

Key Recommendations of the Inaugural Meeting of the
Melanoma Research and Therapy Special Interest Group
Auckland International Airport Novotel
Friday 8 December 2017 12.00 noon to 4.00 pm

Meeting Overview

Twenty-two health professionals and scientists met in Auckland on 8 December to pursue the recommendation from the Melanoma Research and Therapy meeting held on 9 September 2017 as part of the Queenstown Melanoma Week. The meeting was hosted by MelNet, and the agenda was developed by Dr Rosalie Stephens, medical oncologist, and Professor Mike Eccles, biomedical researcher.

The purposes of the meeting were:

- To clarify the purpose and scope of a special interest group that has a translational research and therapy focus
- To discuss and establish operational aspects of a special interest group, such as membership, terms of reference, scope, name, meeting frequency and locations
- To identify how the Queenstown Melanoma Research and Therapy Meeting priorities for action could be addressed and progressed.

The meeting outcomes are outlined as key recommendations below.

All clinicians and scientists are invited to attend the next meeting, which will be held in Auckland on Thursday 15 March 2018 from noon to 4 pm.

Key Meeting Recommendations

Group definition/membership

A national and inclusive multidisciplinary group of professionals [that recognises the importance of involving the provinces]

Possible names

Melanoma Hub/Collective; NZ Melanoma Care Interest Group (NZMCIG), New Zealand Melanoma Interest Group; Melanoma Expert Forum; Melanoma Expert Group. (Some of these were generated by Rosalie's survey). Melanoma Expert Group emerged as the most likely to reflect the expertise of the group.

Meeting agenda

The agenda of the group will:

- Arise from MDMs, national research groups, such as the National Science Challenge – Healthier Lives and the Maurice Wilkins Centre, and from leading melanoma researchers around New Zealand
- Vary by locality (Regional Cancer Network areas)
- Be limited and focused.

Meeting venue

The venue will rotate between Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch and would have video-conferencing facilities.

Resources

Resources to support the group could derive from the Regional Cancer Networks, MelNet and Melanoma New Zealand.

The group needs to be sustainable in structure and cost.

The cost should be low, with participants self-funding/obtaining local funding.

Group Focus

Broadly, the aims of the group are:

- to achieve consensus on current issues for melanoma clinicians and researchers and to seek to implement solutions to these issues, and
- to improve upon current standards of care by promoting and facilitating research in melanoma.

The Melanoma Standards could provide a focus for the group and a structure to the meeting agendas. Examples include MSLT-II, nodes, scanning, adjuvant trials, imaging, FCT, MDM access, clinical trial access and tissue banking.

The main focus should be upon melanoma; addressing non-melanoma skin cancer would be too broad. From time to time however, a meeting could address a particular unmet need, such as Merkel cell carcinoma and ocular melanoma. For scientists, the focus needs to be a mix of aspirational as well as practical issues.

Meeting frequency and next meeting

The group should meet two times a year, with the first meeting to be held on 15 March noon to 4, including lunch. The second meeting should be held at the time of the Melanoma Summit (2/3 November 2018).

Governance and administrative support

Governance and support needs are:

- A chair for a fixed term – Rosalie Stephens
- An executive comprising regional representation (3) that is co-opted and will ensure both clinical and research expertise
- A secretariat (to organise the meetings, communicate with members, fund the venue and take minutes) – MelNet
- An agenda: members should be invited to suggest topics by emailing Rosalie Stephens and copying in the MelNet Coordinator (melnet@melnet.org.nz)
- Themes – by disciplines or issues

Meeting size

The optimal size of participation probably is 30. Video conferencing should be investigated.

March meeting

Topics should be tissue banking, PET CT and sentinel node data.

Those to plan/organise include Jeremy, Rosalie, Mike and the MelNet Coordinator.

Contacts for meeting

ECOG or SLN, NCN/MCN/SCN/CCN

Dissemination of meeting proceedings

The meeting outputs could be disseminated through the MelNet monthly e-newsletters and could be described as a “Melanoma Standard Update”.

The proceedings of this meeting, including action points, should be disseminated to participants. The action points should be disseminated to MelNet members.