

**PUBLIC LECTURE**  
**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November, 3.30 – 5.00 pm**

Research in quality of life issues in cancer patients; challenges and future directions

A/Prof Jürg Bernhard, University of Bern and International Breast Cancer Study Group

**Abstract**

Improving quality of life (QoL) is a key objective in cancer patients. Looking back over the past decades, an impressive development is apparent, from vague conceptual ideas to explicit definitions and validated assessment instruments. We better understand the patterns of morbidity and adaptation in patients, and we use QoL information for clinical and policy decision making. Most importantly, interventions for improving patients' QoL are being developed and tested in clinical trials. The development and use of QoL endpoints in cancer clinical trials has been seminal for the whole field of QoL research in medicine, resulting in standardized methods for assessment and analysis. Current challenges include: economic restrictions calling for lean approaches; the definition of a clinically meaningful difference, in particular from a longitudinal perspective; recent findings on response-shift effects throwing new light on the clinical validity of some established measures; design issues such as event-triggered data collection in trials involving repeated acute events; and the combined evaluation of QoL and survival.

**Brief biography**

Jürg Bernhard is a psycho-oncologist in the Department of Medical Oncology at Inselspital, Bern, Switzerland, and Scientific Collaborator / Advisor at the International Breast Cancer Study Group (IBCSG) Coordinating Centre. He is also Associate Professor at the Medical Faculty of the University of Bern for the subjects of Psychosocial Medicine and Psycho-oncology. Between 1997 and 2002, A/Prof Bernhard was the head of the Quality of Life Office at the Swiss Institute of Applied Cancer Research, including clinical trials of the Swiss Group for Clinical Cancer Research (SAKK) and the IBCSG. His interest in quality of life research has been both in clinical and methodological questions, mainly related to phase II and III trials. Other interests include cognitive function in cancer patients, and teaching of communication skills and psycho-oncology to medical staff.

**Venue**

Carslaw Lecture Theatre 273, University of Sydney, Camperdown campus.  
See L19 of map <http://db.auth.usyd.edu.au/directories/map/largemap00a.html>

**RSVP**

Please RSVP to [pocogqoloffice@psych.usyd.edu.au](mailto:pocogqoloffice@psych.usyd.edu.au) if you would like to attend this event.