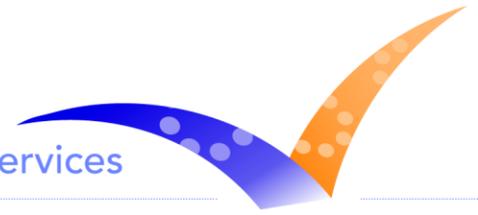


# Newsletter

Hume Regional Integrated Cancer Services



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## Hume RICS welcomes to Goulburn Valley Health...

Dr Mahesh Iddawela, *MBBS(UK) , MRCP, PhD (Cam)* Consultant Medical Oncologist,



trained in medicine at Guy's and St. Thomas' Medical School in London and completed his oncology training at the Cambridge University Hospital in the United Kingdom. He has considerable experience in treating cancer patients, especially those with breast, gastro-intestinal, ovarian and melanoma. Mahesh has been involved in local, national and international clinical trials and previously worked as a Medical Oncologist at Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Trusts in UK prior to his move to Australia. He is a member of the Australia New Zealand Breast Cancer Clinical Trials group, Association of

Cancer Physicians in the United Kingdom and the American Society of Clinical Oncology. He is very interested in translational cancer research and did a PhD at the University of Cambridge, where he looked at ways to personalise treatment for cancer patients.

Dr Wong Zee Wan *MBBS (S'pore), MRCP (UK), FRCP (Edin), FAMS (Medical Oncology), Grad*



*Diploma in Acupuncture (S'pore)* Consultant Medical Oncologist, Director of Oncology, received her MBBS from the National University of Singapore followed by her membership to the Royal College of Physicians (United Kingdom). She underwent postgraduate training at the Duke University Medical Centre in USA and subsequently pursued breast cancer research at the Washington University in St. Louis, USA. Thereafter, she received her specialist qualification in Medical Oncology and was elected to be a Fellow of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore. Dr Wong obtained the European Certification in Medical Oncology from the European Society of Medical

Oncology in 2004. She received the Graduate Diploma in Acupuncture from the Singapore TCM College in 2008 and became a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh, United Kingdom in 2009. Dr Wong specializes in the management of adult cancers with a special interest in breast and gynaecological cancers. Dr Wong's research interests include pharmacokinetics of cancer drugs and breast cancer profiling. She is the principal investigator of several international breast cancer clinical trials, which are pivotal in continued efforts to improve cure rates of breast cancer. Dr Wong was previously a member of the Cancer Therapeutics and Research Group, which coordinates cancer research efforts in Singapore, Hong Kong, Korea, Australia and Taiwan.

## Hume RICS

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Email: [info@humerics.humehealth.org.au](mailto:info@humerics.humehealth.org.au)

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# Newsletter

Hume Regional Integrated Cancer Services

In This Issue:

## A PET/CT Scanner Is Coming to Albury/Wodonga!

Following the 2010 federal announcement of \$5m to fund a PET/CT scanner, a location for the building to house the scanner on the Albury Hospital site has now been confirmed. Construction of the building will commence in the second half of 2012 and is set for completion early 2013. Currently, due to the lack of a PET/CT scanner in the region, around 30 patients per month are referred to Melbourne for Medicare eligible PET services. Of more concern, a significant number of patients elect not to receive a PET scan due to the travel time involved. The provision of a local PET/CT scanner will improve cancer patient outcomes by meeting unmet demand for crucial diagnostic services and by reducing the need for patients to travel.

## Care Coordination for Older Australians with Cancer (CCOAC)

CCOAC was presented at the 2012 Melbourne COSA Care Coordination Conference: Towards New Horizons. Medical Oncologist, Dr Christopher Steer, discussed the issue of Geriatric oncology and the project coordinator, Jenny O'Connor, presented the findings of CCOAC with a particular focus on the important role of the cancer care coordinators and the need for the cancer sector to improve links with primary health and community organisations for the improved provision of supportive care for cancer patients. Both papers were well received and generated lively discussion with conference delegates during the ensuing panel discussion.

## Save the Date!



Furthering Aboriginal Health & Cancer Services Working Together Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training  
22<sup>nd</sup> 8.30-5pm & 23<sup>rd</sup> 12.30-9pm August  
Albury/Wodonga



Cancer Council Peer Support Group leader training for all cancer patient/families and peer support group leaders (or potential leaders)  
September 26<sup>th</sup>  
Benalla

# Newsletter

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## Albury/Wodonga Regional Cancer Centre

The master planning process is nearing completion for endorsement by the Albury/Wodonga Health Board and the Department of Health. This Master Planning exercise was required prior to finalising the location of the Cancer Centre and ensuring that the Master Plan aligns with the Service plan and the long term strategy for Health Services in Albury/Wodonga.

Executive User Group meetings commenced in early May and included representation from current providers from both the Public and Private sector. The unique combination of services and providers affords an additional dimension to this project. Detailed planning will also begin shortly providing the opportunity for patients, carers and clinicians to provide input at various stages over the planning program which will run until December 2012. The program for the Albury/Wodonga Cancer Centre is to call for tenders to construct in early 2013 with construction planned to commence in July 2013. The planned construction and commissioning phase of the project is expected to last 18 months with the centre becoming operational in the first half of 2015.

The Albury/Wodonga Cancer Centre is planned to have the following facilities;

- Three radiation oncology bunkers, two linear accelerators and support facilities
- 30 Bed inpatient facility
- 30 day oncology chairs
- Consulting suites
- Satellite pharmacy
- Wellness Centre
- Facilities for clinical trials, research and education services

Any questions at this stage regarding the Cancer Centre or PET/CT Scan can be made to Greg Pearl, Albury Wodonga Health 60517469 or Email

[feedback@awh.org.au](mailto:feedback@awh.org.au)

### Goulburn Valley Consumer Information Session



Hume RICS, in collaboration with the Leukaemia Foundation, hosted a consumer information session in May to provide cancer patients and carers from the Goulburn Valley, with information about services offered by various organisations. The organisations included Goulburn Community Transport, GV Health Social Work department, Family Care, Carers Victoria, Primary Care Connect and the Greater Shepparton City Council.

# Newsletter

Hume Regional Integrated Cancer Services



In This Issue:

## Supportive Care News

### Regional Advisory Group Establishment

Hume RICS have now established a regional advisory group for Supportive Care planning and activity. Two well informed and capable consumers and five highly skilled and well regarded health professionals have been recruited to the group and will provide strategic advice in relation to priorities for Supportive Care action.



### Supportive Care Screening

The projects at Goulburn Valley Health, Kilmore, Albury Wodonga Health and North East Health Wangaratta which initiated screening for supportive care needs are drawing

to a close. All health services are confident that screening of cancer patients who attend their day chemo units will continue which is great news for cancer patients and their families. Supportive Care screening has also commenced at some surgeon's rooms and at Murray Valley Private Hospital.

### Supportive Care Education

Hume RICS are keen and available to provide small presentations/facilitate discussion in relation to supportive care services for cancer patients and their families. We are particularly keen to speak with community based health organisations who are often the first point of contact for rural people.

Hume RICS are also reviewing the work they have undertaken over the last two years to improve access for cancer patients and their families to supportive care services and programmes. If you would like to make any comments please email/phone Jenny Donnelly on 0260575204.

[jenny.donnelly@humerics.humehealth.org.au](mailto:jenny.donnelly@humerics.humehealth.org.au)

### Chemotherapy at Deniliquin Hospital...



Health  
Murrumbidgee  
Local Health District

HRICS in collaboration with Murrumbidgee Local Health District, Deniliquin hospital, Albury Wodonga Health and Border Medical Oncology are developing an outreach , shared care model of chemotherapy service at Deniliquin Hospital. The outreach chemotherapy service aims to increase access for rural patients, reduce the financial burden for patients and carers by reducing travel costs and the need for accommodation away from home as well as reduce patient isolation from local community supports. The model of service is scheduled for completion 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012, with implementation scheduled to commence in August 2012. For more information please visit [www.humerics.org.au](http://www.humerics.org.au).

# Newsletter

Hume Regional Integrated Cancer Services

In This Issue:

## Multiple Myeloma Education



Hume RICS along with Haematological Society Australia & New Zealand (HSANZ) Nurses Group hosted an educational seminar on the “Treatment and management of Multiple Myeloma – Nurse led and innovative models of care” in May. Guest speakers included Kaye Hose, National Myeloma Coordinator – The Leukaemia Foundation and Trish Joyce, Myeloma and Autologous Transplant Coordinator – Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. The session was well attended by Nurses from across the Hume region.



## Introducing your Cancer Resource Nurse...Robyn Sharman



Robyn is an experienced oncology nurse whose role is to provide information, links to resources, and emotional and practical support to anyone with a cancer diagnosis within the Border East Hume Cancer Network. Robyn is available to meet with patients at any stage of the cancer journey, assess for supportive care needs, and make appropriate recommendations for support and referral. This is a free service. To contact Robyn, or refer a patient, please call HRICS on 0260575200.

## Improving Access for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Patients to Cancer Services

Border East Hume RICS has formally partnered with Mungabareena, Murrumbidgee Local Health District, Albury Community Health, Leukaemia Foundation, McGrath Breast Care Nurses, The Australian Lung Foundation, Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service, Hume Medicare Local, Breast Screen, Albury Wodonga Health and the Murrumbidgee and Southern NSW Local Health District Clinical Trials Network to form the ‘Furthering Aboriginal Health & Cancer Services Steering Committee. The purpose of this committee is to increase access for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people to cancer services. This committee will also oversee the recently awarded Cancer Australia funded project ‘Let’s yarn with the whole Aboriginal community of Albury Wodonga about cancer prevention, early diagnosis, and better outcomes.’ For more information, or to register your organisations interest in being involved, please contact the Border East HRICS office on 0260575200.

# Newsletter

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In This Issue:

## Health Literacy...A Local and National Issue

Research undertaken by HumeRICS for the Coordination of Care for Older Australians with Cancer project (CCOAC) discovered an alarming number of patients with low levels of health literacy. This information was uncovered by the response to the question "What is your current illness?" on the self-reporting screening tool. This highlights the need for ongoing, quality care coordination and an awareness on the part of the health professionals that people may not understand what we are saying, or even who we are. The Upper Hume Primary Care Partnerships (PCP) has also accentuated the importance of health literacy in providing effective chronic disease management. Hume RICS presented at a PCP forum on health literacy in November 2011, discussing health literacy issues for cancer patients to primary health workers. Hume RICS aims to continue this work as a strategy in the broader aim of improving care for cancer patients in a person-centred and coordinated manner.

"From the moment they said it was cancer, I didn't hear another word"

"Sounds like pavlova (myeloma)"

"I have no idea why I'm here"



Cancer patients and general practitioners in NSW, now have access to a more coordinated approach to cancer treatment across the state. The Canrefer website ([www.canrefer.org.au](http://www.canrefer.org.au)), an initiative by the Cancer Institute NSW, allows general practitioners and people diagnosed with cancer and their families to search for healthcare teams specialising in the treatment and care of specific cancers.

## Call for Volunteers...



Cancer Council is calling for volunteers aged between 18 to 80, to help run a new Cancer Council Information Centre set to open in Albury/Wodonga in July 2012. Located in Murray Valley Private Hospital the Centre will offer cancer patients and their cares a relaxed space to learn more about their diagnoses, treatment and local support services. Volunteers are needed to staff the centre, provide informal support to patients and help visitors find cancer resources such as DVDs, booklets and internet access to useful websites. No experience is necessary, as comprehensive training will be provided. What is important is a friendly personality and good listening and communication skills. Please call Louise on 02 6937 2607 or email [louiseja@nswcc.org.au](mailto:louiseja@nswcc.org.au).