



# MelNet update

20 June 2020

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## Update on Standards of Service Provision for Melanoma Patients in New Zealand

In November 2018, the Ministry of Health reconvened a working group to review and update the [Standards of Service Provision for Melanoma Patients in New Zealand – Provisional](#), which were published in December 2013. Chaired by Richard Martin, this group has devoted countless hours over the past 18 months to update the Melanoma Standards, ensuring they are informed by latest research, provide a consistent approach to melanoma treatment in New Zealand and form a basis for the development of Quality Performance Indicators (QPIs) which will help drive and measure improvement over time.

We have since been made aware that responsibility for the Tumour Standards programme has been transferred from the Ministry to the Cancer Control Agency (the Agency), a departmental agency responsible for implementing the [Cancer Action Plan 2019–2029](#). We have also been advised that the Agency have decided to publish tumour QPIs without the Standards which underpin them. They have however agreed to support the skin cancer sector to finalise and release the Melanoma Standards as clinical guidance.

The MelNet Executive Committee are incredibly disappointed with this decision, which we feel is not in the best interests of the patients we care for. We strongly believe the best way to address inequity in New Zealand cancer care is to have Standards which provide the basis for QPIs. We also recognise that you as health professionals working in the field of melanoma have been waiting for updated Melanoma Standards for some years.

Representatives from the MelNet Executive Committee are scheduled to meet with Diana Sarfati (Chief Executive, Cancer Control Agency) and Suzanne Beuker (Clinical Advisor, Cancer Control Agency) on 30 June 2020 to discuss the next steps for the Melanoma Standards. We are committed to ensuring this body of work is finalised, peer reviewed and published in some way, and we will continue to work with the Agency to develop and implement QPIs which are derived from the Melanoma Standards.

We will keep you updated on our progress over the coming weeks and encourage you to send your thoughts and suggestions on the best way of implementing the Melanoma Standards to our Chief Executive, [Katrina Patterson](#).

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## Melanoma Research and Therapy Special Interest Group | Last call for attendance

**10.00 am – 1.00 pm**

**Friday 26 June 2020**

**To be held virtually via Zoom**

For melanoma health professionals and researchers, this meeting will discuss:

- National melanoma immune checkpoint inhibitor database
- Feedback on PHARMAC Special Authority criteria: Temporary removal of specified dose regimen for nivolumab and pembrolizumab during COVID crisis
- Melanoma research: an update

If you haven't already, please RSVP to [Marion Peat](#) for details on how to connect to the meeting.

[See the full agenda](#) | [More information about the group](#)

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## Melanoma Institute of Australia: Sentinel Node Metastasis Risk Calculator

The Melanoma Institute of Australia has published a new (free) online calculator that predicts the risk that a patient's primary melanoma has spread to nearby lymph nodes. Utilising robust data built up over a 50-year period, the tool enables you to have more informed discussions with patients based on individual percentage risk of having a positive sentinel lymph node. [View now](#)

You might also like to check out their [Melanoma Education Portal](#), featuring accredited learning modules, podcasts, webinars and videos that cover all stages of the disease spectrum through the Melanoma Institute of Australia. Access is free. [Register here](#)

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## **AMRF: Call for applications for a melanoma or other skin cancer Fellowship**

The Auckland Medical Research Foundation (AMRF) is calling for applications for the **JI Sutherland Medical Research Fellowship**. This inaugural Fellowship is open to medical or science graduates with New Zealand residency, permanent residency or citizenship who wish to undertake full-time medical research for a PhD or an MD in the specific field of melanoma or other skin cancer research.

Applications must be received through the AMRF portal **by 5.00 pm, 5 August 2020**. Please direct any questions to the Research Programme Manager on 09 923 1706 or email [hannah.gibbons@medicalresearch.org.nz](mailto:hannah.gibbons@medicalresearch.org.nz).

[More information](#)

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## **Sunscreen and Photoaging | Educational series on sunscreen and photoaging**

Research Review has published their latest Educational Series on Sunscreen and Photoaging.

This review summarises the mechanisms of skin photoaging and the role of sunscreen as an adjunctive sun protection measure in the prevention of photoaging. Expert commentary has been provided by dermatologists Louise Reiche (Palmerston North) and Deshan Sebaratnam (Sydney).

Although its focus is on preventing aging through sunscreen use, it contains useful key messages about sunscreen use and skin cancer prevention.

[Read the review](#)

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## **Upcoming education opportunities and events**

### ***Red Whale GP Update Webinar Series***

#### **Webinar series**

**Weekly on 2, 9, 16 and 23 September 2020 at 7.30pm**

A comprehensive update for primary healthcare professionals, Red Whale 2020 is being presented as a webinar series over four nights in September. Content has been 'chapterised' into webinar-length segments and New Zealand specialists will be online to answer questions.

[More information](#)

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### ***Skin Cancer Symposiums Certificate of Advanced Dermatoscopy | Change of date***

This course has been re-scheduled from 22 – 23 August to 5 – 6 December 2020.



This fully accredited and interactive two-day symposium will cover the building blocks of dermatoscopic language, how to do a systematic skin examination and dermatoscopic diagnosis of melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers. All participants receive a complimentary MoleScope II Dermatoscope

[More information](#)

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**SKIN CANCER COLLEGE**  
AUSTRALASIA

NEW FORMAT • ENTIRELY ONLINE

**New! Certificate of Dermoscopy — online**

Includes two live Webinar sessions — Sat 11 July and Sat 18 July

COURSE COMMENCES July 3rd 2020

**REGISTER NOW**

**Virtual Dermoscopy Masterclass | With Professor Harald Kittler and other experts**

**Video Lecture Series: From 1 July 2020**

**Live Stream Presentations + Q&A: From 4 August 2020**

Topics include pattern analysis, dermatoscopy of special sites, managing mistakes, artificial intelligence, controversies in dermatopathology, dysplastic naevi, in situ melanoma, actinic keratosis, intraepithelial carcinoma, keratoacanthoma, squamous cell carcinoma, and more.

[More information](#)

### **AU\$300 credit towards HealthCert Courses**

Use the special code EOFY20 by 30 June to save AU\$300 on any HealthCert certificate or professional diploma course. Face-to-face and online courses are available.

[Browse courses](#)

### **Other upcoming events**

July
<p><b>10th European Post-Chicago Melanoma/Skin Cancer Meeting</b> 9 - 10 July 2020 Virtual meeting <a href="#">Further information</a></p> <p><b>Advanced Skin Surgery Workshop</b> 17 – 20 July 2020 Melbourne, Australia <a href="#">Further information</a></p> <p><b>Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine and Certificate of Dermoscopy</b> 18 - 19 July 2020 Melbourne, Australia <a href="#">Further information</a></p>

August
<p><b>NZMA GP CME</b> 13 – 16 August 2020 Christchurch <a href="#">Further information</a></p> <p><b>Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine and Certificate of Dermoscopy</b> 15 - 16 August 2020 Christchurch <a href="#">Further information</a></p> <p><a href="#">For more events see the MelNet events calendar</a></p>

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## 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.

[MMP-9 may have promising role as biomarker and therapeutic target for management of melanoma patients](#)

[Ly75 could be a useful prognostic factor in melanoma treatment](#)

[Integrated photoacoustic and hyperspectral dual modality microscope for co-imaging of melanoma and cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma](#)

[Biomarkers in melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer prevention and risk stratification](#)

[Priority of risk, but not perceived magnitude of risk, predicts improved sun-protection behavior](#)

[Three years after banning commercial solarium: regulation enforcement activities decreased, consumers adopt substitute tanning methods](#)

[Australian GPs supportive of sentinel lymph node biopsy, but familiarity with guidelines is low](#)

[CXCL8, THBS1, KIT may be key genes in metastasis of melanoma](#)

[Positive association of age-related cataract with skin cancer in an Australian population](#)

[Efficient skin cancer diagnostic system using Bendlet Transform and Support Vector Machine](#)

[Successful measurement of sunscreen usage and temperature storage conditions with Internet of Things technology approach](#)

[2018 WHO classification of cutaneous, mucosal, and uveal melanoma: Analysis of 9 distinct subtypes defined by their evolutionary pathway](#)

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