopsy for melanoma surveillance](#)
[Long-term overall survival of patients treated with BRAF inhibitors, dabrafenib and trametinib](#)
[PHARMAC proposes to fund nivolumab \(Opdivo\)](#)
[South Island Common Skin Lesions and Dermatoscopy Course](#)

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