



MelNet update

20 October 2019

Don't forget to RSVP for the Melanoma Research and Therapy Special Interest Group meeting

11.00 am – 3.30 pm

Friday 8 November 2019

Health Promotion Agency Auckland Office - Greenlane

For health professionals and researchers with a special interest in melanoma research and therapy.

Topics on the (draft) agenda include:

- National immune checkpoint inhibitor database – a 'strawman' concept
- Pharmac criteria for pembrolizumab dosing schedule
- "Immunotherapy holidays" - amendment to PHARMAC Special Authority criteria

Videoconferencing facilities will be available for this meeting and we encourage those outside Auckland to utilise this option.

Please [RSVP](#) by Friday 1 November 2019 advising whether you plan to attend in person or by video conference. If attending in person, please also advise if you have any dietary requirements.

Thank you to MSD for their support of this meeting.

[More information about the group](#)

Notice of MelNet AGM - 8 November 2019

3.00 – 3.30 pm Friday 8 November

Health Promotion Agency Auckland Office

Level 2 Ascot Central, 7 Ellerslie Racecourse Drive

Greenlane East, Auckland

Members are invited to submit nominations for the Executive Committee in writing to the MelNet CEO no later than 5.00 pm Friday 25 October 2019. These should include the nominee's name, a brief biography 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 GP, nurse, dermatologist and pathologist. Up to six additional members can be elected to the committee at the AGM. Preference will be given to those with health promotion, oncology, research and surgical expertise.

All members are also invited to submit any remits or other matters to be considered at the AGM to the MelNet CEO no later than 5.00pm Friday 25 October 2019.

Survey closing soon - tell us what are skin pathology turn around times are like in your region

We are trying to obtain a better understanding of skin pathology turnaround times across the country for melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer. This information will be used alongside pathology data to inform performance standards in the updated Standards of Service Provision for Melanoma Patients in NZ.

Tell us about your experience in your DHB by completing a [short survey](#). The survey will close 5.00 pm Thursday 31 October 2019.

PHARMAC to amend Special Authority criteria for PD-1 inhibitor re-treatment for melanoma patients

PHARMAC are looking to amend the Special Authority criteria for pembrolizumab and nivolumab for advanced melanoma to allow patients who have stopped treatment for reasons other than disease progression or toxicity to recommence funded treatment upon signs of disease progression.

Under the current Special Authority criteria patients with signs of disease progression would not be eligible for ongoing funded treatment as they would not meet the current renewal criteria which require no signs of disease progression, whether treatment was continuous or not.

As amendment to the Pharmaceutical Schedule will take time to implement and public consultation is required, an interim approval pathway has been put in place.

Clinicians need to manually complete the relevant Special Authority form indicating clearly which criteria are and are not met, noting that the reason for the waiver application is for retreatment. Type of previous response, length of previous treatment, length of treatment holiday should also be noted.

[More information about the waiver process](#)

Hot off the press: Skin cancer prevention resources for outdoor workers

The Health Promotion Agency (HPA) has developed a new suite of resources targeted at outdoor workers. They focus on busting myths and supporting outdoor workers to get any skin changes or moles of concern checked early.

All resources are **FREE** to order. Many, such as the posters, brochures and wallet cards would be helpful to display in medical practices.

[Order resources now](#)

Melanoma Awareness Week: Show your support and get spotted

21 - 27 October 2019

Help in the battle against melanoma by taking part in Melanoma Awareness Week, facilitated by Melanoma New Zealand.

You can get involved by:

1. [Registering](#) your workplace
2. Holding a 'Get Spotted' day as a way of educating clients/patients about prevention and early detection
3. Uploading photos or videos of your workplace 'Getting Spotted' on your workplace [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) page and tag Melanoma New Zealand for the chance to win a 'spot prize'
4. Sharing this information and encouraging others to get involved.

[Check out the Melanoma NZ website](#) to download 'Get Spotted' day posters and resources.



Save the date: Canterbury Regional Skin Cancer Study Day- an all-day course for nurses

Friday 21 February 2020
Manawa, Christchurch

Targeted at primary and secondary care nurses and nursing students. This study day will discuss skin cancer prevention, early detection, treatment and care, helping attendees to better understand the journey of a skin cancer patient and the critical role of a nurse throughout this journey.

More details, including how to register coming soon.

Early bird registration now open: MelNet Skin Lesions and Dermatoscopy course

10.00 am – 5.00 pm

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](#)

Last chance to submit your abstract for WONCA Asia Pacific Regional Conference 2020

23 – 26 April 2020, Auckland

Hosted by RNZCGP and the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network, the theme of the conference is “Family medicine leading the way towards an advanced world of equity, quality and compassion”.

Abstract submission for oral presentations, posters and workshops closes on 31 October 2019.

[More information](#)

Other upcoming events

November
Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine and Certificate of Dermoscopy 9 – 10 November 2019 Gold Coast, Australia Further information
Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine Advanced Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine Professional Certificate of Skin Cancer Surgery 9 - 10 November 2019 Perth, Australia Further information
Clinical Oncology Society of Australia ASM 12 – 14 November 2019 Adelaide, Australia Further information

December
Professional Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine Advanced Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine Professional Certificate of Skin Cancer Surgery Advanced Certificate of Skin Cancer Surgery 7 – 8 December 2019 Sydney, Australia Further information
For more events see the MelNet events calendar

Recent MelNet website postings

[PHARMAC to amend Special Authority criteria for PD-1 inhibitor re-treatment for melanoma patients](#)

[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 solaria shows small improvement in compliance](#)

[Adjuvant whole-brain radiotherapy does not provide clinical benefit after local treatment of one to three melanoma brain metastases](#)

[Dermoscopy influences registrars' diagnoses and increases diagnostic confidence](#)

[Mohs surgery may be an alternative to wide margin excision for early-stage invasive melanoma](#)

[Wearable UVR sensors may improve sun protection behaviours](#)

[eHealth technologies could improve sun protection in children with familial risk for melanoma](#)

[Early Detection of Skin Cancer: Resources and Information Toolkit for Primary Care](#)
