

# MelNet update

20 November 2019

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## Registration now open for Canterbury Skin Cancer Study Day for Nurses

**Friday 21 February 2020**

**Manawa, Christchurch**

Hosted by MelNet and Cancer Nurse Coordinators, this study day is targeted at primary and secondary care nurses and nursing students. It will discuss skin cancer prevention, early detection, treatment and care, helping you to better understand the journey of a skin cancer patient and the critical role of a nurse throughout this journey. The cost of attending is \$50.00. Spaces are limited so register early to avoid disappointment.

[See the programme](#)

[Register now](#)

[More information](#)

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## Early bird registration still open: MelNet Skin Lesions and Dermatoscopy course

**Friday 27 March 2020**

**Vodafone Events Centre, Auckland**

Conducted by Adjunct Associate Professor Amanda Oakley, this one-day course addresses clinical and dermatoscopic diagnosis of common benign and malignant skin lesions, particularly pigmented lesions.

All health professionals undertaking skin examinations are invited to attend, whether new to or experienced in dermatoscopy.

The course will be co-hosted by the Goodfellow Symposium and MelNet and offered as a presymposium workshop. It has been endorsed by The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners and has been approved for up to 6.0 credits CME for General Practice Educational Programme Stage 2 (GPEP2) and Maintenance of Professional Standards (MOPS) purposes.

[Register](#)

[More information](#)

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## Melanoma Research and Therapy Special Interest Group meeting – 8 November 2019

Thank you to those who attended the Melanoma Research and Therapy Special Interest Group meeting on 8 November 2019. Special thanks also to MSD for their generous support of this meeting.

With three fantastic presentations and lively, productive discussion, our two topics generated a set of recommendations that MelNet will assist to progress over the coming months.

Topics discussed were:

- National immune checkpoint inhibitor database – a 'strawman' concept
- Pharmac changes to funding criteria for advanced melanoma

Keep an eye on the MelNet website - a summary of the discussion and recommendations will be available soon.

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## **PHARMAC changes to advanced melanoma funding criteria approved – effective from 1 December 2019**

PHARMAC are amending funding criteria in the Pharmaceutical Schedule for immune checkpoint inhibitors (nivolumab and pembrolizumab) for advanced melanoma.

Changes that will take effect from 1 December 2019 will:

1. Allow other medical practitioners to make Special Authority applications (both initial and renewal) on the recommendation of a medical oncologist;
2. Remove the specified number of cycles in an approval period;
3. Exclude the treatment of new patients with uveal melanoma;
4. Facilitate more appropriate clinical management of patients with evaluable but not radiologically measurable disease;
5. Allow flexibility in the dose administration schedule; and
6. Allow retreatment for patients who had previously stopped funded treatment for reasons other than disease progression or toxicity.

[Further information](#)

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### **Skin Cancer Symposiums International Certificate of Dermatoscopy and Skin Cancer Medicine**

**25 - 26 January 2020  
Melbourne, Australia**



In this two-day course, Professor Cliff Rosendahl and Adjunct Associate Professor Amanda Oakley explain dermatoscopy in a way that will help you recognise skin cancers earlier and with greater precision.

All registrants receive a complimentary dermatoscope, Dermengine subscription and dermatoscopy textbook. Those who register before 15 December 2019 will also receive complimentary category II tickets to Saturday night's tennis at the Australian Open.

[More information](#)

[For more events see the MelNet events calendar](#)

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### **Recent MelNet website postings**

[Sun protection knowledge/sunburn paradox still exists in the New Zealand population](#)

[Danish Sun Safety Campaign gives return on investment of €2.18](#)

[Australian SunSmart programme contributed to a reduction in melanoma](#)

[Efficacy of targeted therapy lower in patients with rare BRAF mutations](#)

[Skin cancer prevention campaigns with specific behavioural focus more effective than general messages](#)

[PHARMAC seeking feedback on proposed amendments to advanced melanoma funding criteria](#)

[Skin Lesions and Dermatoscopy Course: Goodfellow Symposium](#)

[78% of patients with advanced melanoma who elected to discontinue anti-PD-1 therapy remained progression-free 18 months after treatment cessation](#)

[District Health Board visits to commercial solarium shows small improvement in compliance](#)

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