



MelNet update

20 March 2024

Melanoma Mini-Summit and pre-Summit workshop | 10 – 11 May 2024, Christchurch

*** Don't miss this critical education opportunity ***

Melanoma Mini-Summit | Saturday 11 May 2024 | 8.30 am - 5.00 pm Te Pae Christchurch Convention Centre, Christchurch

With less than two months to go, time is running out for you to be part of this action-packed [programme](#).

With a strong and diverse line-up of speakers, including Hon. Dr Shane Reti, Minister of Health and Professor David Whiteman, Medical Epidemiologist at the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research in Queensland, you won't want to miss this chance.

Be part of the conversation about the future direction of melanoma management in New Zealand, discuss the latest developments in melanoma prevention, diagnosis, clinical management, and research, and connect with melanoma professionals across the country.

[Register now](#) to secure your place. All health professionals are invited to attend.

Cost:

- \$250 for nurses, registrars, dermoscopists/melanographers, students on a recognised training programme, allied health professionals, health promoters et al
- \$375 for medical doctors.

The Mini-Summit has been endorsed by The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (RNZCGP) for up to 6.25 CME credits. Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) CPD participants can self-report their activities at 1 point per hour. Nurses will be provided with a certificate of attendance as evidence for their professional development portfolio.

[Find out more](#)

[Register now](#)

To make the most of your time in Christchurch, join us for the following **pre-Summit workshop**. You do not need to attend the Melanoma Mini-Summit to register.

Skin Lesion and Dermoscopy course | Friday 10 May | 12.00 – 4.30 pm Turanga Christchurch Central Library

Presented by Adjunct Associate Professor Amanda Oakley, this beginners' Skin Lesion and Dermoscopy interactive workshop will describe the typical clinical and dermoscopic characteristics of common benign and malignant skin lesions. It aims to increase participants' confidence in evaluating and referring skin lesions. Attend whether or not you've already purchased a dermatoscope.

The course has been endorsed by RNZCGP for up to 4 CME credits. RACS CPD participants can self-report their activities at 1 point per hour. Nurses will be provided with a certificate of attendance as evidence for their professional development portfolio.

The cost of attending this course is \$345.

[Find out more](#)

[Register now](#)

With thanks to our generous sponsors



Unfortunately we had to defer the Melanoma Research and Therapy Special Interest Group meeting, which was scheduled for Friday 10 May. The next meeting will be held in conjunction with the NZ Society of Oncology Conference in Auckland in October. Please visit the [Special Interest Group website](#) or email the [MelNet Chief Executive](#) if you would like to be notified about future meetings.

Notice of MelNet AGM | 11 May 2024

The MelNet AGM will be held at Te Pae Convention Centre, Christchurch from 2.10 – 2.25 pm on Saturday 11 May 2024, as part of the Melanoma Mini-Summit.

Members are invited to submit nominations for the Executive Committee to the [MelNet Chief Executive](#) no later than 5.00 pm Monday 29 April 2024, using the prescribed [nomination form](#).

According to the MelNet rules, the Committee shall comprise at least eight and no more than 15 members, with occupations that span the continuum. Members who will be serving the second year of their two-year term have nursing, surgical, oncological, and primary prevention expertise. Up to nine additional members can be elected to the committee at the AGM. Preference will be given to those with expertise in general practice, pathology and dermatology.

Members are also invited to submit remits or other matters to be considered at the AGM to the [MelNet Chief Executive](#) no later than 5.00 pm Saturday 27 April 2024.

Goodfellow Unit podcast on melanoma | With Dr Susan Seifried

In this podcast, MelNet Executive Committee member Dr Susan Seifried discusses the [Quality Statements to Guide Melanoma Diagnosis and Treatment in New Zealand](#). These describe what quality care for melanoma should look like in New Zealand based on current global best practice with an aim to reduce the incidence and improve outcomes for melanoma patients and their families.

The Quality Statements were developed by the National Melanoma Working Group (NMWG) and MelNet. The latest edition was released in September 2023.

[Listen to the podcast](#)

Pharmac's expansion of parallel assessment pathway

Pharmac is changing how they accept funding applications for new medicines to speed up the assessment process. Now, all funding applications will be assessed at the same time as Medsafe – the regulatory agency that approve products for use in New Zealand – is assessing the application for approval.

Medicines for rare disorders which have not been submitted to Medsafe can still be submitted, so long as they meet the [rare disorder policy principles](#) on the Pharmac website.

This change aligns with Pharmac's strategic priority of enhanced assessment and decision-making. It will also benefit patients and clinicians by providing more clarity about which non-Medsafe approved medicines Pharmac might consider for funding.

[Read the media release](#) [Medicine funding application](#)

News from Melanoma Institute Australia (MIA)

Stage II Survival Prediction Tool

This new [Stage II Survival Prediction Tool](#) estimates the risk of recurrence and overall survival for patients with high-risk localised melanoma (no evidence of spread at the time of diagnosis, but thick and possibly ulcerated).

It aims to guide clinical decision-making around whether or not patients should have adjuvant immunotherapy, which is effective but also expensive and carries significant side effect risks. The tool has been developed and validated by the team at MIA in collaboration with investigators from the USA and the Netherlands using data from over 10,000 patients.

Navigating advancements, challenges and collaborative care in skin cancer

In this recording from MIA's 2024 GP Education Breakfast, multidisciplinary experts discuss the alignment of skin cancer care between primary and specialist services.

[Watch now](#) through the MIA Education Portal (free log in required). Please note there may be differences between Australia and New Zealand for some content.

Upcoming opportunities and events



Rotorua GPCME 2024 will be held at the Energy Events Centre, Rotorua on 6 - 9 June 2024. The programme provides a general practice update, with short, sharp and to the point clinical content, including key take home messages to change practice behaviour immediately.

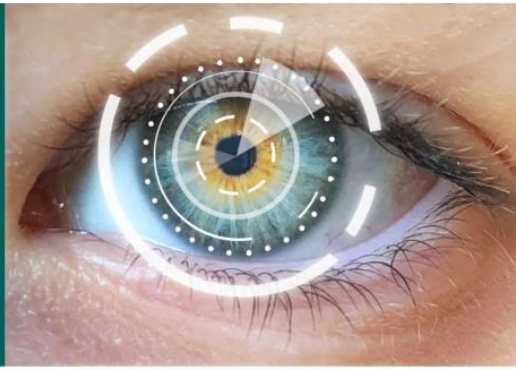
Skin cancer is a key feature in the programme – you won't want to miss these skin cancer related sessions:

- **Pre-conference workshop: *Dermoscopy*** (Adjunct Associate Professor Amanda Oakley)
- **Workshop: *No-one should die of melanoma*** (Dr Chris Boberg, Professor Cliff Rosendahl, Dr Andrew MacGill)
- **Workshop: *Skin cancer 101 for GPs***
 - Early detection (Professor Cliff Rosendahl)
 - Basal Cell Carcinoma (Dr Andrew MacGill)
 - Squamous Cell Carcinoma (Adjunct Associate Professor Amanda Oakley)
 - Oncology Advances (Dr Jody Jordan)
 - Artificial Intelligence (Dr Maryam Sadeghi)
- **Workshop: *Distinguishing melanomas likely to metastasise / Serial imaging to detect featureless melanomas – case studies*** (Professor Cliff Rosendahl)
- **Plenary session: *Who treats melanoma in Australia, how do they treat it and what are the outcomes?*** (Professor Cliff Rosendahl)
- **Plenary session: *Artificial intelligence for skin cancer diagnostics*** (Dr Maryam Sadeghi)

[More information](#)

**2024 Australasian
Ocular Melanoma
Alliance
Virtual Summit**

Saturday 15 June 2024



The AOMA Virtual Summit will bring together healthcare professionals, researchers, and consumers in ocular melanoma to share the latest research and facilitate national and international collaborations for this rare, debilitating and often devastating cancer. Attendance is free.

[More information](#)

Other upcoming opportunities and events

April

20th EADO Congress

4 – 6 April 2024

Hybrid event: Paris, France & online

[Find out more](#)

Certificate of Dermoscopy – Online

Starts on 5 April 2024

Online

[Find out more](#)

NZ Association of General Surgeons (NZAGS) Annual Scientific Meeting 2024

6 – 7 April 2024

Napier

[Find out more](#)

Advanced Skin Surgery Workshop

12 – 15 April 2024

Melbourne, Australia

[Find out more](#)

Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine

Starts on 26 April 2024

Online & practical workshop in Peth, Australia

[Find out more](#)

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

May

Australasian Skin Cancer Congress 2024

3 - 5 May 2024

Hybrid event: online & Gold Coast, Australia

[Find out more](#)

RACS 92nd Annual Scientific Congress 2024

6 – 10 May 2024

Christchurch

[Find out more](#)

MelNet Skin Lesion and Dermoscopy course

10 May 2024

Christchurch

[Find out more](#)

Melanoma Mini-Summit

11 May 2024

Christchurch

[Find out more](#)

**The Australasian College of Dermatologists
56th Annual Scientific Meeting**

11 - 13 May 2024

Perth, Australia

[Find out more](#)

Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine

Starts on 17 May 2024

Online & practical workshop in Brisbane, Australia

[Find out more](#)

Certificate of Dermoscopy – Online

Starts on 31 May 2024

Online

[Find out more](#)

2024 ASCO Annual Meeting

31 May – 4 June 2024

Hybrid event: Chicago, USA & online

[Find out more](#)

Online skin cancer education courses for Primary Care Practitioners starting anytime

[Advanced Certificate of Dermatoscopy](#) (Skin Cancer Symposiums)

[Introduction to Skin Cancer](#) (Skin Cancer College Australasia)

[Skin Cancer Medicine](#) (HealthCert)

[Skin Cancer Surgery](#) (HealthCert)

[Dermoscopy](#) (HealthCert)

[Advanced Certificate of Dermoscopy for Dermatology](#) (HealthCert)

[Advanced Certificate of Histopathology for Dermoscopy](#) (HealthCert)

[Certificate of Case Management: Dermoscopy](#) (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.

[US physician perspective on the use of biomarker and ctDNA testing in patients with melanoma](#)

[Position statement regarding balancing the risks and benefits of sun exposure for Australian adults](#)

[Role of circulating biomarkers in personalised treatments for melanoma patients receiving immunotherapy](#)

[Basic principles of artificial intelligence in dermatology explained using melanoma](#)

[Melanoma prevention using an augmented reality-based serious game](#)

[Results from CheckMate 76K support benefit of using nivolumab as treatment option for people with stage 2 melanoma post-surgery](#)

[MIA Position Statement: 'Skin Checks' for Melanoma in Australia](#)

[Current AI programmes do worse at identifying skin lesions in people of colour](#)

[Cancer outcomes in New Zealand and other countries: how are we doing?](#)



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