



MelNet update

16 December 2022

A call for support and assistance - together we can sustain MelNet

We are a small organisation, but together we achieve a lot.

On limited funding and with a tiny team we have been able to accomplish a considerable amount this year. We are making progress towards our core objectives of improving best practice melanoma management and building the capability and connectivity of our skin cancer workforce. But there is still more we'd like to achieve.

MelNet remains without a guaranteed income stream, and without this our future is at risk.

We need your help and support now more than ever.

This will enable us to continue to support you as a health professional working in melanoma and continue our work to reduce the number of people who develop melanoma, and ensure those who do receive the best quality care.

Together we can make a difference.

You can help us in a number of ways:

1. [Make a donation now](#). Any amount you can contribute would be greatly appreciated.
2. Refer us to a community group or business you know that would consider being an ongoing sponsor of MelNet
3. Organise a fundraising event in your local community or refer us to a fundraising group who are looking for a worthy cause to support
4. Talk about MelNet with patients and their families who you have treated for melanoma and who may want to make a bequest to support our work
5. Introduce us to a philanthropist who would consider supporting MelNet

Thank you for your ongoing support of our organisation and your continued and unwavering commitment to reducing the incidence and impact of melanoma in New Zealand.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, we wish you and your loved ones a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Warm regards,

Gary Duncan and Chris Boberg
Co-Chairs, MelNet Executive Committee

A snapshot of MelNet's year | Celebrating our achievements

- MelNet's first virtual conference, the sixth New Zealand Melanoma Summit, was held in February after being postponed from 2021 due to COVID-19.
- The [Quality Statements to Guide Melanoma Diagnosis and Treatment in New Zealand](#) were officially launched in February. The first review was undertaken in July, and the second edition released in October.
- To promote the second edition of the Quality Statements, MelNet hosted [a six-part weekly webinar series](#) from October to December. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive.
- Since September, MelNet has been supporting the Steering Group responsible for reviewing the New Zealand Skin Cancer Primary Prevention and Early Detection Strategy 2017 – 2022.
- In November MelNet hosted a dermoscopy course presented by Adjunct Professor Amanda Oakley. Attended by 54 professionals, this four-hour beginner's course aimed to increase recognition of typical benign and malignant skin lesions and was well received.
- In March, Amanda presented a similar course as part of the Goodfellow Symposium.
- A meeting of the [Melanoma Research and Therapy Special Interest Group](#) was held in November. It focused on equitable access to clinical trials and highlighted several research projects.

- Throughout the year MelNet representatives promoted best practice skin cancer management at the Goodfellow Symposium, GPCME North and South and RNZCGP Auckland Branch update. We are grateful to the presenters who willingly gave their time to share their knowledge and expertise at these events.
- A key focus of our advocacy efforts this year has been on improving funding and resources for pathology services to help ensure the reporting of cancer results meet recommended turnaround times. MelNet has two representatives on the advisory panel responsible for scoping a future Northern region skin pathology service.
- We have continued to provide up-to-date information, research and resources to melanoma professionals.

Recommended holiday viewing | Check out the content on our YouTube channel

The upcoming holiday season may provide some downtime and an opportunity to watch the content on MelNet's YouTube channel.

New Zealand Melanoma Summit keynote presentations

Recordings of keynote presentations from the New Zealand Melanoma Summit, which was held virtually in February this year, [are now available to view](#). Thank you to our presenters for granting permission to release these.

Melanoma Quality Statements webinar series

Recordings of the recently held Melanoma Quality Statements webinar series are now available:

Quality Statements 1: [Prevention, early detection and diagnosis](#)

Quality Statements 2: [Pathology and reporting](#)

Quality Statements 3: [Staging, surveillance and follow up](#)

Quality Statements 4: [Surgical management](#)

Quality Statements 5: [Management of advanced melanoma](#)

Quality Statements 6: [Multi-disciplinary and coordinated care throughout the patient journey](#)

CME credits for on-demand views of Quality Statements webinar series

We will upload CME credits for those who view the webinar recordings. To be eligible for credit you must:

- use **the link to the Zoom recording** that was sent out after each webinar. We cannot track CME credentials via YouTube.
- view the recordings before **Friday 23 December** for RNZCGP members and **Tuesday 31 January** for RACS members.
- have provided us with your correct MCNZ or RACS number - either as part of the webinar registration process and/or when registering to view the recordings.

If you would like a copy of the link, please email admin@melnet.org.nz. Please note, we will be closed from Friday 23 December - 9 January 2022.

***** Found this content useful? *****

Please consider [donating](#) to MelNet. Your support enables MelNet to continue to provide you with best practice guidelines, skin cancer education opportunities, information and research.

Quality Statements to Guide Melanoma Diagnosis and Treatment in NZ | Spread the word

Thank you to those who attended the recent Quality Statements webinar series – we are extremely impressed by the interest and engagement.

Remember to spread the word about the Quality Statements, and if you haven't already, please download a copy of the second edition from the [MelNet website](#).

The next formal review will be in 2023, however feedback is welcome at any time to the [MelNet Chief Executive](#).

Tiger Prawn's back! | Get involved in sharing the Cancer Society's SunSmart messages this summer

After 20 years, Cancer Society have given 'Tiger Prawn – the SunSmart spokesprawn' a new life in their latest campaign to remind the whole whānau to stay SunSmart and Slip, Slop, Slap and Wrap to protect themselves from the harmful effects of UV radiation this summer. You can help spread the message by:

1. Following Cancer Society on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and/or Twitter and sharing their SunSmart content
2. Using the Cancer Society's [suggested social media content](#) or [campaign banner](#) for your own social media posts and/or in e-newsletters, other electronic communications or e-signatures
3. Talking with your team, patients and wider community about the return of Tiger Prawn and the importance of staying safe in the sun.

See the [SunSmart website](#) for more SunSmart information and resources. Thank you for your support.

In the media | Interesting reads

James Dyson Award runner up designs personal skin cancer detection system

A personal skin cancer detection system is one of the award-winning product designs in the James Dyson NZ Awards. Massey University student Thomas Mackisack's [SPOT CHECK](#) combines advanced camera hardware with artificial intelligence to catch melanoma early.

[Read the article](#)

Sunshine science: UV dosimeter to measure UV radiation intensity

Professor Martin Allen from the University of Canterbury has developed an electronic UV dosimeter (or detector) which measures how intense the UV radiation is and what sort of dose you are receiving. Martin is keen to see these dosimeters rolled out in schools as part of an education programme aimed at making the invisible UV threat more visible and creating life-long sun-safe behaviour.

[Read the article](#) [UV research website](#)

Research finds mutated gene that helps melanoma defeat normal limits on repeated replication

Findings of a recent study imply that the TPP1 gene is likely one of the missing puzzle pieces that boost telomerase's capacity to maintain telomeres and support tumour growth and immortality. Knowing that cancer use these genes in their replication and growth means that researchers could also block them and potentially stop telomeres from lengthening and make cancer cells mortal.

[Read the article](#) [Research findings](#)

Upcoming opportunities and events

2023 events calendar on MelNet website | Full version available soon

We have started to upload the 2023 events calendar on the [MelNet website](#). This is where we post events that we are aware of, and we think our members may be interested in attending. The full version will be available in the new year. If there are any events you would like included, please [let us know](#).



The Melanoma and Skin Cancer Trials 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting will bring together leading figures in melanoma and skin cancer clinical trials to share the latest findings and foster further innovative research.

The MASC Trials ASM will be a satellite meeting of the Australasian Melanoma Conference.

[More information and to register](#)



BRISBANE 24-25 MARCH
BRISBANE CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE

AMC2023 is hosted by the Australian Skin and Skin Cancer Research Centre (ASSC) – a partnership of the University of Queensland and the QIMR Berghofer Research Institute – which aims to harness the combined strengths of the two institutions with world-leading teams of skin cancer researchers.

Registration and Abstracts Submission is now open.

[Programme](#) [Register now](#) [Abstract Submission](#)

Other upcoming opportunities and events

January, February

11th European School of Dermato-Oncology Update on Cutaneous Oncology (ESDO)

13 – 14 January 2023

Hybrid event: Berlin, Germany or virtual

[Find out more](#)

Melanoma 2023: 33rd Annual Cutaneous Malignancy Update

20 – 22 January 2023

Hybrid event: San Diego, USA or virtual

[Find out more](#)

Certificate of Dermoscopy - Online

3 February 2023

Online

[Find out more](#)

19th Annual International Symposium on Melanoma and Other Cutaneous Malignancies

4 February 2023

Hybrid event: Dallas, USA or virtual

[Find out more](#)

Professional Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine

Advanced Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine

Professional Certificate of Skin Cancer Surgery

11 February 2023

Adelaide, Australia

[Find out more](#)

Taking Cancer Prevention Seriously: The people, the government and industry

16 February 2023

Online courses starting any time

Certificate of Dermoscopy

Start studies any time

Online

[Find out more](#)

Introduction to Skin Cancer

Start studies any time

Online

[Find out more](#)

Professional Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine / Skin Cancer Surgery / Dermoscopy

Advanced Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine / Skin Cancer Surgery / Dermoscopy

Professional Diploma of Skin Cancer Medicine / Skin Cancer Surgery / Dermoscopy

Start studies any time

Online (some courses offer an optional practical workshop)

[Find out more](#)

Advanced Certificate of Dermoscopy for Dermatology

Start studies any time

Online

[Find out more](#)

Advanced Certificate of Histopathology for Dermoscopy

Start studies any time

Online

[Find out more](#)

Certificate of Case Management: Dermoscopy

Start studies any time

Wellington
[Find out more](#)

Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine

24 February 2023
Brisbane, Australia
[Find out more](#)

RCPA Pathology Update 2023

24 – 26 February 2023
Melbourne, Australia
[Find out more](#)

Online
[Find out more](#)

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.

[Unveiling the tumor immune microenvironment of organ-specific melanoma metastatic sites](#)

[Literature review: Racial and ethnic disparities in malignant melanoma](#)

[Feasibility, acceptability, and utility of a nurse-led survivorship program for people with metastatic melanoma \(MELCARE\)](#)

[Adjuvant therapy of involumab combined with ipilimumab versus nivolumab alone in patients with resected stage IIIB-D or stage IV melanoma \(CheckMate 915\)](#)

[MCU controls melanoma progression through a redox-controlled phenotype switch](#)

[Clinical review: Modulation of gut microbiome to enhance immunotherapy response in metastatic melanoma patients](#)



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