



MelNet update

21 January 2019

Happy New Year!

We hope you had a wonderful holiday season. We look forward to working with you in 2019 to continue to reduce the impact and incidence of melanoma in New Zealand.

MelNet Skin Lesions and Dermatoscopy course: Friday 22 March 2019

10.00 am – 5.00 pm

Friday 22 March 2018

Vodafone Events Centre, Auckland

Conducted by Honorary 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 pre-symposium 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](#)

Recent releases

Health Promotion Agency research: Skin cancer a low priority for men aged 50 to 64

New Zealanders 50+ years are most at risk of skin cancer and men are twice as likely to die from melanoma as women. The Health Promotion Agency (HPA) has undertaken research to examine the most effective way to support the early detection of skin cancer for this population group by gaining insight into attitudes to early detection and general behaviours and attitudes toward overall health.

Findings suggest skin cancer is a low priority for NZ males aged 50 to 64, and that workplaces and/or sports clubs may be an effective way to promote the importance of early detection to this audience.

[See the research summary and an infographic on skin cancer in New Zealand](#)

Consumer NZ sunscreen testing report: six out of 10 products don't give protection claimed

In the latest round of Consumer NZ sunscreen testing ten sunscreens were checked against two aspects of the voluntary Australian and New Zealand standard for sunscreens: SPF (sun protection factor) which measures protection against UVB rays, and broad-spectrum protection against UVA and UVB rays. The standard requires SPF to be assessed using a test panel of 10 volunteers in a lab.

Three of the 10 sunscreens met their SPF label claim and the requirements for broad-spectrum protection. One product met its protection label claim but failed one of the broad-spectrum requirements. Six products didn't meet the SPF claimed on their label.

[Full article](#)

[Read the media stories](#)

DHB Public Health Unit visit to commercial solaria report: Compliance unchanged since 2017

Since 2012 District Health Board public health staff have undertaken six-monthly visits to commercial solaria to ensure that solarium operators were familiar with best practice procedures to reduce the risks from exposure to ultra-violet (UV) radiation from sunbeds. Public health staff use a standardised assessment form to check aspects of the solarium operation against recommendations in AS/NZS 2635:2008 *Solaria for cosmetic purposes*.

Findings from the first half of 2018 showed:

- 94 establishments are believed to have sunbeds, a decrease from 112 found in 2017.
- 84 were assessed using the standardised assessment form.
- Several operators reported that they would probably stop offering sunbed services soon.
- 47 percent of establishments complied with all eleven areas of operation that were checked (38 percent in 2017), and 85 percent complied with one or more (83 percent in 2017). However, this was entirely driven by improvements in Auckland where the Health and Hygiene bylaw effectively mandates compliance with the areas of operation checked in these surveys.
- Overall compliance in the rest of the country was unchanged since 2017.
- In 2016, the Health Act 1956 was amended to ban the provision of commercial sunbed services to those under 18 years. Public health staff found evidence suggesting that four establishments might still allow under-18s to use a sunbed.

[See the full report here](#)

Melanoma Institute Australia Melanoma Education Portal

Melanoma Institute Australia has launched a free e-learning portal to educate healthcare professionals about the latest advances in melanoma diagnosis and treatment to ensure best practice and equity of care for melanoma patients.

The new online education portal is designed for healthcare professionals including specialists, dermatologists, GPs and nurses. It provides accredited videos and comprehensive training modules related to the rapidly changing melanoma diagnostic and treatment landscape. New content is added every few weeks.

Register for free access at melanomaeducation.org.au

Watch it: Immuno-Oncology Watch

- **Toxicity of immune checkpoint inhibitors: Immune related side effects**

Dr Rosalie Stephens, a medical oncologist at Auckland Hospital with a special interest in treating melanoma describes some of the side effects produced by the immune checkpoint inhibitor class of treatments.

[Watch it here](#)

- **Future of immuno-oncology**

Dr Robert Weinkove, a Consultant Haematologist at Wellington Blood and Cancer Centre and Clinical Director at Malaghan Institute of Medical Research, discusses the future of immune-oncology. He outlines new treatment modalities and new combinations of immuno-oncology agents with conventional treatments.

[Watch it here](#)

In the news

Kiwi experts shining light on skin cancer

Canvas

1 December 2018

Dr Cherie Blenkiron and her team at the University of Auckland's Faculty of Medical Health Sciences, are using leading-edge technology to research tumour samples to try to find better ways to treat Merkel Cell Carcinoma, especially those caused by the country's harsh UV light. [Read the story](#)

Australian scientists believe they can 'turn off' melanoma'

Newshub

6 January 2019

Scientists at the University of Queensland believe they've developed a way to turn off melanoma using stem cells to starve the cancer to death. Human clinical trials plan to start this year. [Read the story](#)

Upcoming events

Cancer Care at a Crossroads Conference and Workshops

31 January – 2 February 2019

Te Papa, Wellington

Co-hosted by the University of Otago and the Cancer Society of New Zealand, supported by the NZ Society of Oncology and the Ministry of Health, this conference aims to develop a vision for long-term cancer control specific to the needs of New Zealand. It will be led by domestic and international experts in cancer prevention, care, academia, policy, and patient support.

[More information](#)

[Registration](#)

Other upcoming events

February	March
Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine and Certificate of Dermoscopy 9 – 10 February 2019 Melbourne Further information	Melanoma World Society 3rd International Educational Symposium 1 – 2 March 2019 Cape Town, South Africa Further information
13th Canadian Melanoma Conference 21 – 23 February 2019 Alberta, Canada Further information	Certificate of Fundamental Dermatoscopy 2 March 2019 Auckland Further information
Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia Pathology Update 22 – 24 February 2019 Melbourne Further information	Certificate of Surgical and Medical Management of Skin Cancer 3 March 2019 Auckland Further information
Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine and Certificate of Dermoscopy 23 – 24 February 2019 Adelaide Further information	Australian Skin and Skin Cancer Research Centre Melanoma Screening Summit 25 – 26 March 2019 Brisbane To register interest

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

Recent MelNet website postings

[Web-based intervention improves sun protection and screening behaviours of melanoma families](#)

[Risk of limb melanoma supports divergent pathways to melanoma theory](#)

[Risk perception plays minimal role in sun exposure behaviour](#)

[Greater skin cancer awareness required for Indigenous Australian populations](#)

[Australian trial to compare technology-enhanced and naked-eye skin self-examination](#)

[Sunbed use in Germany decreased by more than 85% in a decade](#)

[Public education strategies may be beginning to show effect in decreasing melanoma mortality in NZ](#)

[MicroRNA signature useful in assessing patient response to tumour excision](#)

[Playground shade in New Zealand limited](#)

[Couple-focused interventions can promote better sun protection behavior](#)

[Image analysis accurate method of identifying melanoma](#)

[Melanoma risk associated with nevus density and inability to tan](#)

[Family-focused Facebook intervention increases sun protection behaviours in at risk individuals and their families](#)

[Holistic, individualised care programme for metastatic melanoma patients feasible](#)
