

NEMICS 2011 Annual Forum

Network and innovation were the two themes running through the presentations at the 2011 NEMICS Annual Forum held on Tuesday 30 August. Professor Ian Olver, CEO of Cancer Council Australia, gave the key note speech, "Caught in the network" which stimulated questions and some lively debate.

Other presentations also shared the network integration and innovation theme; Dr Hui Gan, NEMICS VCA Fellow, spoke on his project to develop a regional phase one clinical trials program.

A/Prof Ian Davis presented a view on what it will take to build multidisciplinary principles into the Olivia Newton-John Cancer and Wellness Centre, and Ms Delwyn Morgan presented her work with the only rehabilitation program in the region that focuses on oncology patients.

Katherine Simons released the NEMICS 2010/11 Annual Report on the night. A copy is available on the NEMICS website under [publications](#), or a printed copy can be requested by emailing Megan.Dendle@austin.org.au, or telephoning 9496 3322.



When Do Quality Improvement Projects Need Ethics Approval?

NEMICS hosted a breakfast round-table with Professor Ian Olver while he was in town to discuss the sometimes perplexing issues around ethics approval for quality improvement research projects.

Professor Olver was able to explain the NHMRC National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research in his presentation entitled "Consent". To view the presentation go to www.nemics.org.au.

This fascinating session provided an opportunity for those attending to ask those curly questions about research and publishing, governance issues and the ins and outs of consent in all its forms.

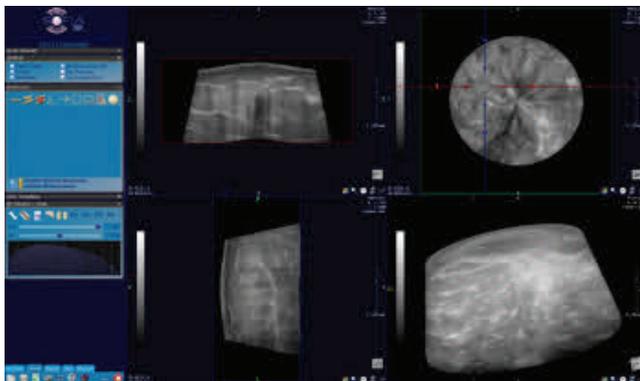
Katherine Simons, Program Manager, and A/Prof Paul Mitchell, Director, on behalf of NEMICS would like to express their gratitude and appreciation for the kind generosity of Professor Ian Olver in sharing his time and knowledge with us.

Exciting Trial at Maroondah Hospital: an Australian First

Maroondah Hospital has been chosen as the first site in Australia to trial a new automated breast ultrasound system – the iVu Sofia, from iVu Imaging Corporation, Texas, USA.

Maroondah breast imaging service currently has a five day wait for mammograms and associated ultrasound examinations. It is expected that this new installation will both improve the service's diagnostic capabilities and reduce the wait times to possibly a next day service.

This new system can examine each breast in just three minutes compared to the existing method which takes up to 30 minutes per breast. It acquires the data through a 360° scan of the breast.



The images are then transformed into a 3D format, allowing for image rotation and multi-planar reconstructions - these features are more commonly associated with CT and MRI. The examination requires neither compression nor exposure to radiation and is totally reproducible, which are all undeniable improvements.

This new system will keep Maroondah Hospital at the forefront of Breast Imaging Services.



*Glynn Ward – Associate Director of Operations,
Medical Imaging, Maroondah Hospital*

Cancer Patients Can Expect More

The much-anticipated redevelopment of Box Hill Hospital is now underway. This means a new clinical services block and some refurbishments of the existing hospital. Box Hill Hospital will be able meet the needs of the growing population in Melbourne's east. More importantly, its staff will be able to provide care for an additional 7,000 people each year.

Cancer services will be expanded and enhanced in the redeveloped Box Hill Hospital Cancer Centre, including a new 32-bed adult inpatient unit and a collocated expanded day centre. The day centre will include up to 38 chairs with provision for apheresis, and outpatient and consulting services nearby.

The inpatient unit will include eight positive pressure bedrooms and two lead-lined single bedrooms for patients having radioactive treatments.

Three quarters of inpatient rooms are single rooms and will have their own en suite bathroom. Patient rooms will also include additional space for families and visitors to offer ongoing support and comfort to patients during their stay.

A rooftop garden will allow patients access to a relaxing, quiet outdoor setting.

The redevelopment has been designed to support and facilitate a multidisciplinary approach to providing care, including a large multi-disciplinary meeting room and additional meeting rooms that have the latest communication technology.

Luellen Thek, NEMICS Service Improvement Facilitator, has been involved in a number of workshops to plan the cancer centre and is excited about the new facility. *"The redevelopment will be a great facility for cancer patients, their carers and treating staff in the eastern region."*

Keep informed about the redevelopment activities and progress by visiting www.health.vic.gov.au/boxhill.



Victorian Cancer Agency Research Resource Survey

The Victorian Cancer Agency is in the process of collecting information about the extent and the sustainability of the cancer research platform capacity within Victoria.

The VCA is conducting a state wide [survey](#) to gather information on **cancer related** resources of significant value to individual research groups, institutions, hospitals, consortia and or state wide Victorian researchers.

These include: Biological collections ([Part 1](#)), Clinical Data sets and information, including registries ([Part 2](#)), Imaging Data collections ([Part 3](#)) and other systematically collected cancer research resources ([Part 4](#)).

Why should you complete the survey?

- VCA is offering some bridging funds for specific resources
- VCA will produce and distribute a directory of cancer related resources for cancer researchers
- It will help VCA in building a business case for refunding which will allow them to help support cancer research over the next few years

Frequently Asked Questions and a list of contacts in health services and institutes can be found on the NEMICS home page www.nemics.org.au. If you require any further information please contact Dr Kim Wark on 9635 5168 or kim.wark@health.vic.gov.au.

Smartphone App



NCCN have developed a way of using smartphones to access medical information and bring faster, more informed decision-making to the point of care.

These new apps enable clinicians to easily access the NCCN Guidelines. Developed through an explicit review of the evidence using expert medical judgment and recommendations by multidisciplinary panels from NCCN

Member Institutions, the guidelines are updated on a continual basis.

The NCCN Guidelines apps for iPhone and Android are free to download through the iTunes Store and Android. To use them you must be a registered user on NCCN.org. There is no fee to become a registered user.

For further information or to view the guidelines go to: www.nccn.org/mobile/

2011 Supportive Care Conference

There was a great deal of positive feedback received about the conference; it was well received and enjoyed by those who attended.

As a follow up to the conference, the full Supportive Care Resource Suite, including all eight Communications Skills Training Videos, has now been made available on the Supportive Cancer Care Victoria website.

All of the training videos can be viewed online or downloaded in AVI format for Windows Media Player. This should help those that may have had difficulty in viewing the MP4 versions on the SCCV Resource USB given out at the conference.

To check out the online versions of the videos or to download your own copy, go to the [Communication Skills Training Videos](http://www.supportivecancercarevictoria.org/Resources/ResourcesCSVTR.html) page at www.supportivecancercarevictoria.org/Resources/ResourcesCSVTR.html

You can also look at the 2011 SC Conference pages where many of the authors have kindly provided copies of their presentations and posters. Just follow the links on the [2011 SC Conference](http://www.supportivecancercarevictoria.org/SCC2011/ResourcesSCC11.html) page at: www.supportivecancercarevictoria.org/SCC2011/ResourcesSCC11.html.

2011 NEMICS Cancer Service Performance Indicator Audits Begin

The annual audit of medical records for indicators in the supportive care and multidisciplinary care areas began on September 5th looking at the head and neck, colorectal and lung tumour streams.

The audit methodology document can be viewed on NEMICS home page www.nemics.org.au.



Dare To Dream

Applications are open for the Redkite National Scholarship program

Dare to Dream scholarships are available for cancer patients & survivors aged between 15-24 years of age.

Redkite is an organisation that provides financial assistance, emotional support and education assistance to ensure that every child and young person diagnosed with cancer in Australia is empowered to cope with the emotional, social and practical consequences.

Scholarships can be applied for by patients/survivors or, with their permission, they can be nominated by others such as parents, teachers, oncologists, social workers.

The scholarships range in value from \$500 to \$5000 and can be used to:

- achieve education goals at high school, tertiary level or work related
- pursue work and career aspirations
- follow a passion for a particular area of interest—this doesn't have to be education or work related.

Please visit the Red Kite website for more information:
<http://www.redkite.org.au/scholarships>

Applications close Friday October 7th.

Supporting Someone With Cancer

As a result of feedback and ideas generated during a carer and consumer focus group last year, the Wellness & Supportive Care team at Austin Health have put together a number of information sessions specifically targeted towards meeting the needs of carers.

The inaugural session, held in March this year, focused on communication and dealing with difficult situations. Following the success of this initial session, Carers Victoria were invited to present a workshop on "carer resilience" during July.

The response has been very encouraging, with over 20 carers attending each session. Austin Health Wellness & Supportive Care team intend to continue these workshops throughout the year and into 2012. The sessions are run between 6pm—8pm, usually commencing with a light sandwich dinner and a cup of tea.

Upcoming session details:

**Supporting Someone with a Brain Tumour:
Demystifying Palliative Care
Thursday 15 September 2011
6.00pm—8.00pm
Austin Health**

This session will run question and answer style with expert input from the Austin Health palliative care team and family members who have "been there".

**Brain Tumours—What's Going On...
Wednesday 2 November 2011
6.00pm—8.00pm
Austin Health**

This session will include presentations from the Brain Tumour Support Service

For further information please contact Tammy Boatman on 9496 3799 or Di Legge on 9496 3315.

Caring for the Adolescent & Young Adult Cancer Patient

onTrac@PeterMac in collaboration with NEMICS will be conducting an education session that will cover distinctive psychosocial needs of the AYA patient group.

Topics covered will include:

- understanding the impact of a cancer diagnosis on a young person & the challenges for the health professional
- Engaging, communicating & negotiating those sticky issues:
 - * consent & confidentiality
 - * talking about sex
 - * engaging and communicating with younger patients

Caring for the Adolescent & Young Adult Cancer Patient

**Friday 23 September
9.30am—12.30pm
Austin Hospital**

For further information please contact Anna Mascitti on 9496 3261 or email anna.mascitti@austin.org.au

