



From the Director

The Australian Cancer Survivorship Centre is based at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. It receives funding from The Pratt Foundation, the Victorian Department of Health and from Peter Mac.

The ACSC aims to improve outcomes for people affected by cancer. We work with clinical providers (medical, nursing, allied health) at Peter Mac and throughout Victoria to facilitate improved care for survivors, their families and carers.

These newsletters aim to keep you updated regarding our work.

Associate Professor Michael Jefford

Improving our online presence

When the ACSC was established in 2010, one of our first tasks was to establish our website. We set out to provide quality information for health professionals and survivors and their friends and families.

Three years later, coinciding with Peter Mac's plan to redevelop its website, it is timely to review the website. We have employed a project manager to evaluate and redevelop the website. We are learning how people use the site, which pages are most popular, and how people navigate their way through the site. We are also identifying gaps and barriers within the site.

Over the past few months, we have used analytics to examine traffic to, from and within the site. (Note that this is impersonal, non-identifiable information about site visitors.) Findings include that since 2010, unique visits have been steadily increasing, as have page views. However, a large percentage of visitors spend only a brief amount of time on the site. To try to understand why, we have employed usability testing, a remote user survey and an email remote test. This testing has:

- revealed some navigation and accessibility issues
- raised concerns about the labelling of some information
- showed that we need to better highlight key information such as events

In response, we have introduced some changes to the site content. In the near future, we will be looking at more ways to enhance the content, usability, design and awareness of the ACSC site.

We have been introducing changes to the site over the past months: have you had a chance to look? You will find an events section, mobile applications for survivors, stories from

survivors, video recordings, a wellness page, an updated resources section and a more user-friendly design.

More information:
www.petermac.org/cancersurvivorship

Consumer forums



In August and November, we conducted consumer forums, which invite patients, families and carers to consider different ways of managing life after the end of treatment.

The forums are free and facilitated by health professionals who work in cancer care. They are a great opportunity to impart and share tips and strategies, and the participants welcomed the opportunity to learn and meet others who have gone through a similar experience.

Videos of the forum sessions are available from our website. Further information sessions will be held in 2014.

More information:
www.petermac.org/cancersurvivorship

Free online education for nurses

Cancer Learning – Survivorship is an exciting new resource for cancer nurses and other health professionals to support them in their care of cancer survivors and skills development.

Research has shown that many nurses recognise the need to improve care of cancer survivors but feel they lack expertise. It is clear that nurses have a critical role in survivor care, both directly and in facilitating communication between healthcare providers and patients and carers.

'By improving our knowledge and understanding of survivorship we can make a real difference to the long-term outcomes of survivors' – Associate Professor Mei Krishnasamy, introducing the new site.



The resource was initiated by the ACSC. It has been developed by survivorship and cancer education experts to reflect the Australian health care context. Survivorship experts across Australia, including cancer survivors themselves, contributed.

It includes current, evidence-based tools, resources and free learning modules. You can choose your preferred method of learning: interactive modules, quizzes, links to research, videos and other means.

The website was funded and developed by the ACSC with Cancer Australia, Queensland University of Technology and the Workforce Education and Development Group at the University of Sydney. Cancer Learning is an Australian Government team dedicated to improving knowledge about cancer.

More information:
www.cancersurvivorship.net.au

Survivor information in other languages



While there is a range of English-language information for cancer survivors, there is relatively little for people who read and speak other languages.

One of our key projects this year has been Resources for **Cancer Survivors from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Communities**. We are consulting with survivors, carers and others to identify information needs and gaps.

Earlier this year, we conducted focus groups for Cantonese, Mandarin and Greek speaking survivors and carers in Victoria and New South Wales. Focus group participants revealed that they:

- want to know about positive and negative experiences after cancer treatment
- are very keen to learn about practical, financial and professional support after treatment, as well as learning about staying healthy, side effects and coping
- express a strong need for more information in their own language
- prefer a term closer to 'recovery' than

'survivor'. In Cantonese, for example, the literal translation of 'survivor' implies that survival is rare.

We also conducted a literature review to identify resources available in Cantonese, Mandarin and Greek.

Next steps include deciding the content and type of materials to develop, based on findings from the focus groups and literature review. We will encourage the use of existing suitable information but develop information where there are significant gaps.

This is a wide-ranging and important project for CALD communities; we expect to release the resources and complete a final report by May 2014.

We are running this project with the Psycho-Oncology Co-operative Research Group, NSW. The project is funded by Cancer Australia.

More information: <http://canceraustralia.gov.au/research-data/research/grants-and-funding/supporting-people-cancer>

Australian Cancer Survivorship Centre

A Richard Pratt Legacy



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Peter Mac

