



From the Director

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



Congratulations Meg

Cancer survivor Meg Rynderman is passionate about improving support, information and follow-up care for people with cancer. Her outstanding work as a consumer representative with the ACSC was recognised when, from a field of more than 500, she won the 2014 Minister for Health Individual Volunteer Award.

Meg has directly influenced the lives of cancer survivors, participating in Peter Mac's Moving beyond Cancer to Wellness program and through her series of cancer survivor stories that have been distributed across the state. She has participated in webinars and conferences for health professionals. Meg is a member of Peter Mac's Cancer Survivorship Advisory Committee, has contributed to our strategic plan and has influenced the implementation of survivorship care plans at Peter Mac.

Meg has a strong view that cancer should be considered a whole-of-life health issue like heart disease, diabetes or asthma.

'As a survivor it is my hope that care plans will outline diagnosis, fully explain treatment, list drugs administered and possible late effects, and that follow-ups will be routinely scheduled and monitored.'

'It is also my hope that more medical and nursing educators will recognise that cancer diagnosis and treatments have far-reaching implications, requiring sensitivity, empathy and understanding, and that this will be incorporated into the training of all health professionals.'

Read Meg's survivor series: www.petermac.org/cancersurvivorship

Cancer Survivors Week at Peter Mac

In June we were pleased to host a presentation by Professor Phyllis Butow AM on 'Cancer survivorship in culturally and linguistically diverse communities' as part of Cancer Survivors Week at Peter Mac. Prof Butow has worked for over 20 years in the areas of doctor-patient communication and psycho-oncology, and over the past five years has run a research program on disparities in outcomes and needs of immigrants with cancer. The presentation will be available to watch on our website shortly.

During Cancer Survivors Week we also installed an information stand to celebrate survivors and to share information on cancer survivorship. Visitors were invited to put their hands up for survivors by leaving a message on our message board. One message, which was echoed many times, was from Don, a survivor for 15 years 'and still going': *'Look forwards. Don't give up.'*

More information: www.petermac.org/cancersurvivorship



Progress on the Victorian Cancer Survivorship Program

One of our key activities has been to support the Victorian Cancer Survivorship Program (VCSP). The VCSP piloted six evidence-based survivorship models of post-treatment cancer care. The projects were conducted across metropolitan and regional health services, and incorporated primary care and community organisations.

The ACSC led a collaborative forum with health professionals in March 2014, following a consumer forum in late 2013. These forums provided a valuable opportunity to engage with a broad range of stakeholders to garner their thoughts on the value of the VCSP to date and suggest future directions. The health professionals forum considered how to tailor services to those most likely to benefit, the need to develop tools to assist survivorship care (e.g. needs assessment), how to enhance collaboration with primary care and the need to educate a wide variety of health professionals.

With Phase 1 projects completed, we are now working with the Department of Health to create a summary report, which will combine information from the six projects. It will highlight ways to support broader implementation and sustainability and identify factors which may inform policy development. It is due for completion in late 2014.

Watch the presentations from the health professionals forum here: www.petermac.org/cancersurvivorship/VictorianCancerSurvivorshipProgram

Survivor information in other languages

While there is a range of English-language information for cancer survivors, there is relatively little for people who speak other languages. We recently completed a project funded by Cancer Australia to identify information needs and gaps for cancer survivors from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. We conducted this project in partnership with the Psycho-Oncology Co-operative Research Group, based in NSW.

We consulted with Cantonese-, Mandarin- and Greek-speaking survivors and carers in Victoria and New South Wales, undertook a literature review, and reviewed existing national and international resources. A key contribution of this project is recognition that the term 'survivor' is not generally endorsed by Cantonese- and Greek-speaking participants and is viewed as inappropriate in their culture.

This project has led to the development of a new resource, On the Road to Recovery, which will be published in three languages. The resource will be available through ACSC and all Cancer Councils.

We are delighted to have received further funding from Cancer Australia to extend the project to additional language groups. For the next phase of the project we will consult with Italian-, Arabic- and Vietnamese-speaking survivors and carers in Victoria to identify information needs and gaps.

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



Upcoming conferences

The ACSC will be represented through posters, presentations and workshops at the following conferences this year:

7th Biennial Cancer Survivorship Research Conference (Atlanta, Georgia, USA) 18–20 June.
www.cancer.org/subsites/survivorship2014

17th Winter Congress of the Cancer Nurses Society of Australia: (Melbourne) 24–26 July.
ACSC is supporting the workshop Delivering Innovative Cancer Survivorship.
www.cnsawintercongress.com.au/workshops

Annual Scientific Meeting of the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (Melbourne) 2–4 December.
<http://cosa2014.org>

World Cancer Congress (Melbourne) 3– 6 December.
www.worldcancercongress.org/melbourne-2014

Australian Cancer Survivorship Centre

A Richard Pratt Legacy



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