

MelNet update

21 August 2023

Dermoscopy for beginners online course | Register now

Saturday 16 September 2023

8.00 am – 12.30 pm

Online course via Zoom

Are you keen to get into dermoscopy?

Join Adjunct Associate Professor Amanda Oakley in her online 'Dermoscopy made easy' course. This beginner course will provide an overview of the common elements of dermoscopy and the clinical and dermoscopic characteristics of benign and malignant lesions.



The course will conclude with presentations from reputable dermatoscope providers who will overview their products so participants can make an informed choice on the right dermatoscope.

This course has been endorsed by RNZCGP and RACS for up to 4 CME credits.

[Register now](#)

[More information](#)

Thank you to our generous sponsors



Melanoma Research and Therapy Special Interest Group (SIG) meeting

9.00 – 10.30 am Thursday 21 September 2023

Napier War Memorial Centre, Napier

Don't forget to register for the next Melanoma Research and Therapy Special Interest Group meeting which will be held in conjunction with the New Zealand Society of Oncology (NZSO) Annual Scientific meeting.

Topics to be discussed are:

- Adjuvant and neoadjuvant therapy and contemporary melanoma surgery
- Real-world outcomes of immunotherapy for melanoma brain metastases in New Zealand

Please register to attend via the [NZSO website](#). No virtual option will be available.

For those wishing to attend this meeting only, registration is \$50 for Registrars/Scientists/Nurses/Students and \$300 for Senior Medical Officers. This fee provides access to all Thursday SIG meetings and sessions - see the programme [here](#).

Update on Auckland Anatomic Pathology Service

For the past five years, MelNet has been advocating for improved funding and resourcing for pathology services nationwide, but particularly in Auckland. During this time our clinicians have frequently reported substantial delays in the turnaround of skin pathology results, and pathologists are reporting ever-increasing workloads and inadequate resourcing, funding and laboratory workspace.

On numerous occasions the MelNet Executive has raised concerns to health leaders about patient safety due to delayed and inadequate reporting of skin cancer and melanoma histology. We have been frustrated in our dealings with Government health officials to date – at most meetings, promises of action have been made which have not come to fruition, and constant restructuring and staff turnover means our primary point of contact is ever-changing.

Over the past months, we have managed to meet regularly with representatives from Health New Zealand – Auckland to discuss plans to address these issues within the Auckland region. In July MelNet, along with referrers to the Auckland Anatomic Pathology Service, were advised that International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ) had suspended the accreditation of the Mt Wellington Histology Department due to delayed turnaround times of samples and facilities-associated constraints. This suspension does not impact the operation of the service but does require a marked improvement for the accreditation to be reinstated.

We have been assured that a short-term recovery plan is in place to restore the service to baseline levels over the coming months and planning for a sustainable longer-term solution is occurring in parallel. The MelNet Executive will continue to liaise with Health New Zealand on their progress – both in Auckland and nationwide – providing support wherever we can. We expect to be consulted on the longer-term plan for the Auckland Anatomic Pathology Service soon, along with other interested stakeholders. We invite [any feedback](#) on the current service nationwide that may assist us in our advocacy efforts and will share more details with you when we can.

Recent skin cancer prevention initiatives | No hat no row; Shade at Northland playgrounds

No hat no row

The Cancer Society are encouraging secondary schools with rowing crews to make headwear part of the competing uniform with a 'no hat no row' policy. Students can choose between a cap and sunscreen or a bucket hat. Research carried out before Covid clearly showed that our youngest rowers, especially male rowers, are forgetful and often have no headwear.

[Watch the video](#)

Shade sails at Northland playgrounds

Northland District Council is installing shade cover in 18 of its 27 playgrounds as part of a three-year council project. Some of the other playgrounds already have good shade.

A great effort!

[Find out more](#)

Access to cancer rehabilitation support through new joint venture | Encompass Health

Recent [research](#) published by the University of Otago found that many cancer survivors face a range of issues after treatment, but support is limited. Encompass Health – a new joint venture formed by Cancer Society Canterbury West Coast Trust and St George's Cancer Care Centre – has been established to address those issues. It will offer services tailored specifically for cancer patients, including:

- Psychosocial support including counselling and psychology
- Physiotherapy
- Exercise physiology
- Lymphedema therapy
- Group fitness and peer support

For more information about Encompass Health and its services, email info@encompasshealth.org.nz.

AMC 2024 | Save the date

The 2024 Australasian Melanoma Conference – hosted by Melanoma Institute Australia – will take place in Sydney on 25 – 26 October 2024. This conference will pave the way for new collaborations and advance understanding of melanoma as we move towards our common goals of zero deaths from melanoma and lowering the burden of this disease.

[Register your interest](#)



Upcoming opportunities and events

WONCA Sydney World Conference

26–29 October 2023 | #WONCASydney2023

[Register now](#) [View program](#)

RACGP GP23

Held from 26 – 29 October at Sydney’s International Convention Centre, the conference will offer a dynamic program to share research and build best practice. Themed around recovery, reconnection and revival in primary care, WONCA 2023 will provide a unique opportunity to connect and network with local and international colleagues.

[More information](#) [View the programme](#) [Register now](#)

Other upcoming opportunities and events

September
Certificate of Dermoscopy - Online 1 September 2023 Online Find out more
Advanced Skin Surgery Workshop 1 – 4 September 2023 Brisbane, Australia Find out more
Dermatopathology for Skin Cancer Clinicians 8 September 2023 Online Find out more
Dermoscopy made easy: online course for beginners 16 September 2023 Online Find out more
Melanoma Research and Therapy Special Interest Group meeting (to be held in conjunction with NZSO Conference) 21 September 2023 Napier Find out more

October
Certificate of Dermoscopy – Online 20 October 2023 Online Find out more
Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine 20 October 2023 Online and practical workshop in Christchurch on 18 November Find out more
Advanced Skin Surgery Workshop 20 – 23 October 2023 Sydney, Australia Find out more
ESMO Congress 2023 20 – 24 October 2023 Hybrid event: Madrid, Spain and online Find out more
Professional Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine Professional Certificate of Skin Cancer Surgery 21 October 2023 Melbourne, Australia Find out more

**New Zealand Society for Oncology (NZSO)
Conference**

21 – 23 September 2023

Napier

[Find out more](#)

Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine

22 September 2023

Online and practical workshop in Sydney on 21
October

[Find out more](#)

Professional Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine

Professional Certificate of Skin Cancer Surgery

23 September 2023

Brisbane, Australia

[Find out more](#)

Advanced Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine

Advanced Certificate of Skin Cancer Surgery

24 September 2023

Brisbane, Australia

[Find out more](#)

Advanced Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine

22 October 2023

Melbourne, Australia

[Find out more](#)

Professional Diploma of Skin Cancer Surgery

22 October 2023

Melbourne, Australia

[Find out more](#)

ASCO Quality Care Symposium 2023

27 - 28 October 2023

Boston, USA

[Find out more](#)

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

*** For **online courses starting any time**, please refer to [Skin Cancer Education for Primary Care Practitioners](#) ***

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.

[SMARCD1 is a potential biomarker and therapeutic target in skin cutaneous melanoma](#)

[Single-agent neoadjuvant/adjuvant PD-1 blockade demonstrate long-term efficacy in patients with a complete pathological response](#)

[Cyclin D1 promotes radioresistance through regulation of RAD51 in melanoma](#)

[Prospective validation of dermoscopy-based open-source artificial intelligence for melanoma diagnosis \(PROVE-AI study\)](#)

[Lentigo maligna melanoma excised with histological margins of 3mm or less have increased risk of relapse](#)

[Melanoma Institute of Australia's Sentinel Node Metastasis Risk Prediction Tool validated](#)

[Outcomes for patients with stage III melanoma are not compromised when adjuvant immunotherapy is initiated beyond 6 weeks from resection](#)

[Sun-related behaviour changes in Western Australian adolescents and adults over a six-year period](#)

[Metabolic modelling-based in silico drug target prediction identifies six novel repurposable drugs for melanoma](#)

[Psychological and emotional well-being services should be incorporated into routine melanoma care](#)



Support our work. Donate to MelNet



Join us on facebook