



MelNet update

18 December 2023



Thank you

for your support and commitment in 2023.

MelNet will be taking a break from 21 December to 7 January.

We wish you a safe and relaxing holiday season and look forward to your ongoing involvement in our organisation next year.

A snapshot of MelNet's year | Celebrating our achievements

- In September we released the third edition of the [Quality Statements to Guide Melanoma Diagnosis and Treatment in New Zealand](#). We are grateful to members of the Melanoma Working Group who devoted their time to ensuring the document continues to reflect latest research and best practice, and thank those in the sector for their considered feedback and ongoing support.
- A big focus this year has been on delivering education, and through our online and in-person events we have helped to build the knowledge and skills of nearly 500 health professionals. We expanded the scope of our educational activities to include non-melanoma skin cancer.
- A meeting of the [Melanoma Research and Therapy Special Interest Group](#) was held in September in conjunction with the New Zealand Society of Oncology (NZSO) conference. Due to the generosity of NZSO, we were fortunate to have Associate Professor Alex van Akkooi, an internationally regarded surgical oncologist at the Melanoma Institute of Australia present on adjuvant and neo-adjuvant therapy and contemporary melanoma surgery. Niamh Walsh also presented her New Zealand research on real-world outcomes of immunotherapy for melanoma brain metastases.
- Our advocacy efforts focused on two key areas: improving funding and resources for pathology services and greater Government investment in skin cancer prevention and early detection. We also made submissions to Pharmac for funding of BRAF and MEK inhibitors for advanced melanoma patients, and to ACC to include melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer in the list of occupational diseases under the Accident Compensation Act 2001.

Looking forward to 2024

MelNet is still without a reliable income source, and our future remains at risk. Next year we will focus more of our resources on securing funding that can help sustain our organisation now and grow it into the future.

Save this date: Multi-disciplinary melanoma meeting

We understand there is considerable interest in a New Zealand Melanoma Summit. While we had hoped to be able to deliver the next Summit in 2024, our financial position means we are unable to resource and underwrite an event of this size. We acknowledge the importance of bringing together the New Zealand melanoma community so we are working to deliver a multi-disciplinary melanoma meeting on a smaller scale on the weekend of **10 - 12 May** next year.

More details and the remainder of our 2024 work plan will be released early next year.

Introducing the 2024 MelNet Executive Committee

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Abbie Cameron (returning committee member) and Dan Butler who have joined the MelNet Executive Committee for 2024. Jeremy Simcock has retired from the Committee. We thank him for the significant contribution he made to the organisation during the time he served. You can find out more about MelNet's 2024 Executive Committee [here](#).

Recommended holiday viewing | CME upload deadlines

If you registered for one of our online courses this year but haven't yet completed it, the upcoming holiday season may be an opportunity to do so.

Upon completion we will email a certificate of attendance and, if applicable, upload any CME credits to the relevant portal. Remember the following [deadlines](#) by which we need to upload your [CME credits to the RNZCGP portal](#):

Dermoscopy made easy: **22 December 2023** (the recording is available for viewing until 16 March 2024)

Skin Cancer in the Elderly: **19 February 2024**

Dermoscopy of non-melanoma skin cancer online series: **29 February 2024**

If you watch any recordings after these dates, please contact the RNZCGP to upload your CME credits.

Overdiagnosis of melanoma? | Interesting read

The reasons for an "epidemic" of melanoma overdiagnosis are complex and multifactorial, and the difference to the patient between a rapidly growing, aggressive nodular melanoma and a slow-growing, even indolent melanoma in situ is very large.

Professor David Wilkinson at HealthCert has compiled a collection of research papers from global dermoscopy experts that explore the topic of "Is a melanoma really a melanoma, and does it really matter?".

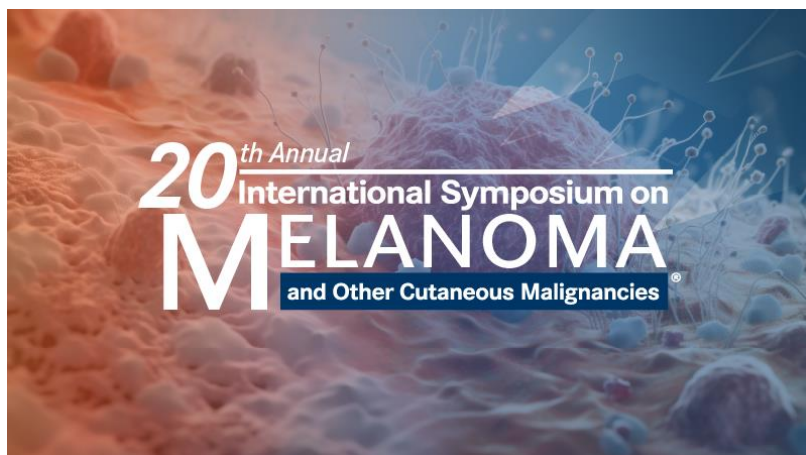
[Read the papers](#)

Upcoming opportunities and events

2024 events calendar on MelNet website | Now available

We have uploaded the 2024 events calendar on the [MelNet website](#). This is where we post events that we are aware of, and we think our members may be interested in attending. If there are any events you would like included, please [let us know](#).

If you are a Primary Care Practitioner and would like to upskill in skin cancer in the new year, you may find the [Skin Cancer Education for Primary Care Practitioners](#) page helpful. Note that it includes a section on online courses starting any time – a great opportunity to upskill at your own pace.



Online conference | 10 February 2024

A single-day virtual educational conference designed to examine current and emerging treatments in melanoma, basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, and other skin-related cancers. The programme, with insights from world-renowned experts, will bring you up to date on the evolving standards of care in melanoma and other cutaneous malignancies.

[Find out more](#)



Pathology Update 2024:

ANSWERS IN ADELAIDE

Friday 1- Sunday 3 March 2024

Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide

[#PathUpdate2024](#) | [#AnswersinAdelaide](#) | [#RCPA](#)

The conference features an array of topics to ensure your knowledge stays right up to date – presented by local speakers and international experts. The theme of this year's Update is "Answers in Adelaide", so work your way through the programme and discover its hidden gems.

[Find out more](#)

Other upcoming opportunities and events

January and February

12th European School of Dermato-Oncology Update on Cutaneous Oncology (ESDO)

12 – 13 January 2024

Hybrid event: Berlin, Germany & online

[Find out more](#)

Melanoma 2024: 34th Annual Cutaneous Malignancy Update

26 – 28 January 2024

San Diego, USA

[Find out more](#)

Certificate of Dermoscopy - Online

Starts on 2 February 2024

Online

[Find out more](#)

8th International Congress on Dermatology

8 – 9 February 2024

Barcelona, Spain

[Find out more](#)

Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine

Starts on 23 February 2024

Online & Sydney, Australia

[Find out more](#)

ONLINE courses starting ANYTIME

[Advanced Certificate of Dermoscopy](#)

Aimed at beginners to advanced in the field of dermoscopy and skin cancer.

Provider: Skin Cancer Symposiums

[Introduction to Skin Cancer](#)

Introduction to the fundamentals of skin cancer medicine.

Provider: Skin Cancer College Australasia

[Skin Cancer Medicine](#)

Acquire introductory to advanced skin cancer diagnosis and management knowledge. Some courses offer an optional practical workshop.

Provider: HealthCert

[Skin Cancer Surgery](#)

Acquire introductory to advanced skin cancer surgery skills. Some courses offer an optional practical workshop.

Provider: HealthCert

[Dermoscopy](#)

Improve diagnostic performance and clinical management of skin lesions by using dermoscopy.

Provider: HealthCert

[Advanced Certificate of Dermoscopy for Dermatology](#)

Explores applications of dermoscopy in diagnosing skin and hair conditions commonly seen in primary care.

Provider: HealthCert

[Advanced Certificate of Histopathology for Dermoscopy](#)

Comprehensive guide to the principles of

For more events see the [MelNet events calendar](#)

dermatopathology.
Provider: HealthCert

[Certificate of Case Management: Dermoscopy](#)
Improve diagnostic accuracy using dermoscopy.
Provider: HealthCert

Recent MelNet website postings

Below is a selection of recent **news postings** on the MelNet website. Please visit the [website](#) to view all the latest news items.

[Burdens of non-melanoma skin cancer attributable to occupational exposure to ultraviolet radiation](#)

[Demographics and socioeconomic disease trends of non-melanoma skin cancer \(NMSC\) prevalence in New Zealand \(2008-2022\)](#)

[Risk-scoring model for differential diagnosis of lentigo maligna and other atypical pigmented facial lesions of the face: The facial iDScore](#)

[Key informants in Australia supportive in principle of risk-tailored melanoma screening](#)



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