

CLINICAL ONCOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA 35TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

INFORMATION IN, INFORMATION OUT

The truly multidisciplinary nature of the 2008 Clinical Oncological Society of Australia's (COSA) Annual Scientific Meeting reflected the level of maturity of our organisation and the fulfillment of its aim in bringing together cancer care providers from all disciplines to share information and experiences towards improving patient care.

Our partnerships with the International Association of Cancer Registries (IACR) and the Australia and New Zealand Gastrooesophageal Surgical Association (ANZGOSA), provided fruitful interaction and allowed high quality international and national guests to contribute to robust discussion. In the plenary sessions, a range of speakers covering epidemiology, clinical sciences, supportive care and psycho-oncology represented the holistic approach to cancer care. The breakout sessions featured excellent input from our guest speakers, as well as high quality proffered papers.

Several innovations were enthusiastically embraced by participants, including the oral poster discussion sessions located alongside the poster displays; the presentation of the Tom Reeve award - congratulations again to Lester Peters - at the fabulous conference dinner (great band!); the "What constitutes a cancer centre" panel discussion and the "Hot Topic" debate on "Who owns our genes", which was a very stimulating way to end our meeting. Most gratifying was seeing the sessions filled by members of each and every COSA group sitting alongside one another, rather than each group running their own 'mini-meeting'.

Congratulations to those who won our 'Best of the Best' oral and poster awards:

Oral presentations*

Yu Yang Soon – Clinical sciences

Duration of chemotherapy for advanced non-small cell lung cancer: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomised trials.

Abstract #086

Elgene Lim – Translational science

Investigation of stem and progenitor subpopulations in human breast tissue from BRCA1 and BRCA2 carriers.

Abstract #124

Kerrie Clover – Supportive care

QUICA-TOUCH: The first 12 months of screening for distress, pain and psychopathology.

Abstract #134

Sara Beckett – Data trials guidelines

Investigating early childhood immunisations within an Australian case control study of childhood acute lymphoblastic leukaemia.

Abstract #228

Poster presentations*

Jordana McLoone

Skin cancer screening practices among individuals with a strong family history of malignant melanoma: Prevalence and predictors.

Abstract #337

Victoria White

What impact have National Treatment Recommendations had on the management of ductal carcinoma in situ of the breast?

Abstract #359

Carole Harris

Prospective study of vitamin D levels in Sydney patients with a new diagnosis of breast cancer in 2008.

Abstract #389

Nimit Singhal

Geriatric Oncology Program at Royal Adelaide Hospital – analysis of first 50 patients.

Abstract #412

David Speakman

The implications of changing from film to digital mammography for different patient groups.

Abstract #415

Lindy Masya

An interactive computer based decision aid (Annalisa©) balancing evidence and outcome preferences to determine treatment options in rectal cancer.

Abstract #460

Heather Shepherd

Involving patients in reaching treatment decisions motivations, consequences and effects on decision responsibility.

Abstract #470

Teresa Simpson

The impact of cognitive and behavioural sequelae in patients with primary brain tumour on family members.

Abstract #471

Jamie Clarey

Eligibility of Stage IIIB/IV non-small cell lung cancer patients for targeted therapy clinical trials.

Abstract #493

Steven Tipper

Translating information into knowledge and practice: A critique of a novel cancer prevention intervention.

Abstract #520

* For all 'Best of the Best' oral and poster award abstracts, please contact COSA

REPORTS

Thank you to all participants, including our consumer representatives, and to the 2008 convening committee for all your hard work. Special thanks to Margaret McJannett, without whom the meeting would not be possible. We appreciate your diligence in completing the feedback

form, and your comments will be used towards a truly excellent Annual Scientific Meeting in 2009 – don't miss it – see you there (looking a lot less frazzled)!

Eva Segelov
Convenor