



MelNet update

22 July 2024

Skin Cancer Study Day for Nurses | Registration opening 15 August

Friday 1 November 2024

Whenua Pupuke, Waitematā Clinical Skills Centre, Auckland

Registration for our next [Skin Cancer Study Day for Nurses](#) is scheduled to open on 15 August. Keep an eye on your inbox or check the [event page](#).

The [draft programme](#) is now available.

The study day is targeted at primary and secondary care nurses and nursing students. It provides an overview of skin cancer prevention, early detection, treatment and care. Participants should gain an increased understanding of the journey of a skin cancer patient and the critical role of a nurse throughout this journey.

The day is also an opportunity to network with colleagues, helping to foster new connections, collaboration and sharing of resources.

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

Draft NZ Skin Cancer Primary Prevention and Early Detection Strategy | Consultation in progress

MelNet is seeking feedback on the draft 'New Zealand Skin Cancer Primary Prevention and Early Detection Strategy' from those with an interest in skin cancer prevention and early detection.

The draft strategy has been developed by a working group of skin cancer experts, with support from MelNet and Te Whatu Ora - Health New Zealand.

The document outlines a set of recommendations to guide New Zealand's skin cancer primary prevention and early detection efforts. These recommendations are supported by research on the epidemiology of skin cancer in New Zealand and the effectiveness of prevention and early detection interventions globally.

The draft 2024 – 2027 New Zealand Skin Cancer Primary Prevention and Early Detection Strategy comprises three documents:

1. [The New Zealand Skin Cancer Primary Prevention and Early Detection Strategy](#)
2. [Supplementary information to the Strategy](#)
3. [Skin cancer prevention and early detection key messages](#)

To provide feedback, please submit in writing to melnet@melnet.org.nz by 12.00 noon Wednesday 31 July 2024.

For further information or to download a copy of the documents, please see the [MelNet website](#).

Government's cancer drugs promise | \$604 million in extra Pharmac funding

The Government has confirmed \$604 million over four years in extra Pharmac funding. This will include cover for 26 cancer treatments.

National had previously committed to 13 new cancer drugs, three of which were for melanoma. Six of these drugs were not included in the June announcement - including, according to reports, treatments for melanoma. Minister of Health, Dr Shane Reti has provided assurances that all 13 cancer drugs promised at the election, or suitable alternatives would be made available - some from October/November this year, and others being phased in over the next year.

Improving access to life-saving medicines is a key priority for MelNet. During our recent meeting with Minister Reti, MelNet representatives emphasised the importance of access to these drugs for melanoma patients and encouraged placing fewer restrictions on current treatments to further enhance survival outcomes. While details remain unclear, MelNet will continue to advocate strongly for these changes, along with the necessary resources and infrastructure to ensure their effective delivery within the healthcare system.

Lions Clubs New Zealand free mobile skin cancer screening service

Lions Clubs New Zealand are establishing a mobile skin cancer screening service that will operate nationwide from March 2025. Targeting those who cannot afford to have their skin checked privately, the service will provide a free full body skin check as well as prevention and early detection education.

In preparation for the launch of the first mobile vehicle, Lions are seeking trained professionals throughout New Zealand who can volunteer a couple of days a month, each year to the service. If you have experience providing skin checks using dermoscopy and would like to support this worthwhile cause, please register your interest by contacting Paul O'Connor at 202e.cancertrust@lionsclubs.org.nz.

Upcoming opportunities and events



GPCME South will be held at Te Pae Convention Centre, Christchurch on 15 – 18 August 2024. The programme focuses on short, sharp and to-the-point clinical updates to change your behaviour immediately. All practitioners, nurses, managers and health professionals are invited to attend.

You won't want to miss these (skin) cancer related sessions:

- **Pre-conference workshop: *Skin Cancer Surgical Basic Skills*** (Mr Dylan James, Dr Rebecca Stack, Mrs Jane Young)
- **Pre-conference workshop: *Skin Cancer Surgical Advanced Skills*** (Mr Dylan James, Dr Rebecca Stack, Mrs Jane Young)
- **Pre-conference workshop: *Dermoscopy Part 1 & 2*** (Professor Amanda Oakley)
- **Cancer Control in NZ – Where to from Here?** (Professor Chris Jackson)
- **Achieving Equitable Outcomes in Cancer Care – What Needs to Change?** (Associate Professor Jason Gurney)
- **The Quiet Revolution in Cancer Treatment in NZ** (Dr Michelle Vaughan)

[Find out more](#)



Experience the future of Family Medicine at WONCA APR Conference 2024 in Singapore. This global conference unites experts, healthcare practitioners, and researchers for a deep dive into the evolving landscape of primary care. Be part of the dialogue, gain valuable insights, and connect with the international healthcare community.

[Find out more](#)

Other upcoming opportunities and events

August

Immuno-Oncology Summit 2024

7 – 9 August 2023

Hybrid event: Philadelphia, USA & online

[Find out more](#)

ASCO Breakthrough

8 – 10 August 2024

Hybrid event: Yokohama, Japan & online

[Find out more](#)

NZ Society of Cosmetic Medicine (NZSCM) Conference 2024

15 – 18 August 2024

Queenstown

[Find out more](#)

Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine (Skin Cancer College Australasia)

Starts on 16 August 2024

Online & practical workshop in Melbourne, Australia

[Find out more](#)

Advanced Skin Surgery Workshop (Skin Cancer College Australasia)

16 – 19 August 2024

Sydney, Australia

[Find out more](#)

25th World Dermatology Congress

28 – 29 August 2024

Paris, France

[Find out more](#)

UK Certificate of Fundamental Dermatoscopy 2024 (Skin Cancer Symposiums)

29 August 2024

Manchester, UK

[Find out more](#)

NZ Dermatological Society Inc (NZDSI) Annual Conference 2024

28 – 31 August 2024

Dunedin

[Find out more](#)

UK International Dermatoscopy Masterclass 2024 (Skin Cancer Symposiums)

30 August 2024

Manchester, UK

[Find out more](#)

Certificate of Dermoscopy – Online (Skin Cancer College Australasia)

Starts on 30 August 2024

Online

[Find out more](#)

Queenstown Research Week 2024

31 August - 5 September 2024

Queenstown

[Find out more](#)

September

International Certificate of Dermatoscopy 2024 (Skin Cancer Symposiums)

2 – 3 September 2024

Malmo, Sweden

[Find out more](#)

International Certificate of Dermatoscopy 2024 (Skin Cancer Symposiums)

5 – 6 September 2024

Oslo, Norway

[Find out more](#)

Australasian Dermatopathology Society Annual Meeting

5 – 7 September 2024

Queenstown

[Find out more](#)

Skin Cancer 2024

11 – 15 September 2024

Brisbane, Australia

[Find out more](#)

ESMO Congress 2024

13 – 17 September 2024

Barcelona, Spain

[Find out more](#)

Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine (Skin Cancer College Australasia)

Starts on 27 September 2024

Online & practical workshop in Brisbane, Australia

[Find out more](#)

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

Online skin cancer education courses for Primary Care Practitioners **starting anytime** can be found [here](#).

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.

[VARS may represent an attractive therapeutic target for the treatment of therapy-resistant melanoma](#)

[Cost-effectiveness of primary prevention interventions for skin cancer](#)

[Further studies required to better identify high-risk patients whose primary melanoma is likely to have already metastasized](#)

[Temporal analyses of melanoma trends among men and women suggest etiologic heterogeneity](#)

[Adjuvant therapy with dabrafenib plus trametinib versus placebo: better relapse-free survival and distant metastasis-free survival among patients with resected stage III melanoma](#)

[Neoadjuvant pembrolizumab, dabrafenib and trametinib in BRAFV600-mutant resectable melanoma: randomized phase 2 NeoTrio trial](#)



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