



Psycho-oncology Co-operative Research Group

## Newsletter May 2007

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NSW 2006

### PoCoG WEB-SITE GOES LIVE!

We are pleased to announce that the new **PoCoG WEB-SITE** has been launched. In the coming months, a members-only login feature will be added. The web-site address is: [www.pocog.org.au](http://www.pocog.org.au)

Please note that we have a new **email address** for general enquiries: [pocog@psych.usyd.edu.au](mailto:pocog@psych.usyd.edu.au)

### NBCF SURVIVORSHIP WORKSHOP



On February 21 and 22, 2007, PoCoG hosted a National Breast Cancer Foundation (NBCF) funded 'think-tank' workshop about survivorship in breast cancer. The purpose of the workshop was to bring together multidisciplinary expertise in breast cancer survivorship research from across Australia, in an effort to develop a research plan for a substantial funding grant from the NBCF. The program featured speaker presentations from researchers, clinicians and consumers and break-out sessions to consider particular issues of relevance. The workshop outcome is that a group of researchers from across Australia are currently preparing a grant application that will be submitted to NBCF later this month. Many thanks to our participants for a successful and productive two day workshop.

### FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

#### PROTOCOL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Well designed and conducted psychosocial oncology research studies are critical to achieving advances in cancer research and improved outcomes for cancer patients.

The Psycho-oncology Co-operative Research Group (PoCoG) is pleased to announce an intensive three-day Protocol Development Workshop that aims to:

- Introduce junior researchers and clinicians in psychosocial oncology or related disciplines to the principles of high quality research design.
- Expose junior researchers and clinicians to the full spectrum of challenges in psychosocial oncology research.
- Develop a cadre of well-trained, experienced researchers and clinicians whose expertise will foster high quality psychosocial research.
- Develop foundations for large-scale, multi-centre psychosocial oncology studies of clinical relevance and importance.

#### About the Workshop

During the course of the Workshop, participants will develop a research proposal (protocol) based on a concept submitted as part of the Workshop application process. Participants will be assisted in this task by a Faculty of experts

#### Workshop details

**Date:** Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2007, inclusive.

**Location:** Sydney, NSW, Australia (Venue to be confirmed).

**Applications:** Open Monday 16 April 2007; Close: Friday 8 June 2007.

**Participants:** Up to 25 participants will be selected from Australia and New Zealand.

**Cost:** There is no registration cost for the Workshop. Successful applicants will receive a travel grant and accommodation and all meals will be provided.

**Funding support:** The Workshop is generously supported by Cancer Australia.

## WORKSHOP continued...

### **Who can apply?**

Applications are open to researchers and clinicians from Australia and New Zealand with training in: psychosocial oncology, psychology, allied health disciplines including social work, public health, behavioural sciences, palliative care and clinical oncology (medical, radiation, and surgical oncology) or related oncology disciplines.

### **How will participants be selected?**

Applications will be considered on a competitive basis. Selection will be based on the applicants' potential to demonstrate:

- their suitability as a participant;
- the quality and feasibility of the proposed protocol;
- the support of their Supervisor or Department Head.

Preference (*in no particular order*) will be given to applicants who are:

- working, or undertaking education/training, in an area of relevance to psychosocial oncology;
- from allied health disciplines relevant to oncology;
- junior in their career, that is, within five years of completing a relevant degree or commencing in a clinical position;
- beyond five years of completing a relevant degree or commencing in a clinical position, where there has been career interruptions or special considerations.

Further information about the selection criteria is provided in the Application guidelines.

### **Faculty**

PoCoG is pleased to announce of the following Faculty staff members, with additional staff to follow:

#### **Phyllis Butow**

Medical Psychology Research Unit and University of Sydney.

#### **Afaf Girgis**

Centre for Health Research & Psycho-oncology (CHERP), The Cancer Council NSW/University of Newcastle.

#### **Patsy Yates**

Faculty of Health, School of Nursing, Queensland University of Technology.

#### **Ian Olver**

Cancer Council Australia.

#### **Jane Young**

Surgical Outcomes Research Centre, University of Sydney.

#### **Bettina Meiser**

Psychosocial Research Group, Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney.

#### **Madeleine King**

Centre for Health Economics, Research & Evaluation (CHERE), University of Technology, Sydney.

#### **Margaret Charles**

School of Psychology, University of Sydney.

#### **Martin Stockler**

National Health and Medical Research Council Clinical Trials Centre, Sydney.

#### **Jane Ussher**

Gender Culture and Health Research Unit: PsyHealth, School of Psychology, University of Western Sydney.

#### **Elizabeth Eakin**

Cancer Prevention Research Centre, University of Queensland.

#### **Penny Schofield**

Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

### **For further information: [www.pocog.org.au](http://www.pocog.org.au)**

Or contact the PoCoG staff:

Ms Michelle Mikhail – Research Assistant

Ph: 02-9351-5149

Dr Nicole Rankin – Executive Director

Ph: 02-9036-6114 (Wed-Fri)

### **CONFERENCES of interest:**

**16<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup> September 2007: IPOS 9th World Congress of Psycho-Oncology, London.** See website: [www.ipos-society.org/ipos2007](http://www.ipos-society.org/ipos2007)

**18<sup>th</sup>- 21<sup>st</sup> July 2007: Australian New Zealand Breast Cancer Trials Group (ANZBCTG) 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting, Alice Springs.** See website: [www.anzbctg.org/](http://www.anzbctg.org/)

**1<sup>st</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup> August 2007: Joint 10<sup>th</sup> Winter Congress Cancer Nurses Society of Australia and Annual Scientific Meeting Medical Oncology Group, Melbourne.** Theme: From Good Clinical Science to the Patient. See websites: [www.cnsa.org.au](http://www.cnsa.org.au) or [www.moga.org.au](http://www.moga.org.au)

**28<sup>th</sup>- 31<sup>st</sup> August 2007: 9<sup>th</sup> Australian Palliative Care Conference, Melbourne.** Theme: Partners across the lifespan. See website: [www.iceaustralia.com/apcc2007/](http://www.iceaustralia.com/apcc2007/)

**14<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup> November 2007: Clinical Oncology Society of Australia Annual Scientific Meeting, Adelaide.** Theme: Prevention, Palliation and Cure; Progress through Clinical Trials. See website: [www.cosa.org.au](http://www.cosa.org.au)

**10<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup> October 2007: International Society for Quality of Life Research, 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting, Toronto, Canada.** See website: <http://www.isoqol.org/>

### **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

We have more than 200 members across Australia and New Zealand. We would like to welcome Karen Bryne (VIC), Fran Orr (NSW), Melinda Minstrell (TAS) and Bobbi Williams (NSW) who have joined in recent months. Membership is free to researchers and health professionals from Australia and New Zealand.