



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*

Manager's update

ACSC has an important role in enabling excellent survivorship care by supporting education for health professionals.

We have completed a range of education initiatives for the oncology and primary

care workforce. We have developed these initiatives in partnership with government, universities, professional associations and non-government organisations such as the Cancer Council.

Our activities this year

In 2014, we have worked on a range of education initiatives for health professionals.

- In March, we ran the Approaches to Better Care for Victorian Cancer Survivors forum. This event shared recommendations from the Victorian Cancer Survivorship Program (VCSP) pilot projects.
- In June, we presented posters at the 7th Biennial Cancer Survivorship Research Conference, Atlanta.
- In July, we delivered the survivorship workshop at the Cancer Nurses Society of Australia (CNSA) congress, Melbourne, where we introduced the Cancer Learning - Survivorship module.
- Recently we began developing our general practice clinical placement pilot project and launched a cancer survivorship education hub.

We share details of some of this recent work in this newsletter.





ACSC receives international awards

Our efforts to understand and improve the lives of people after cancer treatment have been acknowledged on the world stage. The ACSC received two meritorious awards at the 7th Biennial Cancer Survivorship Research Conference in Atlanta, United States. ACSC Director, Associate Professor Michael Jefford, accepted the awards, for research evaluating the VCSP projects and learnings from Peter Mac's implementation of survivorship care plans. The prizes were two of only eight awarded from 192 submitted abstracts.

Associate Professor Jefford said it was important to explore different ways to

care for people after cancer treatment, as a single, adaptable model has not been established.

'Defining effective survivorship care is a work in progress – through our work we considered the six two-year demonstration projects, funded by the Department of Health through the Victorian Cancer Survivorship Program, which included people of different ages, with various cancer types, residing in metropolitan and regional areas.

'Our assessment of the projects showed critical factors for success are strong clinical leadership, ensuring that care is tailored to the individual's needs and predicted risks, and effective engagement with primary care. A lack of valid assessment tools is an

issue and will be a focus of future research.'

Associate Professor Jefford, who also presented in a breakfast session, 'Building international collaborations to improve cancer survivorship research and care', said working partnerships are important as the discipline continues to evolve.

'Challenges to delivering ideal post-treatment care are similar worldwide and there's still a lot we don't know, so working together and sharing experiences will be critical to ensure optimal outcomes for people living life after cancer.'

More information: www.petermac.org/news/toward-living-better-lives-after-cancer-peter-mac-strong-showing-international-survivorship



Photo: "Midtown Atlanta Skyline" courtesy of Atlantacitizen



Delivering innovative care: nursing education

In July, ACSC ran a pre-congress workshop, 'Delivering Innovative Cancer Survivorship Care' at the CNSA 17th Winter Congress in Melbourne.

The workshop featured the new Cancer Learning - Survivorship education modules. These modules were developed by ACSC in collaboration with the University of Sydney, Queensland University of Technology and Cancer Australia. Australian cancer nurses had called for a comprehensive, specialised and readily available resource on best practice approaches to identifying, responding to and tailoring survivorship care for people living with cancer.

- The workshop covered:
- common experiences of cancer survivors
- cancer survivorship in Australia



- key findings from the VCSP pilot projects
- practice implications of current survivorship initiatives for cancer nurses
- practical tools and resources to support cancer nurses provide survivorship care
- the Cancer Learning – Survivorship online education modules.

Fifty participants attended the workshop. Feedback was very positive. Nurses said it increased their confidence in using health promotion approaches, assessing health risk factors, motivational interviewing,

collaborative problem solving, goal setting and action planning, structured problem solving and organisational change techniques.

One participant described the Cancer Learning - Survivorship website as containing 'a wealth of knowledge/expertise to be tapped into for those seeking help on behalf of their patients'.

The ACSC is expanding the workshop and website content to meet the needs of other healthcare professional groups.

Cancer Learning - Survivorship module:
www.cancersurvivorship.net.au

General practice clinical placement pilot project

In recognition of the integral role of general practice in all stages of cancer care, ACSC has established a clinical placement pilot. The pilot will bring together general practice and cancer specialist teams at Peter Mac to strengthen links and build partnerships of care.

Patients require high-quality continuity of care across the health sector and throughout life. The VCSP evaluation uncovered a need for better general practice/primary care engagement after a patient completes treatment, including:

- clarifying who is responsible for the patient's continuing care, including in shared care arrangements between general practice and cancer specialists
- encouraging better collaboration between general practice and cancer specialists
- including practice nurses when possible.

The pilot will run in early 2015 with findings published later in the year. The clinical placement pilot project will explore how these two teams can better engage and work together.





Improved online presence

The ACSC provides a range of information, resources, networking opportunities, continuing education, publications and training modules for health professionals.

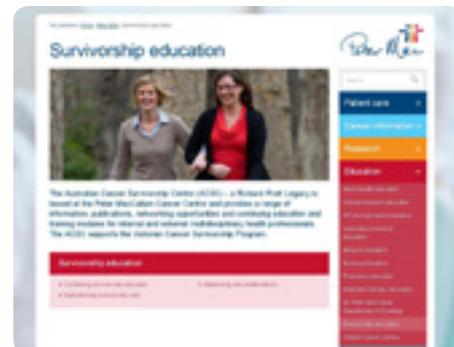
In 2013, we reviewed the ACSC website with the aim of improving our site for users. This work has now been completed and we are pleased to launch our new comprehensive survivorship education webpage:

www.petermac.org/education/survivorship-education.

The survivorship education hub has information on survivorship education, networking and collaborations and implementing survivorship care.

Importantly, you can access key ACSC 'grey literature' publications, including the evaluation of the VCSP pilot projects.

In early 2015, we will make available a series of literature review reports and toolkits regarding post-treatment needs assessment and survivorship care planning.



Upcoming conferences

ACSC will present work at the following upcoming meetings:

- 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
- Flinders Centre for Innovation in Cancer 2015 Survivorship Conference (Adelaide) 6–7 February 2015
www.survivorship2015.org
- Second Victorian Integrated Cancer Services Conference (Melbourne) 11–12 May 2015
www.vics2015.org

Australian Cancer Survivorship Centre
A Richard Pratt Legacy



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