



MelNet update

20 December 2020



Thank you for supporting MelNet throughout the challenges of 2020.

We wish you a safe and happy holiday season, and look forward to a productive 2021.



A snapshot of MelNet's year | Celebrating our achievements

Despite the challenges of COVID, 2020 was another successful year for MelNet. During 2020, we:

- Held our first two [webinars](#).
- Held a Skin Cancer Study Day in collaboration with Cancer Nurse Coordinators for over 60 Canterbury nurses.
- Held two meetings of the [Melanoma Research and Therapy Special Interest Group](#).
- Continued to play a pivotal role in the review of the Standards of Service Provision for Melanoma Patients in New Zealand, which will now be released as Guidelines.
- Presented to nearly 600 primary health care practitioners at the NZMA GP CME North and South virtual conferences.
- Continued to provide up-to-date information, research and resources.
- Sought your feedback on the role of MelNet, our performance and future direction.
- Set up a [Givealittle](#) page for those who wish to financially support our work. We are thankful for donations we have received from our members and their patients.

We are grateful to our sponsors whose support allowed us to undertake these activities.

Save the date: Auckland Skin Cancer Study Day for Nurses - 7 May 2021

The Auckland Skin Cancer Study Day for Nurses is scheduled to take place on 7 May 2021 at the Clinical Education Centre at Auckland Hospital. Save the date in your calendar now. More details will follow.

The course is targeted at primary and secondary care nurses and nursing students. It will provide an overview of skin cancer prevention, early detection, treatment and care, with a focus on melanoma. Participants should gain an increased understanding of the journey of a skin cancer patient and the critical role of a nurse throughout this journey.

Melanoma Research and Therapy Special Interest Group meeting | Held on 27 November 2020

Thank you to those who attended the Melanoma Research and Therapy Special Interest Group meeting on 27 November 2020.

Highly interesting and informative presentations led to productive discussions.

Topics discussed were:

- Advocating for funded adjuvant treatment in New Zealand
- Melanoma research: An update from MASC Trials

Highlights and outcomes from the meeting are available on the [MelNet website](#).

Introducing the 2021 MelNet Executive Committee

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Adjunct Associate Professor Amanda Oakley, Dr Annie Wong and Abbie Cameron who have joined the MelNet Executive Committee for 2021.

Trish Leathem and Ian Coutts have retired from the Committee. We thank them for the contribution they made to the organisation during the time they served.

You can find out more about MelNet's 2021 Executive Committee [here](#).

Call for applications for Cooperative Group Clinical Trials and Public Health Research | Cancer Research Trust NZ

Cancer Research Trust NZ (CRTNZ) is offering two \$200k research project awards, one each in the fields of cancer-related Public Health and Cooperative Group Clinical Trials. Although this is a one-off initiative, it may be repeated in the future. The awards will be for two years (\$100k per year, per project) but could be over a longer period if necessary.

Applications should be made on the Research Project application form on the Trust's web site and submitted by 1 April 2021. CRTNZ are currently modifying the application form and this will be available in January 2021. To aid in planning please [email](#) Douglas Ormrod if you are going to apply.

Draft Sunscreen Standard AS/NZS 2604 – Sunscreen Products Evaluation and Classification - now open for public comment

The Australian/New Zealand Standard for the evaluation and classification of sunscreen products has recently been updated and is open for public comment. This standard provides a means of testing and labelling the performance of sunscreen products in relation to how well they protect skin from UV radiation.

Changes in this edition include:

- a) Adoption of ISO standards for determining broad spectrum, sun protection factor (SPF) and water resistance.
- b) Clarification of the definition of the difference between Primary and Secondary Sunscreens.
- c) Introduction of instructions for the recommended method of application of sunscreen aerosols and sunscreen spray pump packs to ensure even and generous dosing applied from the correct distance and under optimum conditions while avoiding inhalation.

Comments close 15 February 2021.

[Read the updated Standard](#)

In the news | Consumer NZ release sunscreen testing results

The latest Consumer NZ testing has shown only five out of ten sunscreens tested met their SPF and broad-spectrum label claim. Three failed to meet their SPF claims but met their broad-spectrum claims, and two met neither the SPF nor broad-spectrum claim made on their label.

These results reinforce the importance of a mandatory sunscreen standard, something which the sector continues to advocate for. According to a recent interview with Health Minister Andrew Little, a therapeutic product bill which covers sunscreen regulation is in Parliament and should be addressed in 2021.

[Read the results](#) [Listen to Health Minister Andrew Little's interview with Newstalk ZB](#)

See the MelNet [media section](#) for media coverage.

Tips and tricks | Skin cancer checks on the scalp

Do you typically examine the scalp during a skin cancer check? If so, how often? In an article on HealthCert's blog, Prof David Wilkinson discusses how skin cancers can hide under hair, as well as referencing a study which reiterates the importance of examining the scalp.

[Read the article](#)

Upcoming opportunities and events

January

9th European School of Dermato-Oncology

15th - 16th January 2021

Virtual

[Further information](#)

Certificate of Fundamental Dermatoscopy

18 January 2021

Online

[Further information](#)

Melanoma 2021: 31st Annual Cutaneous Malignancy Update

23 – 24 January 2021

Live Streaming Virtual Event

[Further information](#)

February

Certificate of Dermoscopy - Online

5 February - 19 March 2021

Online

[Further information](#)

17th Annual International Symposium on Melanoma and Other Cutaneous Malignancies

6 February 2021

Virtual Conference

[Further information](#)

Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine

13 – 14 February 2021

Brisbane, Australia

[Further information](#)

Professional Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine Advanced Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine

Online and optional workshop in Adelaide on 20 February 2021

[Further information](#)

Professional Certificate of Skin Cancer Surgery

Online and optional workshop in Adelaide on 21 February 2021

[Further information](#)

Advanced Skin Surgery Workshop

26 February – 1 March 2021

Sydney, Australia

[Further information](#)

Professional Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine

Online and optional workshop in Sydney on 26 February 2021

[Further information](#)

Professional Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine Advanced Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine Advanced Certificate of Skin Cancer Surgery

Online and optional workshop in Sydney on 27 February 2021

[Further information](#)

Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine

27 – 28 February 2021

Sydney, Australia

[Further information](#)

Professional Certificate of Skin Cancer Surgery Professional Diploma of Skin Cancer Surgery

Online and optional workshop in Sydney on 28 February 2021

[Further information](#)

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

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.

[miR-524-5p reduces progression of BRAF inhibitor-resistant melanoma](#)

[Potential of partnering with massage therapists by e-training to reduce skin cancer risk](#)

[Co-delivery of hispolon and doxorubicin improves efficacy against melanoma cells](#)

[Synergistic effect of combining AURKB inhibition and PARP inhibitor for skin cutaneous melanoma treatment](#)

[Sun exposure reduction by melanoma survivors with wearable sensor providing real-time UV exposure and daily text messages](#)

[Dioscin as potential option for future treatments of skin cancer](#)

[Considerations for best treatment options for basal cell carcinoma with compromised margins](#)

[Pimasertib has clinical activity in patients with locally advanced/metastatic melanoma](#)

[Potential of gamma irradiation of melanoma cells for immunotherapeutic vaccine](#)

[Improved protection of outdoor workers from solar ultraviolet radiation: position statement](#)

[Acral lentiginous melanoma in situ: dermoscopic features and management strategy](#)



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