Message from the Editorial Team

Message from Anna Ugalde and Anna Boltong

This edition of the MASCC Society News features a story on the Memorandum of Understanding between the Oncology Nurses Society (ONS) and MASCC. There are also interesting ONS events for you to consider. We have also profiled a new ASCO guideline developed to identify patients with febrile neutropenia (FN) at low risk of complication who don't require hospitalisation. As always, you can also read about publications from MASCC members and meet some of our newest members - this month a group of Canadian pharmacists! Please continue to update us with any MASCC member news, including research, awards or other achievements. We can be contacted at anna.ugalde@svhm.org.au or anna.boltong@petermac.org.

We hope you enjoy this edition and we look forward to hearing from you.

Anna & Anna

MOU between the Oncology Nurses Society and MASCC

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between the Oncology Nurses Society (ONS) and MASCC. The purpose of the MOU is to increase collaboration, mutual recognition, and shared, culturally sensitive approaches to the work of both organisations. It establishes courtesies and reciprocal arrangements between MASCC and ONS and is an important step for MASCC and ONS to work together to promote cancer nursing and multidisciplinary cancer care internationally. This collaboration will focus on research activities, education and training, and shared communication strategies.

What is ONS?

The Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) is a professional association of more than 35,000 registered nurses and other health care providers from 61 countries committed to promoting excellence in oncology nursing and the transformation of cancer care. Since 1975, ONS has provided a professional community for oncology nurses, developed evidence-based education programs and treatment information, and advocated for patient care, all in an effort to improve quality of life and outcomes for patients with cancer and their families. Together, ONS and the cancer community seek to reduce the risks, incidence, and burden of cancer by encouraging healthy lifestyles, promoting early detection, and improving the management of cancer symptoms and side effects throughout the disease trajectory.

What do MASCC and ONS have in common?

Both ONS and MASCC rely on a high level of collaboration with partner organizations throughout the world. Members of both organizations share an interest in research excellence, quality care delivery, symptom management, follow-up and survivorship. MASCC’s involvement with ONS promotes a multidisciplinary perspective to the science of nursing. There is synergy between the missions of both organizations, and members benefit from awareness of the products and services offered by each.

Learn more about ONS at www.ons.org

Paula Rieger, CEO of ONS
Upcoming ONS Events

As a nationally renowned forum for oncology education and dialogue, the ONS Congress prepares nurses, educators, administrators, and other healthcare professionals for new advances in the field, advancing the quality and safety of cancer care across diverse settings. Congress is an enthusiastic celebration of the oncology nursing profession—an opportunity for nurses who are passionate about their work to network, trade best practices, and renew and enhance the direction of cancer care in their home setting. Session topics at Congress include survivorship, symptom management, new treatments and technologies, and healthcare reform.

The ONS Second Annual Connections: Advancing Care Through Science conference will continue to inspire the translation of research into practice, showcasing the effect of nursing science and practice on the quality of cancer care. This one-of-a-kind event brings together a dedicated group of cancer nursing leaders to discuss and disseminate knowledge, stimulate and drive evidence-based practice. Connections highlights the importance of collaboration between nurse scientists and clinicians to ensure that they are working together for the good of patients with cancer. Attendees will learn from the experiences and expertise of their peers, be immersed in the latest findings in oncology, and identify gaps in research - ultimately advancing care through science and science through care.

New ASCO guideline identifies neutropenic patients who can stay at home

Guidelines from The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) now help to identify patients with febrile neutropenia (FN) at low risk of complication who don't require hospitalisation. An Expert Panel was convened to develop clinical practice guideline recommendations based on a systematic review of the medical literature, which examined 47 articles to provide evidence-based recommendations to prevent infection in adult oncology outpatients with neutropenia. These guidelines are relevant to medical oncologists, primary care physicians, and oncology nurses, and ultimately improve the care and quality of life of the patients. They recommend which patients may be managed as outpatients after systematic assessment beginning with a validated risk index (in particular, MASCC score or Talcott's rules). ASCO issued the recommendations online January 14 in the Journal of Clinical Oncology.

Read the guidelines at: http://jco.ascopubs.org/content/early/2013/01/08/JCO.2012.45.8661.full.pdf+html

The full guideline, including a comprehensive discussion of the literature, detail on literature search methodology, a full reference list, evidence tables, and clinical tools and resources are found at:
www.asco.org/guidelines/outpatientfn
Meet three new MASCC members!

Michelle Chang, Diana Howard and Annette Kempton

We are three clinical pharmacists from the Tom Baker Cancer Centre in Calgary, Canada. We have created the supportive care tumor group within our department so we could focus on developing resources and learning materials for our pharmacy staff and residents specific to supportive care issues. We felt that pharmacists have a unique skill set and could greatly enhance supportive care services at our site, particularly if they obtain additional prescribing rights. As pharmacists, we transition from roles within our department to clinical roles in other tumor groups and find that many issues we confront with patients relate to supportive care. With more knowledge in this area pharmacists can contribute even more to the team of professionals in place to provide better patient care. We have also expanded our role with a call back program that focuses on helping patients manage side effects related to oral chemotherapy. The goal of the program is to maintain patients on prescribed doses and schedules and minimize hospitalizations, dose reductions or therapy interruptions due to side effects, any of which, if improperly handled, can comprise patient safety, quality of life and even survival.

We have joined MASCC as we hope to grow our network of supportive care professionals and learn new ideas about how we can continue to enhance supportive care services at our site. We also want to keep current with what is happening internationally and attend future conferences.

Some New Supportive Care Publications by MASCC Members


Publications by MASCC Members (continued)


See you in Berlin!

Join us in Berlin for The MASCC/ISOO 2013 International Cancer Care Symposium on June 27-29. This year’s symposium promises to be one of the best yet with a special focus on the clinical management and basic science aspects of supportive care in oncology. Be sure to stop by the welcome desk or the MASCC booth where you can meet other MASCC members, renew your MASCC membership, enroll as a new member and view MASSC publications and other resources.

Registration is OPEN

MASCC/ISOO
International Symposium
Supportive Care in Cancer

Berlin, Germany
June 27-29, 2013

Early bird registration closes 24th April 2013. To register, go to: www.mascc.org/symposium

Have any news items to share?
Please send contributions for the MASCC News to MASCCnews@mascc.org or the co-editors:

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