



# MelNet update

21 October 2024

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## Skin Cancer Study Day for Nurses \*\*\* Last chance to register \*\*\*

**Friday 1 November 2024**

**Whenua Pupuke, North Shore Hospital, Auckland**

You can still sign up to attend this year's Skin Cancer Study Day for Nurses, but be quick – registrations close on Sunday (27 October). There are only a few spaces left.

Join us and increase your knowledge about skin cancer prevention, early detection, treatment and care, and learn about the critical role a nurse can play throughout the journey of a skin cancer patient. As an added benefit you get to network with colleagues and make new connections.

The cost of attending is \$95 (including GST).

[Find out more](#)

[View the programme](#)

[Register now](#)

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## How much time does it take to make vitamin D? | Useful tool

Australian researchers have developed a tool to determine how much time it takes to make vitamin D.

This depends on the amount of skin covered by clothing and the intensity of UV radiation (indicated by the UV index). More skin exposed and higher UV index equate to less time needed.

The tool is embedded in this [article](#). Scroll down to the graph titled "Time needed outdoors across the day in [season] to meet the daily vitamin D requirement". Hover your mouse over the lines to see the length of exposure needed at specific times of day.

As research scientist Dr Richard McKenzie explains in his [UV & You post about the tool](#), unfortunately it gives times only for Australian sites. For New Zealand you can get a good idea by taking the city with the most similar latitude. For example, Auckland's latitude is close to Melbourne's, and Christchurch's latitude is similar to Hobart's.

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## UV Index tools

The UVI is a helpful guide on sun protection based on your current location. If the UVI is 3 or above, your skin can be damaged, so protection is required.

If you aren't already, you may wish to download and share the following tools with your patients:

[UVNZ app](#)

[Sun Protection Alert](#)

[SunSmart Global UV app](#)

For Iphone users: [Apple Weather app](#) (has UV information)

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## Goodfellow Symposium | 22 – 23 March 2025, Auckland

Early bird registration is now open for next year's [Goodfellow Symposium](#).

### Skin Lesion and Dermatoscopy course – Friday 21 March 2025

We are pleased to advise that MelNet will again co-host a pre-Symposium *Skin Lesion and Dermatoscopy* course on Friday 21 March 2024. This workshop is intended for beginners, whether or not you own a dermatoscope. It aims to increase confidence in diagnosing typical benign skin lesions, and demonstrate how to spot melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers.

The workshop will be presented by Dr Andrew MacGill and Dr Chris Boberg. It has been endorsed by The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners and approved by the College of Nurses Aotearoa NZ for professional development purposes.

[Find out more](#) [Register now](#)



### Interesting read: Real-World Outcomes of Immunotherapy for Melanoma Brain Metastases in New Zealand

MelNet Executive Committee members Dr Jody Jordan and Dr Annie Wong are among researchers who recently published a study about the outcomes of immunotherapy for melanoma brain metastases in New Zealand.

Most patients in the real-world study were symptomatic and received anti-PD1 monotherapy. The study concludes that approximately one-third of treated patients were alive at two years, but most patients remained symptomatic.

This highlights the need for more effective treatment and prospective management of their neurologic rehabilitation needs.

[Read the article](#)

### Melanoma NZ offers free skin cancer checks in October | Melanoma Awareness month

People living in regional centres around New Zealand have been able to get a free skin cancer spot check by a Melanoma New Zealand Nurse Educator as part of Melanoma Awareness Month this October.

What a wonderful initiative to raise awareness about early detection of melanoma and other skin cancers.

[Find out more](#)

### Tips and tricks | Treatment strategies for actinic keratosis

HealthCert have published a recording of their recent webinar “Pre- and post-treatment strategies for actinic keratosis in your skin cancer practice”. In the webinar recording, Skin Cancer Doctor John O’Byrne delves into the critical aspects of pre- and post-care treatment guidelines for actinic keratosis and provides invaluable insights for GPs with an interest in skin.

[Watch the recording](#) on the HealthCert Blog



## Upcoming opportunities and events

### Thinking about upskilling in skin cancer or dermoscopy?

Now might be a good time to consider your education goals for next year. Check out what these reputable organisations have on offer.

[Skin Cancer Symposiums](#)

[Skin Cancer College Australasia](#)

[HealthCert](#)

### 2025 events calendar

We are in the process of updating our [website](#) with the 2025 events calendar. Please check back soon to see what's coming up. If you have an event you would like listed, please [get in touch](#).

## Other upcoming opportunities and events

### November, December, January

#### **Skin Cancer Study Day for Nurses**

1 November 2024

Auckland

[Find out more](#)

#### **39<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & Pre-Conference Programs (SITC 2024)**

6 – 10 November 2024

Houston, USA

[More information](#)

#### **ESMO Immuno-Oncology Annual Congress**

11 – 13 December 2024

Geneva, Switzerland

[Find out more](#)

#### **Melanoma 2025: 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Cutaneous Malignancy Update**

24 – 26 January 2025

Coronado, California, USA

[Find out more](#)

### Online courses starting anytime

#### [Advanced Certificate of Dermatoscopy](#)

Provides a more advanced understanding of dermatoscopy.

*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 dermatopathology.

*Provider:* HealthCert

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

Improve diagnostic accuracy using dermoscopy.

*Provider:* HealthCert

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## 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.

[Australian melanoma patients' long-term survival across Breslow thickness categories](#)

[Primary care nurse's role and educational preparedness in skin cancer screening and early detection](#)

[Promising benefit-risk profile of fianlimab/cemiplimab combination for patients with advanced melanoma](#)

[Combination of 5-fluorouracil and calcipotriol effective treatment of actinic keratosis](#)

[Occupational exposure to artificial ultraviolet radiation from welding in Australia](#)

[Tissue-based profiling techniques to achieve precision medicine in cancer: opportunities and challenges in melanoma](#)

[Phase III trials: Higher cure rates for both nivolumab and ipilimumab than placebo in patients with resected stage III/IV melanoma](#)

[Current smokers more likely to die from their melanoma than never-smokers](#)



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