

# MelNet update

20 August 2020

## A note on our return to Alert Levels 2 and 3 | Stay safe, take care, be kind

Melanoma does not stop during these challenging times and nor does our dedication to reducing the incidence and impact this disease has on our country.

We are a small team here at MelNet but we are working hard to support you in any way we can. We thank you for your ongoing commitment to our organisation and your continuing efforts to keep New Zealanders safe and healthy.

We have come through this once, and together, we will do it again. Kia kaha.

## Standards of Service Provision for Melanoma Patients in NZ | An update

On 30 June 2020, representatives from the MelNet Executive Committee met with Diana Sarfati (Chief Executive, Cancer Control Agency) and Suzanne Beuker (Clinical Advisor, Cancer Control Agency) to discuss the next steps for the Melanoma Standards.

The Agency confirmed it was not their intention to complete the work initiated by the Ministry of Health to develop Standards of Care for the 11 tumour streams. Rather, they intended to concentrate on developing measurable quality performance indicators (QPIs) as a means of driving quality improvement. It is self-evident however that QPIs must in effect establish Standards of Care, and after strong representation from MelNet, the Agency have agreed to support the finalisation of the document subject to some conditions. The document will be released and owned by MelNet and other supporting organisations and will be updated as new evidence guides best practice.

We maintain our position that the best way to improve the quality of cancer care in New Zealand is to have Standards which provide the basis for QPIs. However we believe the ideal outcome in these circumstances is for the document to be endorsed by the Agency, so we will continue to work with the Agency to finalise what constitutes best practice for melanoma care in New Zealand and develop QPIs based on this.

### Indicative timeline (subject to change)

Update references	August 2020
Peer review	September 2020
Sector consultation	October 2020
Finalise content based on feedback	November – December 2020
Implementation	2021

## Managing Skin Cancer: An update for primary care | Join us for MelNet's first ever webinar



**Managing skin cancer in primary care**

JOIN NZ SKIN CANCER EXPERTS FOR A FREE WEBINAR

7.30 - 8.30 PM  
15 SEPTEMBER 2020

[REGISTER NOW](#)

MelNet

Primary care practitioners are vital in managing patients with skin lesions suspected to be skin cancer.

Join this interactive webinar to improve your understanding of the medical and surgical management of skin cancer in primary care and learn useful tips and tricks to incorporate into day-to-day practice. Hear about advances in melanoma immunotherapy and have your questions answered live by our skin cancer experts.

[Register now](#) | [More information](#)



*Thank you to MSD for their generous support of this event*

## 2020 MelNet AGM | Save the date

1.00 – 1.30 pm  
Friday 27 November 2020  
Via Zoom

Want to attend? [RSVP now.](#)

Interested in joining the MelNet Executive Committee? [Find out how.](#)

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## MASC Trials in Focus | Showcasing the work of our partners

### **MASC 04.17 Skin Cancer Management with Artificial Intelligence (SMARTI)**

Developed by Monash University in conjunction with MoleMap Australia Pty Ltd, SMARTI is an artificial intelligence tool designed to support evidence-based clinical decisions in skin cancer diagnostics and management. The SMARTI trial will evaluate the tool's diagnostic accuracy and safety and will be one of the first medical artificial intelligence systems to produce robust validation data derived from a registered study conducted in the clinical setting.

It is hypothesised that SMARTI will support clinicians to reduce the number of unnecessary biopsies performed on benign lesions and improve early detection of truly malignant lesions. If successful, SMARTI has potential to improve healthcare system resource utilisation and reduce expenditure without compromising patient outcomes. Skin cancer detection and management for rural and remote areas may also be improved through implementation of SMARTI in primary care practices where access to specialist services is limited.

Recruitment is scheduled to commence in August 2020.

[Find out more](#) | [Join MASC Trials](#)

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## In the media

### [Cancer services ramp up after detection falls during lockdown](#)

Radio NZ - 7 August 2020

A report commissioned by the Cancer Control Agency measured the effect of lockdown on cancer diagnoses and treatment. Findings show a 10 – 12% decrease in melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer diagnoses in the year ending June 2020 compared with the previous year.

### [Rural communities set to benefit with virtual skin cancer check-ups](#)

Newshub - 29 July 2020

A virtual skin cancer triage service developed by MoleMap and used by doctors in New Zealand and Australia during lockdown will help assess patients remotely and identify high-risk cases.

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## Upcoming opportunities and events

### ***Skin Cancer College of Australasia Certificate of Dermoscopy Online***

Commences 9 October 2020

An introduction to dermoscopy for GPs and primary care nurses. Presented online over three weeks, the course will cover:

- dermoscopic algorithms and terminology
- practical applications of dermoscopy in primary care practice
- simple skin photographic techniques
- how to conduct comprehensive skin exams.

Access to a dermatoscope and the ability to take pictures is necessary.

[Further information and to register](#)

SKIN CANCER COLLEGE AUSTRALASIA

This course is proudly sponsored by... **Macquarie** Medical Systems

NEW FORMAT • ENTIRELY ONLINE

**New! Certificate of Dermoscopy — online**

Includes 2 live Webinar sessions — Sat October 17th and Sat October 24th

COURSE COMMENCES Fri October 9th 2020

**REGISTER NOW**

## Skin Cancer Symposia Certificate of Advanced Dermatoscopy

5- 6 December 2020, Auckland



This fully accredited and interactive two-day symposium is a comprehensive dermatoscopy course aimed at beginners and intermediates in dermatoscopy. Presented by Adjunct Associate Professor Amanda Oakley, the founder of Dermnet and Professor Cliff Rosendahl, the co-author of 'Chaos and Clues' and 'Pigment without Prediction', the course will cover:

- how to do a systematic skin examination
- dermatoscopic diagnosis of melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers
- Chaos and Clues and Prediction Without Pigment algorithms
- management of melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers
- practical tips, tricks and case examples

All participants receive a complimentary MoleScope II Dermatoscope.

[Further information and to register](#)

### Other upcoming events

September	October
<p><b>Queenstown Molecular Biology Meeting (QMB)</b> 1 September 2020 Auckland, Palmerston North, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin <a href="#">Further information</a></p>	<p><b>Advanced Certificate of Skin Cancer Surgery</b> 10 – 11 October 2020 Brisbane, Australia <a href="#">Further information</a></p>
<p><b>2020 Red Whale update: Red Whale Webinar Series</b> 2, 9, 16 and 23 September 2020 - 7.30pm Online <a href="#">Further information</a></p>	<p><b>16th European Association of Dermato Oncology (EADO) Congress</b> 12 – 14 October 2020 Online <a href="#">Further information</a></p>
<p><b>Advanced Skin Surgery Workshop</b> 18 - 21 September 2020 Brisbane, Australia <a href="#">Further information</a></p>	<p><b>MASC 2020 Annual General Meeting and Annual Scientific Meeting</b> 23 - 24 October 2020 Online <a href="#">Further information</a></p>
<p><b>Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine and Certificate of Dermoscopy</b> 19 – 20 September 2020 Brisbane, Australia <a href="#">Further information</a></p>	<p><b>Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine and Certificate of Dermoscopy</b> 24 – 25 October 2020 Sydney, Australia <a href="#">Further information</a></p>
<p><b>Professional Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine Advanced Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine Professional Certificate of Skin Cancer Surgery Complex Workshop of Skin Cancer Surgery</b> 19 – 20 September 2020 Sydney, Australia <a href="#">Further information</a></p>	<p><a href="#">For more events see the MelNet events calendar</a></p>

### Recent MelNet website postings

Below is a selection of recent news postings on the MelNet website. Please visit the [website](#) to view all the latest news items.

[Internet learning a promising approach to delivering clinical skin examination skills to primary care nurse practitioners](#)

[Educational videos used in cosmetology schools increase student's ability to recognise potential skin cancers](#)

[Leptin receptors predict malignant potential of squamous cell carcinoma](#)

[UV detection stickers may improve use of sunscreen in adolescents during sporting events in high UV environments](#)

[Increase in mortality for punch biopsies used to diagnose cutaneous melanoma](#)

[Dermatoscopic morphology of thin nodular melanoma could provide useful clues for its diagnosis from other non-melanoma nodular tumours](#)

[PRAME more accurate than p16 in differentiating between nodal nevi and nodal metastatic melanoma](#)

[Intraoperative use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs has no impact on melanoma survival](#)

[PRMT5 inhibitors enhance antitumor immune response in mouse models of melanoma](#)



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