MelNet Update 15 September 2017

MelNet launches Research and Activities Portal

MelNet's new research and activity portal was officially launched in Queenstown on 9 September. The first cancer portal for professionals working in melanoma in New Zealand, it is a searchable database of the melanoma-related research and activities being carried out.

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.

Please take a few minutes to write a post about a recent/planned activity or your current research here: http://www.melnet.org.nz/members/login

Queenstown meeting highlights

Early stage melanoma may soon be identified by a simple and inexpensive blood test, according to Professor Mel Ziman from Perth's Edith Cowan University who leads a group developing blood-based markers for early melanoma diagnosis and treatment monitoring.

Professor Ziman was one of three international speakers and ten leading New Zealand clinicians and scientists who addressed the *Melanoma research and therapy in New Zealand: raising the bar through collaborative action* in Queenstown on 9 September. The meeting was organised by MelNet, Melanoma New Zealand and the Queenstown Research Week. You can find the programme and all speaker abstracts here: http://www.melnet.org.nz/index.php/news/2017/queenstown-melanoma-research-meeting-9-september-2017

The meeting was designed both to highlight recent advances in melanoma research and therapy as well as to develop mechanisms to ensure effective collaboration between consumers, relevant scientists and clinicians. A summary of the final session, including recommended actions, can be found here. As outlined below, MelNet will be hosting a half-day meeting in Auckland on Friday 8 December to establish a melanoma research and therapy special interest group.

Save the date: 8 December 2017

As a next step in addressing recommendations from the 9 September Queenstown meeting (see above), MelNet will be hosting a half-day meeting (starting at noon) at the Novotel at Auckland International Airport on Friday 8 December. A key aim of the meeting will be to to establish a melanoma research and therapy special interest group.

All those with a special interest in melanoma research and therapy, including scientists, oncologists, pathologists, radiologists, clinical nurse specialists and surgeons, are invited to attend. Further details, including other issues to be addressed at the meeting, will be included in upcoming MelNet e-updates and posted on the MelNet website.

Please contact the MelNet Coordinator (melnet@melnet.org.nz) if you are interested in attending and would like to receive further information as soon as it becomes available.

Whangarei Skin Lesions & Dermatoscopy Course - 2 December 2017

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

Melanoma risk calculator

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

The tool has been designed for use in asymptomatic New Zealanders aged 20 years and older who have fair, medium or live skin and have no current or past history of melanoma. By asking simple questions in less than five minutes, doctors are able to calculate if a patient is at low, moderate, high or very high risk of developing melanoma in the next five years.

If you have a *bestpractice* username and password, you can access the Melanoma Risk Calculator module here: https//www.bestpractice.org.nz

If you do not have a *bestpractic*e username please call the helpdesk on 0800 633 236 or email itservicedesk@bestpractice.org.nz

9th World Congress New Zealand networking dinner: Friday 20 October

A networking dinner for New Zealand delegates to the World Congress of Melanoma will be held on Friday evening 20 October. The dinner will be sponsored by Merck Sharp & Dohme (New Zealand) Limited.

Guests are invited to arrive at 7.00 pm, with dinner at 8.00 pm. If you haven't already, please inform the MelNet Coordinator if you plan to attend. (You can still attend the dinner even if you are registered for the dermoscopy and pathology correlations workshop.)

Recent MelNet website postings

Check out recent postings in the MelNet website resources section, including the most recent report by Martin Gledhill, EMF Services, of the WHO Intersun programme meeting.

Also, check out our recently updated calendar of 2017 events and recent media postings.

Our latest news postings include:

Trials show success in preventing the spread of Stage III melanoma

Pembrolizumab provides superior overall survival vs ipilimumab

Outcomes in patients with multiple primary melanomas

A valid and reliable tool to measure indoor tanning addiction

Teens, tweets and tanning beds

Outcomes in melanoma patients with poor PS treated with anti-PD

Are sun behaviours related to other lifestyle risk factors of cancer?

Smartphone sun-protection intervention

Journal supplement features melanoma nursing

Alcohol and skin cancer risk

Multiple BCCs and chronic sun exposure

Study examines how to enhance people's ability to identify atypical moles

Lasting benefits of pembrolizumab

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