



## **UPCOMING COURSES AND LATEST NEWS: 3 JUNE 2016**

### **Christchurch skin lesions course: 9 July 2016**

Due to high demand for the 18 June course, MelNet, with the support from the Health Promotion Agency (HPA), is offering a second Common Skin Lesions and Dermatoscopy Course in Christchurch on Saturday 9 July. (The course on 18 June is fully subscribed.)

Conducted by Honorary Associate Professor Amanda Oakley, the one-day course will address the clinical and dermatoscopic diagnosis of common benign and malignant skin lesions, particularly pigmented lesions.

All health professionals from throughout NZ, including doctors and nurses with a specialist role in dermatology (e.g., dermatology nurses and melanographers), are invited to register. GP registrars are eligible for a reduced fee thanks to a subsidy from MelNet.

You can find further information and registration details [here](#). If you have any difficulty in making payment by credit card (due to intermittent problems with the system), you will be contacted by the HPA within a few days to arrange payment.

### **Auckland, Wellington and Hamilton skin lesions courses**

MelNet, with HPA support, also will be offering one-day Common Skin Lesions and Dermatoscopy courses in the North Island:

- Auckland: Saturday 3 September (Waipuna Hotel)
- Wellington: Saturday 17 September (Brentwood Hotel)
- Hamilton: Saturday 1 October (Venue to be confirmed)

Links to registration will be published soon on the MelNet website. In the meantime, please contact the [MelNet Coordinator](#) to register your interest.

### **Attending ASCO?**

Those from NZ attending the [American Society of Clinical Oncology \(ASCO\)](#) conference are invited to contact [Jon Mathy](#) to meet for discussion and networking at ASCO.

## Gene mutation patterns in melanoma vary from North to South in NZ

The first comprehensive genetic analysis of melanoma in New Zealand has found that BRAF mutation rates are similar in both the North and South Island. However, NRAS mutations were found in 38 per cent of South Island melanomas, but only in 21 per cent of North Island ones.

These findings and others emerged from one of the largest groups of melanoma patients to have the genetics of their cancer studied, according to study co-leader Professor Mike Eccles, who also is an active member of the MelNet Executive Committee.

You can find more about the study [here](#).

### Please like us on Facebook!

The above study was the first item to be featured on MelNet's new Facebook page.

Please "Like" us on Facebook! Just go to MelNet's [home page](#), click the Facebook icon in the upper right corner, then click 'like' on MelNet's Facebook page.

"Liking us" will show your support for MelNet and our efforts to:

- facilitate communication and collaboration
- promote evidence-based best practice
- advocate for reduced rates of melanoma (and non-melanoma skin cancer) in NZ.

### Genesis Oncology Trust grant round

The Genesis Oncology Trust invites applications for grants to support NZ-based initiatives that will lead to improvements in the prevention, detection, diagnosis or treatment of cancer, or improvements in palliative care.

The closing date for the 2016 main grant round is Friday 19 August 2016. This applies to applications for professional development, research project and special purpose grants. The closing date for scholarships and fellowships, including a clinical fellowship for cancer nurses, is Friday 7 October 2016.

You can find further information [here](#).

### Recent MelNet website postings

Check out our website for recent [media](#) postings, along with the latest [news and events](#), including:

[PHARMAC publishes clinical expert advice on nivolumab \(Opdivo\)](#)

[Carriers of MC1R variants at increased melanoma risk](#)

[Genetic analysis of melanoma in New Zealand a first](#)

[Use of UV dosimeters and diaries may influence sun exposure](#)

[Survival after multiple melanomas worse than after single melanoma](#)

[Indoor tanning: melanoma risk and prevention interventions](#)

[Blood test may give alert to relapse in melanoma patients](#)

[Latest issue of Dermatology Research Review](#)

## **Upcoming Australian conferences**

14-15 July

[Melanoma-2016 Oncology & Cancer Conference](#)

Brisbane, Australia

28-29 October

[The Australasian Melanoma Conference](#)

Sydney, Australia

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