



MelNet update

21 November 2022

Quality Statements to Guide Melanoma Diagnosis and Treatment in NZ

If you haven't already, please download a copy of the second edition of the Quality Statements to Guide Melanoma Diagnosis and Treatment in New Zealand from the [MelNet website](#).

The statements describe quality care for melanoma in New Zealand based on current global best practice and will inform efforts to reduce the incidence and improve outcomes for melanoma patients and their families. We encourage you to share these widely in your networks.

It's not too late to join the last two webinars in our six-part Quality Statements webinar series!

Hosted by MelNet, these webinars will cover the *Management of advanced melanoma* (webinar #5 on 24 November) and *Multi-disciplinary and coordinated care throughout the patient journey* (webinar #6 on 1 December).

All healthcare professionals working in skin cancer management are warmly invited to attend.

This series has been endorsed by RNZCGP and RACS and approved for CME credit for Continuing Professional Development purposes.

While this series is free to attend, we warmly welcome a [koha](#). Your support enables MelNet to continue to advocate for improved melanoma prevention, early detection, diagnosis, treatment and research, and provide you with best practice guidelines, skin cancer education opportunities, information and research.

[More information and to register](#)

Thank you to our generous sponsors



Dermoscopy made easy online course for beginners | Are you interested in attending?

If you missed our online 'Dermoscopy made easy' course for beginners presented by Adjunct Associate Professor Amanda Oakley this month, never fear! We are looking at options to repeat this course in 2023.

If you or your colleagues are interested and would like to be informed about possible repeat courses, please [let us know](#).

Melanoma Research and Therapy Special Interest Group meeting | Held on 4 November 2022

Thank you to those who attended the Melanoma Research and Therapy Special Interest Group meeting on 4 November 2022.

Highly interesting and informative presentations led to productive discussions.

Topics discussed were:

- Improving access to clinical trials in New Zealand
- Research into DNA and RNA signatures associated with melanoma resistance to Keytruda

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

Introducing the 2023 MelNet Executive Committee

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Dr Susan Seifried and Hazel Potterton who have joined the MelNet Executive Committee for 2023.

Abbie Cameron has retired from the Committee. We thank her for the contribution she made to the organisation during the time she served.

You can find out more about MelNet's 2023 Executive Committee [here](#).

Artificial intelligence a promising tool for improving early melanoma diagnosis | News from MASC Trials

In a pilot study published by the [Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology](#), digital photography combined with the newly developed MoleMap artificial intelligence algorithm was shown to have substantial agreement with a treating dermatologist's face-to-face assessment of whether a lesion was benign or malignant, and accuracy that compares favourably to that of a dermatologist's remote (telehealth) assessment.

Lead investigator, Associate Professor Victoria Mar of Melanoma and Skin Cancer Trials said the 'SMARTI' trial was the first step in developing improved early detection technologies for GPs, telehealth clinics and skin cancer clinics.

[Read the full article](#)

Refining pathological response assessment in neoadjuvant therapy for melanoma | Presentation

Neoadjuvant therapy is transforming melanoma patient care. In this presentation, Pathologist Professor Richard Scolyer AO answers key questions around neoadjuvant-treated melanoma patients.

[View on MIA's education portal](#) (free registration required)

In the media: UV levels in NZ higher than last year

Experts warn Kiwis to take extra care in the sun with higher UV levels in New Zealand than last year. According to NIWA, UV index levels have risen by up to 10 per cent around Auckland over the last month compared to last year.

NIWA meteorologist Dr Richard Turner said the high UV levels were probably due to a slight depletion of the ozone layer over the past few months, possibly worsened by the Tongan volcanic eruption. Luckily, the effect would be reversible, NIWA said, as the water injected into the stratosphere would be naturally removed in a few years.

MelNet's new Executive Committee member Hazel Potterton – SunSmart National Advisor from the Cancer Society of New Zealand – points out that until then, this is of particular worry because our ozone layer is already among the weakest in the world.

[Media articles](#)

Upcoming opportunities and events

Introduction to Skin Cancer | Online course hosted by SCCA

Delivered online and self-paced, this new interactive course introduces health professionals to the fundamentals of skin cancer medicine. The course is perfect for doctors and nurses with an interest in skin cancer or any health professional who views their clients' / patients' skin as part of their daily practice.

[More information](#)

Health Research System Crossroads events

New Zealand's health research system is at crossroads. The challenge is not in deciding which path to choose, but in identifying how we navigate them simultaneously. This workshop is open to all health research system stakeholders.

Workshop:

Wellington on 29 November 2022

Kantar/NZHR 2022 public Opinion Poll: Dunedin on 28 November 2022 and Auckland on 7 December 2022

[More information and to register](#)

Taking Cancer Prevention Seriously: The people, the government and industry | 16 February 2023, Wellington

This workshop considers the state of cancer prevention in Aotearoa New Zealand. Barriers to progress are explored and action needed to overcome them identified. Learn from leading national and international experts and strategise with colleagues from the community, local and central government.

[More information and to register](#)



The Goodfellow team is excited to welcome you **in person** at next year's Goodfellow Symposium in Auckland on 25 - 26 March 2023. A strong lineup of speakers and topics will hopefully inspire and provide the full complement of 'Skills for Next Monday'

[Find out more](#) | [Programme](#) | [Register now](#)

MelNet is again co-hosting a pre-symposium '**Skin lesion and dermatoscopy workshop**' for beginners, presented by Adjunct Associate Professor Amanda Oakley. The workshop is scheduled for Thursday 24 March from 10.00 am – 5.00 pm.

[More information](#) | [Register now](#)

Other upcoming opportunities and events

December, January

Melanoma Quality Statements MelNet webinar series - webinar #6: Multi-disciplinary & coordinated care throughout the patient journey

1 December 2022

Online

[Find out more](#)

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](#)

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

Online courses starting any time

Certificate of Dermatoscopy

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

Online

[Find out more](#)

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.

[Developing an Australian Melanoma Clinical Outcomes Registry \(MelCOR\)](#)

[Incidence of in situ vs invasive melanoma consistent with more indolent lesions coming to clinical attention](#)

[Developing an Australian Melanoma Clinical Outcomes Registry \(MelCOR\)](#)

[Inhibiting GCDH pathway could represent therapeutic approach to treat melanoma](#)

[Higher polygenic risk for melanoma associated with improved survival in high ultraviolet radiation setting](#)

[Microbiome modifications induced by antibiotics might have negative clinical consequences in patients with melanoma](#)

[5-year analysis of adjuvant therapy with pembrolizumab: sustained improvement in long-term recurrence- and distant metastasis-free survival](#)



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