



# NEWS

In Partnership with ISOO • International Society of Oral Oncology

August 2015

## Welcome to the August Issue of the Society News

### Message from the Editor, Toni Clark

In this issue, we are pleased to announce the appointment of Li Zhang of Sun Yat-Sen University to MASCC's Board of Directors, the appointment of Lidia Schapira as the new Editor-in-Chief of Cancer.Net, and a World No Tobacco Day Award to Stella Aguinaga Bialous, President of the ISNCC. We report on recent supportive care conferences in Moscow and England and announce the forthcoming SIOG conference in Prague. We also highlight a paper by Eduardo Bruera on supportive care at the end of life. This month, MASCC welcomes new members from Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Iran, Israel, the Russian Federation, Thailand, and the United States.

As always, you can find the current and older issues of the MASCC Society News online at [www.mascc.org/newsletters](http://www.mascc.org/newsletters) or in the back pages of our journal, *Supportive Care in Cancer*.

## Li Zhang Appointed to MASCC Board of Directors



MASCC President David Warr, MD, PhD, is pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Li Zhang, MD, of Sun Yat-Sen University Center in Guangzhou, China to MASCC's Board of Directors. Warr, who has visited China several times and met with prominent Chinese oncologists states that none are more influential in the area of supportive care as Li Zhang, who is recognized as a leader in research and a mentor to junior faculty.

Zhang is currently Professor of Medical Oncology and Deputy Director of the Lung Cancer Research Center at Sun Yat-Sen University (SYSU). He is also Director of the National Anti-Cancer Drug Clinical Research Centre and Vice Chair of the Department of Medical Oncology at Sun Yat-Sen University Cancer Centre (SYSUCC). Zhang received the Bachelor of Medicine and Master of Clinical Oncology degrees from Sun Yat-Sen University. He has served as a Visiting Fellow at the Institut Gustave Roussy in Paris, France, the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, and the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, USA.

Li Zhang's supportive care interests focus on the treatment of cancer pain, cancer-induced anemia, nausea and vomiting, and the treatment of bone metastases with bisphosphonate. Other research interests include the development of molecular, prognostic, and therapeutic approaches to the care of patients with lung cancer, colorectal cancer, and nasopharyngeal carcinoma.

Zhang has served as principal investigator or steering committee member of several international phase III clinical trials. He is currently a member of the *NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology™ (Chinese Version) Lung Cancer, Colon/Rectal Cancer and Head and Neck Cancer Panel*. He has served as Editor or Editorial Board member of numerous professional journals in the fields of clinical oncology and cancer research. He has published more than 90 clinical research papers in such peer-reviewed journals as *Journal of Clinical Oncology, Lancet Oncology, Cancer, Cancer Gene Therapy, Journal of Thoracic Oncology, Lung Cancer, Cancer Chemotherapy and Pharmacology, Oncology, Clinical Lung Cancer, and Medical Oncology*, and has presented abstracts at many major congresses, including ASCO, AACR, WCLC, and ESMO. He also serves as Senior Consultant to the Centre of Drug Evaluation, Chinese Food and Drug Administration (SFDA) and drafted the *SFDA Guidance for Industry: Clinical Trial for the Approval of Cancer Drugs and Biologics (Second Version, 2006)*.

All of us at MASCC extend a warm welcome to Li Zhang and sincere congratulations on his appointment to MASCC's Board of Directors!

### **DID YOU KNOW.... Textbook Discounts for MASCC Members**

Discounts are available on many textbooks on oncology and supportive care through publishers and through the Oncology Nursing Society. Check the Supportive Care Books page for more information: <http://www.mascc.org/supportive-care-books>. ALSO.... **If you are a MASCC member and a textbook author**, be sure your book is listed on the MASCC website, whether or not it is available at a publisher's discount. Contact Beth: [bhollen@mascc.com](mailto:bhollen@mascc.com).

## Lidia Schapira Named Editor-in-Chief of Cancer.Net



Lidia Schapira, MD, FASCO, has been appointed Editor-in-Chief of [Cancer.Net](http://Cancer.Net), the premier patient information website of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO). Cancer.Net helps patients, families, and caregivers make informed healthcare decisions by providing timely, comprehensive, and oncologist-approved information.

Schapira, a medical oncologist at the Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer



Center and Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, specializes in the care of women with breast cancer. Collaborating with experts in neuroscience and psychology, she is currently investigating novel ways of improving doctor-patient communication. She has also been actively involved in ASCO's efforts to improve access to cancer care in low and middle income countries through mentoring and educational programs. Lidia currently serves as Consultant Editor for the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*. She chairs MASCC's Psychosocial Study Group.

Congratulations from MASCC on this well-deserved appointment!

## Stella Aguinaga Bialous Receives Prestigious World No Tobacco Day Award

Stella Aguinaga Bialous, RN, MSc, DrPh, FAAN, President of the International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care (ISNCC), is one of four tobacco control advocates to win the 2015 World No Tobacco Day Award. Bialous is President of Tobacco Policy International and is actively involved in tobacco cessation work. An internationally recognized expert, she has led many tobacco cessation projects and workshops around the world. Stella is currently leading a 2-year project to develop a Center of Excellence for Tobacco Cessation in Prague, Czech Republic.

MASCC joins ISNCC in congratulating Stella Bialous on this honor!

World No Tobacco Day is celebrated every year on May 31st. More information is available from the World Health Organization: <http://www.who.int/campaigns/no-tobacco-day/2015/event/en/>. For more information on the ISNCC, go to [www.isncc.org](http://www.isncc.org).



## First Russian Conference on Supportive Care Held in Moscow



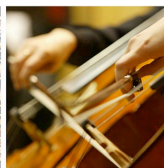
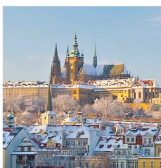
The first Russian Conference of Supportive Care in Cancer Patients took place in Moscow, May 14-15, 2015. MASCC members Matti Aapro and Anton Snegovoy, along with RUSSCO President Sergei Tjulandin, chaired the meeting, which was jointly held by MASCC and the Russian Society of Clinical Oncology (RUSSCO). Co-Chairs were MASCC member Inessa Kononenko, along with Vera Larionova and Liudmila

Manzyuk. Other MASCC members among the conference faculty were Paolo Bossi and Carla Ripamonti, both of Italy. Presentations and discussions included management of anemia, bone metastases, prevention of nausea and vomiting, prevention and treatment of febrile neutropenia, nutritional support for patients with anorexia and cachexia, mycosis, toxicities of target therapies, pain control, and quality of life. All faculty members participated in a discussion of a Russian Guideline for Supportive Care. The website of the Russian Society of Clinical Oncology is <http://www.rosoncweb.ru>.

## SIOG 2015 Annual Conference – Prague, Czech Republic – November 12-14

### Geriatric Oncology & Supportive Care: A Global Approach to Advance the Science

MASCC will partner with the International Society of Geriatric Oncology (Société Internationale d'Oncologie Gériatrique, SIOG) in a joint session at the SIOG's 15th Annual Conference, November 12-14, 2015, in Prague, Czech Republic. The conference provides a unique opportunity for researchers, clinical practitioners in oncology, geriatricians, radiologists, psychologists, nutritionists, nurses, senior cancer survivors advocates to learn, interact and share results and best practice in treating senior adults with cancer. More information about the conference is available at the SIOG website: [www.siog.org](http://www.siog.org).



## First UK Clinical Trials Conference for Supportive Care in Cancer Research

The First UK Clinical Trials Conference for Supportive Care in Cancer Research was held June 3, 2015 in Sheffield, England. The conference was organized by The University of Sheffield in conjunction with the National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) Supportive & Palliative Care Clinical Studies Group

chaired by Sam Ahmedzai of the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University of Sheffield. It was offered to promote supportive care research at all stages of cancer and featured presentations by researchers, supportive and palliative care professionals, oncologists, patient and caregiver representatives, and research funding organizations. The conference was held to bring the NCRI's activities to a wider audience and to facilitate interaction with other groups within the NCRI. Keynote speakers were John Staffurth of Cardiff University School of Medicine and Jo Armes of Kings College London. Staffurth spoke on "How Advances in Radiotherapy Can Reduce Late Pelvic Effects." Armes focused on survivorship research with an address titled "Written on the Body: Assessing and Meeting the Needs of People Living With and Beyond Cancer."

NCRI is a partnership of UK cancer research funders who work together to ensure communication, coordination, and collaboration on research, including data collection, rare cancers, and genomics. The Supportive & Palliative Care CSG comprises four subgroups: Pain & Neuropathy, Rehabilitation, Gastrointestinal, and Vascular.



## ASCO Education Book 2015

The 2015 edition of the ASCO Education Book is now available. This resource is an NLM-indexed collection of peer-reviewed articles written by ASCO Annual Meeting faculty and invited leaders from other ASCO meetings. Each annual volume highlights research and developments across the multidisciplinary field of oncology. Articles address such areas as cancer pathology, treatment, symptom management, health services research, and international perspectives. The 2015 edition features contributions by several MASCC members in the area of Patient and Survivor Care.

- Bone Health in Adults Treated with Endocrine Therapy for Early Breast or Prostate Cancer, by Catherine Van Poznak
- Cancer Pain Management: Safe and Effective Use of Opioids, by Eduardo Bruera and Judith Paice
- Challenges to Standardizing the Care for Adult Cancer Survivors: Highlighting ASCO's Fatigue and Anxiety and Depression Guidelines, by Paul B. Jacobsen and Barbara L. Andersen, with colleague, Ann H. Partridge

Other MASCC members who presented at the ASCO meeting include Martine Piccart-Gebhart (Clinical Trials of Precision Medicine Through Molecular Profiling: Focus on Breast Cancer; with Dimitrios Zardavas), Egidio Del Fabbro (Current and Future Care of Patients with the Cancer Anorexia-Cachexia Syndrome), Lawrence H. Einhorn (Salvage Therapy in Patients with Germ Cell Tumors), and Stephen T. Sonis (Genomics, Personalized Medicine, and Supportive Cancer Care).

The 2015 Education Book can be accessed in the "Meeting Library" at the ASCO website. Individual articles can be downloaded as pdf files.



RESEARCH  
HIGHLIGHTSupportive Care at the End of Life:  
Why is it so hard to predict  
impending death?

One of the most difficult aspects of caring for patients at the end of life is predicting impending death — an issue of great importance for patients and their families. In the February issue of *Palliative Medicine*, Eduardo Bruera discusses the difficulties of making such predictions and the implications for communicating with patients and caregivers about what to expect and what to do in the event of critical signs and symptoms. Clinical studies, including one by Bruera and colleagues, show that blood pressure and oxygen saturation decrease during the last days of life. And yet, these markers are of low sensitivity in predicting impending death within 3 days. Vital signs cannot be used to rule death either in or out.

**Causes of Death.** In cancer patients, Bruera points out, tumor burden can be measured extremely well with imaging and lab markers. Organ failure can also be reliably determined. But most cancer patients die as a result of complications, such as an infection, thromboembolism, or sudden death. And these complications cannot easily be predicted. There remains a need to measure and monitor markers for these complications in order to predict impending death of cancer patients.

**Implications for Care.** Since it is so difficult to make accurate predictions about impending death, it is all the more important that planning, decision-making, and conversations about the end of life take place as soon as possible. “Estimating life duration at the bedside requires clinicians to use all their assessment skills,” says Bruera. He adds that physical signs associated with a high likelihood of death within 3 days include pulselessness of the radial artery, respiration with mandibular movement, decreased urine output, Cheyne–Stokes breathing, and death rattle.

**Implications for Research.** Bruera stresses the need for clinical diagnostic criteria for impending death. To this end, he cites the need for more observational studies that follow patients close to the end of their lives, studies that include different patient populations and settings. It is important to identify the risk factors associated with the most common complications that lead to death. Collaborations between oncologists and experts in areas such as infectious diseases, hematology, and cardiology may lead to minimally invasive tests for early diagnosis of complications.

There is also a need to identify the most effective communication strategies to help patients and their families prepare for death — supportive communication techniques that minimize the emotional impact and are seen as positive and compassionate. The most supportive techniques may well vary with patient populations, disease characteristics, and care settings. All such research will help clinicians better diagnose and discuss the end of life.

*Eduardo Bruera holds the F.T. McGraw Chair in the Treatment of Cancer, Division of Cancer Medicine and is Chair of the Department of Palliative Care and Rehabilitation Medicine, Division of Cancer Medicine, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. He is a member of MASCC's Palliative Care Study Group.*

## Sources

Bruera E. End-of-life diagnosis, communication, and the search for "infectin," "clottin," and "heart arrestin". *Palliat Med.* 2015 Feb;29(2):99-100.

Bruera S, Chisholm G, Dos Santos R, Crovador C, Bruera E, Hui D. Variations in vital signs in the last days of life in patients with advanced cancer. *J Pain Symptom Manage.* 2014 Oct;48(4):510-7.

## New MASCC Members

MASCC welcomes the following new members who joined us in May.

Anne-Marie V. Andersen  
Rikke Andersen  
Shanta Lotte Belli  
Jeannette Marianne Brinko  
Chara Chatzichalepli  
Marianne Christiansen  
Merete Lone Facius  
Oleg Gladkov  
Charles Heckler  
Uri Hochberg

Susanne Hostrup  
Julia Imeson  
Susanne Jacobsson  
Helle Jurs  
Ingelise Jæger  
Kanda Kaewhom  
Laura Kirkehammer  
Melanie Lessard  
Noor Mady  
Anne Marie Marcussen

Helene Jochim Mortensen  
Anne Kuld Nielsen  
Mette Nissen  
Jette Noer  
Elizabeth Nolin  
Tanja Duelund Pallesen  
Freshta Fenseca Panah  
Anja Rabek  
Atefeh Raoofi  
véronique Regnier-Denois

Joseph Roscoe  
Lise Rydik  
Lena Saltbæk  
Rita Orry Sivertsen  
Alix Sleight  
Guri Spigelhauer  
Herwig Strik  
Anastasia Vourli  
Julie Wedell-Wedellsborg  
Lena Østerholm

# Australia

## MASCC/ISOO

ANNUAL MEETING ON  
SUPPORTIVE CARE IN CANCER

Adelaide, Australia | 23-25 June, 2016



Supportive  
Care Makes  
Excellent Cancer  
Care Possible



Being held in Adelaide, Australia, the MASCC/ISOO Annual Meeting in 2016 will spotlight excellent science and cutting edge research aimed at enhancing the lives of people coping with cancer.

Join colleagues from around the world at MASCC/ISOO 2016 to gain access to the latest knowledge, network with an international audience and contribute your own insights to this important discussion on all aspects of cancer care.

To register for updates on Adelaide, go to: <http://www.mascc2016.kenes.com> and enter your email!

### Have any news items to share?

Please send contributions for the MASCC News to [MASCCnews@mascc.org](mailto:MASCCnews@mascc.org)  
or to Toni Clark, Editor at [tclark@mascc.org](mailto:tclark@mascc.org)

For more information please contact: Age Schultz, MASCC Executive Director: [aschultz@mascc.org](mailto:aschultz@mascc.org)