



## **MelNet Update 13 November 2017**

### **2 December 2017 - Whangarei Skin Lesions & Dermatoscopy Course**

Conducted by Honorary Associate Professor Amanda Oakley, this one-day course will be held in Whangarei on Saturday 2 December. Hosted by MelNet and the Health Promotion Agency, this is the only course scheduled between now and March 2018.

You can find further information and a link to registration here:

<http://www.melnet.org.nz/index.php/news/2017/whangarei-common-skin-lesions-and-dermatoscopy-course>

### **8 December 2017 – Inaugural Melanoma Research and Therapy Special Interest Group: Register now!**

All those with a special interest in melanoma research and therapy, including scientists, oncologists, pathologists, radiologists, clinical nurse specialists and surgeons, are warmly invited to register for a meeting to establish a melanoma research and therapy special interest group.

Hosted by MelNet (and at no charge to participants), the half-day meeting, including lunch, will be held at the Auckland International Airport Novotel (within walking distance from the domestic terminal) on Friday 8 December 2017 from 12.00 noon to 4.15 pm.

Please register by Monday 4 December to the MelNet Coordinator ([melnet@melnet.org.nz](mailto:melnet@melnet.org.nz)).

### **8 December 2017 - MelNet AGM**

The MelNet AGM will be held at the Novotel, Auckland International Airport, on Friday 8 December from 3.30 to 4.15 pm. The meeting will be at the end of the Melanoma Research and Therapy Special Interest Group meeting (see above).

Members are invited to submit nominations for the Executive Committee in writing to the MelNet Coordinator no later than 5 pm on 24 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 occupations that span the continuum. Members who will be serving the second year of their two-year term are a surgeon, a GP, an oncologist, a researcher, a pathologist and a clinical nurse specialist. Up to five additional members can be elected to the committee at the AGM.

Also, all members are invited to submit to the MelNet Coordinator by no later than 5 pm on 24 November any remits or other matters to be considered at the AGM.

## **MelNet coordinator position vacancy**

Recently the MelNet Coordinator, Betsy Marshall, advised the MelNet Executive Committee of her intention to step down from her role at the end of December 2017. Betsy has been the Coordinator since MelNet's inception and has made an outstanding contribution to its success in growing our membership to well over 1000 and in coordinating national summits and regional courses and meetings. We owe her a debt of gratitude.

The MelNet Committee, which has appointed a sub-committee to recruit and select a new coordinator, is seeking expressions of interest from those who might like to apply. If you are interested in the position or know someone who might be, please contact the MelNet Coordinator as soon as possible for further information, including a job description.

Gary Duncan  
Chair, MelNet Executive Committee

## **UV Workshop: 15 December early bird registration deadline**

Be sure to register before 15 December for the "UV Radiation: Effects on Human Health and the Environment" workshop to be held in Wellington 4-6 April 2018 closes 15 December 2017. You can find further information about the workshop and register here (<https://www.niwa.co.nz/events/uv-radiation-effects-on-human-health-and-the-environment-2018>). MelNet is a sponsor of the workshop.

## **MelNet Research and Activities Portal: Post now!**

Take a moment to create a post on MelNet's new research and activity portal.

The portal encourages links between different cancer research groups in New Zealand, and between researchers, clinicians, health promoters and others working in melanoma prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care.

While only members can post on the portal, anyone is able to see the information on it.

You can view recent posts, including abstracts of the recent Queenstown melanoma research and therapy meeting, here: <http://www.melnet.org.nz/portal>.

You can write a post about a recent/planned activity or your current research here: <http://www.melnet.org.nz/members/login>

## **Melanoma Summit 2018 – Save these dates!**

Mark your calendar now for the fifth national Melanoma Summit, which will be held at the Langham Hotel in Auckland on 2/3 November 2018.

As in the past, the 2018 Summit will provide a unique and important opportunity for professionals working in all areas of melanoma control (including health promoters, nurses, general practitioners, pathologists, dermatologists, surgeons, oncologists and researchers) to be informed of recent developments and to identify priorities for action.

## Melanoma risk calculator

A New Zealand-specific risk prediction tool for melanoma is now available as part of *bestpractice* Decision Support by BPAC Inc. The tool was developed in collaboration with Dr Mary Jane Sneyd and the Health Promotion Agency.

You can find further information, including how to access the tool, here  
<http://www.melnet.org.nz/resources/melanoma-risk-calculator-clinical-decision-support-tool>

## Like us on Facebook

Please “Like” us on Facebook! Just go to MelNet’s home page and click the Facebook icon in the upper right corner.

## Recent MelNet website postings

Check out recent postings in our recently updated calendar of 2017 events and recent media postings.

Our latest news postings include:

- Patient and oncology nurse preferences for advanced melanoma treatment options
- Precision diagnosis from digital images
- Designing skin cancer prevention messages
- Favourable health-related quality of life with pembrolizumab
- Role of rare gene variants in familial melanoma
- Facial areas prone to skin cancer are disproportionately missed during sunscreen application
- Skin colour modifies the genetic architecture of melanoma
- Melanomas excised in primary vs secondary care of equal safety
- Immune checkpoint-blocking agents show significant survival benefit
- Need for early detection emphasis on de novo as well as changing lesions
- Tailoring of prevention advice to melanoma patients
- Systematic review of biomarkers for response of patients to immune checkpoint inhibitors

Betsy Marshall

MelNet Coordinator

[http://melnet@melnet.org.nz](mailto:melnet@melnet.org.nz)

---