



NEWS

In Partnership with ISOO • International Society of Oral Oncology

December 2016

Welcome to the December Issue of the MASCC Society News

This month, we say farewell to two of the most hardworking and appreciated members of MASCC's staff: Executive Director Åge Schultz and Development Manager Anne Young. Reviewing all of the contributions that Åge and Anne have made to MASCC makes us even sadder to see them go. But we thank them sincerely and wish them all the best in the future.

We are pleased to announce MASCC's new Study Group Coordinator, Donald Gubitosa. We also announce the five Study Group Workshops that have been selected for presentation at the 2017 MASCC/ISOO Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, and we bring you a summary of a recent systematic review of the prevalence and impact of financial toxicity among cancer survivors. Finally, we extend a warm welcome to the new members who joined us in October.

All issues of the *MASCC Society News* are available online at www.mascc.org/newsletters. Older issues (through August, 2016) can be found in the back pages of our journal, *Supportive Care in Cancer*.

~ Toni Clark, Editor

A Message from MASCC President Ian Olver

This month, I want to focus on celebrating the great contributions to MASCC of two pivotal staff members who retire at the end of this year: Anne Young and Åge Schultz. (See also the farewells to each of them that follow my remarks here.)

In her eight years as Development Manager, Anne has engaged with our pharmaceutical company supporters with the highest degree of professionalism, and her knowledge and navigation through numerous compliance issues have been invaluable to the Executive Committees and staff. However, I think that her greatest contribution lies in her nurturing of our Study Groups. Anne has been a point of contact and support for the many members who volunteer for these groups and has helped them formulate and carry out projects, such as the creation of online resources. In short, she has helped our Study Groups to flourish and be productive. I have enjoyed working with Anne and have valued her expertise, even with respect to helping us with the

difficult task of replacing her. I am very pleased that Donald Gubitosa has accepted the position of Study Group Coordinator and I look forward to working with him.



*MASCC President Ian Olver &
MASCC Executive Director Åge Schultz*

Åge, who has been our Executive Director since 2010, was an ideal choice for this role. He came with extensive management experience in the pharmaceutical industry, as well as six years as Executive Director of ESMO. Åge wanted to contribute to the nonprofit sector and brought all his experience to bear on his position with MASCC. He has overseen great positive changes in the society, preparing us for the future with strong strategic planning that will increase MASCC's global profile, grow its membership, and thereby increase its impact on supportive care. He has also been pivotal in engaging

MASCC with like-minded professional groups. Åge's meticulous organizational skills and his direct style, tempered as it is with gentle humor, have made him a very appealing Executive Officer with whom to work. Moreover, he has generously assured us that he will help ensure a smooth handover to his successor, whoever that may be. I will miss the great support Åge has given me.

I wish both Åge and Anne well in their retirement. In a certain symmetry to their careers, I note that Åge started life in veterinary science and Anne intends to work with animals in retirement. Also, Åge has outlined to me many projects that he will now enjoy. On behalf of our entire membership, I sincerely thank both Åge and Anne for their outstanding contributions to MASCC!

Help Spread the Word!

MASCC/ISOO 2017

Washington, DC • June 22-24

Visit our online [Meeting Toolkit](#) to download signature banners, ads, and PowerPoint "Save the Date" slides. Get the word out and help make MASCC/ISOO 2017 the best supportive care meeting yet!

A Farewell to Åge Schultz

Åge Schultz, Executive Director of MASCC since May 2010, will retire at the end of the month. We are all very sad to see Åge leave. His management expertise and his devotion to improving supportive care around the world have helped to bring about tremendous changes within MASCC, as well as increasing its membership and its global recognition as the preeminent professional society for the promotion of cancer supportive care.

During his tenure as Executive Director, Åge moved the MASCC office from the US to Denmark and streamlined many of its business practices. His position entailed coordinating the work of MASCC's independent contractor staff, as well as volunteers. He has also served as a nonvoting member of both MASCC's Executive Committee and its Board of Directors.

With over 35 years of managerial experience, Åge brought to MASCC organizational and personnel management skills, strategic planning expertise, and knowledge of medical organizations and global activities. Having previously served as Executive Director of the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) from 2002 to 2008, Åge was well acquainted with the field of medical oncology, as well as with the numerous aspects of managing a professional medical society, including administration, finances and marketing, publications, annual meetings, agency interactions, and media and website development. In addition, Åge recognized the need for optimizing supportive care in cancer, especially in light of demographic differences and, in general, late diagnoses and high drug costs. Åge tells us that he was attracted by MASCC's nonprofit status, as well as its multidisciplinary and global objectives — all characteristics that were important to him. Åge's previous experience also meant that he came to MASCC with established relationships in the world of oncology research and practice. As Anne Young tells us, "One need only spend a few days with Åge at ASCO to see how many friends Åge has and how well regarded he is."

Åge's vision for MASCC was to reach a critical mass of members, to gain financial viability, and to introduce prospective annual budgets (with measurable parameters). He has also worked to introduce regular updating of MASCC's strategic plan, modernize membership procedures, and encourage joint sessions with other major cancer societies at international meetings. All of us at MASCC would agree that Åge has been successful in all of these aims. He has brought to MASCC a level of organization and professionalism truly representative of its membership. Moreover, his institution and oversight of various organizational and business strategies have increased MASCC's membership by over 80% (from about 600 to 1100 members) and its financial status from that of a near deficit to a surplus of 3 million US dollars.

Åge would like to thank all of our members for their collegiality and generous contributions to the organization. And in particular, he thanks Jørn Herrstedt and Dorothy Keefe for giving him the opportunity to work for MASCC. Åge also thanks the MASCC staff (Anne, Beth, Birthe, Sasha, and Toni) for their help with the day-to-day details of keeping the organization on track.

Jørn Herrstedt, who was President of MASCC when Åge came on board, tells us, "We were happy and fortunate to hire Åge to serve as MASCC's Executive Director. We knew from his previous associates, especially ESMO, that he was enterprising and thorough, as well as honest in his dealings and opinions. Today, I can say that Åge has taken the Society a big step forward and he will be difficult to replace. I want to extend my personal thanks to Åge for the commitment to MASCC and our resulting successes."

Dorothy Keefe, another Past President during Åge's years with MASCC, tells us that she thoroughly enjoyed working with Åge. "He has brought MASCC successfully through some natural, growth-related challenges. He knows what he is doing, and once decided on a course of action is completely focused on delivery. I value his directness, his discretion, and his loyalty. Also, under his Executive Director exterior, there is a great sense of humor." Dorothy reports that she and Åge have probably exchanged thousands of emails — "on such diverse topics as staff, membership, annual meetings, wine, good food, and Airedale Terriers. Åge's first patient as a vet was an Airedale with stomatitis. Not only is stomatitis one of my specialties, but I am also a devoted Airedale owner! I will miss our get-togethers before and after meetings, and wish Åge all the best in the next phase of his life and career!"

We are all grateful to Åge for his devotion to supportive care, for his part in making MASCC such a well-run and productive organization, and for increasing MASCC's standing in the global community. We'd also like to acknowledge and thank Åge's wife Inger for her support and assistance over the years. Åge assures us that, though he is ready to retire, he plans to stay until the end of January to help with the transition as a new Executive Director takes the reins at MASCC. We wish Åge all the best in his retirement and hope that he'll keep in touch.



Åge Schultz



Åge Schultz and wife, Inger

Farewell Reception for Åge Schultz

MASCC will hold a Farewell Reception in honor of Åge in Copenhagen in late January. For more information, please contact the MASCC Office: aschultz@mascc.org.

A Farewell to Anne Young

Anne Young, who has been MASCC's Development Manager and Study Group Coordinator since 2008, will retire at the end of this month. Whether or not we know Anne personally, we all know how much she has contributed to MASCC over the years. She works with Study Group leaders year-round to keep everyone informed and up-to-date, to solicit funding and workshop proposals, and to encourage participation in all MASCC activities. Anne also works with biotech and pharmaceutical companies in developing projects to further enhance cancer treatments, and she provides an important support base for the MASCC/ISOO Annual Meetings.



Anne Young

During her tenure with MASCC, Anne has succeeded in arranging online programs through Medscape and Clinical Care Options — in particular, online modules by the Bone Study Group for Medscape (with Cesar Migliorati) on the topic of osteonecrosis of the jaw. Anne provided assistance with implementing new policies and programs for MASCC and kept us up-to-date with changing PhARMA regulations and CME rules. Anne has established strong working relationships with key sponsors and provided concierge service to our CAC members.



MASCC President Ian Olver and Immediate Past President Dave Warr present Anne Young with a token of appreciation.

Anne holds an MBA in Marketing from Lehigh University and an undergraduate degree in Elementary and Special Education from East Stroudsburg University. Prior to coming to MASCC, Anne worked at Merck & Company, Inc., as a Human Resources Partner (1990 - 1996), then as National Health Science Associate Manager (1996 - 2000) and finally, as Academic and Professional Affairs Senior Director (2000 - 2008). With a strong background in market development and medical education in the pharmaceutical industry, she has led development teams and developed educational projects in oncology, psychiatry, respiratory diseases, and other medical specialties. She also worked as an adjunct professor of leadership and management at Lehigh University from 2009 to 2015.

Anne says that she has especially enjoyed coordinating the Study Group Workshops and having the opportunity to work with all the fabulous, selfless members of MASCC. In addition, she has enjoyed working with the rest of MASCC's staff: Åge Schultz, Beth Hollen, Sasha Stupak, and Toni Clark.

As for retirement plans, Anne says she'll be volunteering at an animal shelter and will enjoy the leisure time to devote to other interests, such as gardening, architecture, design, sports, and her own three cats (T-bone, Beau, and Gracie). She plans to spend more time socializing. Anne says she looks forward to being "a lady who lunches"!

MASCC will greatly miss Anne's expertise and skills as well as her calm and gracious professional manner in all of her interactions. All of us at MASCC are most grateful to Anne for her years with us. And we wish her all the best for the future and many years of enjoyment as she pursues other interests.

New Study Group Coordinator: Donald Gubitosa

MASCC is pleased to announce that Donald Gubitosa, of North Wales, Pennsylvania (USA), has accepted the position of Study Group Coordinator and Manager of Sponsor Relationships, replacing Anne Young, who leaves us at the end of this month. Watch the January issue of the Society News for more information. Welcome to MASCC, Donald!



Donald Gubitosa

2017 Annual Meeting Workshops

The MASCC Executive Committee is pleased to announce the following five Study Group Workshops, to be held at the 2017 MASCC/ISOO Annual Meeting in Washington, DC (June 22-24). Each of these collaborative workshops will provide an opportunity for two or more Study Groups to focus on a topic of common interest, share research knowledge, and explore further collaborations. All workshops will be held on Thursday morning, June 22, before the meeting's Opening Ceremonies.

How Adherence to Guidelines Increases the Cost-Effectiveness of Supportive Care Interventions

One way to increase cost-effectiveness of medical treatments is by following evidence-based guidelines that consider cost containment. This workshop is intended to provide evidence for the need to adhere to such guidelines, both to improve outcomes and to ensure that available resources are used in the most appropriate manner. It will include a review of current guidelines and possible negative consequences of non-adherence. The workshop will stress the importance of a multidisciplinary approach to cancer treatment and supportive care. The workshop is offered jointly by the following Study Groups: Antiemetics; Neutropenia, Infection, and Myelosuppression; Oral Care; and Psychosocial.

Workshop Chair: Bernardo Rapoport.

Update on Venous Thromboembolism: Approach and Challenges

This workshop will bring together a multinational group of experts to review current evidence and needed knowledge in the area of cancer-associated venous thromboembolism (VTE). It will include discussions of the clinical challenges as well as promote the education of patients, providers, and family members. Highlights include VTE prevention in ambulatory cancer patients, management of long-term treatment, and new oral anticoagulants. The workshop will focus on best practices, as illustrated by case studies, and will include discussion and illustration of various approaches to educating and engaging patients in the treatment process. The workshop will also include a patient presenter, who will speak to the group about the challenges of VTE and quality of life. The workshop is offered jointly by the Education and Hemostasis Study Groups.

Workshop Chairs: Carme Font, Carmen Escalante, Tom Butler, Paz Fernández-Ortega.

Integration of Oncology and Palliative Care: Why? What? Who? When? How?

This workshop will explore the integration of oncology and palliative care through the combination of complex case studies, panel discussion, and active audience participation. The presenters will review the conceptual models related to such integration and ways in which integration is implemented at academic cancer centers, as well as in community clinics. Topics will include the timing of referrals to palliative care specialists and ways to discuss referrals with patients and their families. The differences between referrals for pediatric and adult patients will also be considered. The workshop is offered by the Education, Palliative Care, and Pediatrics Study Groups.

Workshop Chair: David Hui.

Communication Challenges in Geriatric Oncology: Perspectives of Patients, Family Caregivers, and Healthcare Professionals

The purpose of this workshop is to foster interdisciplinary learning and skills practice in the area of communication and quality of life with a focus on older patients and family caregivers. The workshop format will include interactive and experiential learning exercises, such as role playing, video triggers to facilitate group discussion, and demonstration of communication skills by expert facilitators. Several case studies will be discussed. These will focus on communication and strategies for improving the patient experience throughout the cancer trajectory. The workshop is offered jointly by the Geriatrics and Psychosocial Study Groups.

Workshop Chairs: Christopher Steer, Lidia Schiapira, Penny Schofield, Fran Boyle, Holly Holmes, Belinda Kiely.

Circadian Rhythms and Chronobiology in Cancer: Relationship to Cancer-related Fatigue and Other Toxicities

One of the most difficult challenges faced by both clinicians and researchers is that of understanding the mechanisms involved in the etiology of toxicities related to cancer and its treatment. A primary example of such a toxicity is fatigue. However, the task is particularly challenging when severe toxicities coexist and treatment options are not well defined. The goal of this workshop is to educate clinicians and researchers about potential mechanisms of toxicity, especially those that can give rise to multiple adverse events. Circadian phenomena have strong and direct implications for fatigue, sleep problems, delirium, pain, and other toxicities. A better understanding of the relationships involved will help clinicians choose treatments and will help researchers develop new and maximally effective therapies. The workshop is offered jointly by the following Study Groups: Fatigue; Palliative Care; Rehabilitation, Survivorship, and Quality of Life.

Workshop Chairs: Oxana Palesh and Diwakar Balachandran.

Financial Toxicity Among Cancer Survivors

Raymond Chan, Vice-Chair of MASCC's Study Group on Rehabilitation, Survivorship, and Quality of Life Study, was one of four authors of a recent systematic review of financial toxicity among cancer survivors.* The paper appears in *The Patient: Patient-Centered Outcomes Research* (available online, October 2016). Co-authors include lead author Louisa G. Gordon, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute in Brisbane, Australia, Katharina Merollini of Queensland, Australia, and Anthony Lowe of the Prostate Cancer Foundation Australia (Sydney).

The term "financial toxicity," which is rapidly gaining currency among cancer professionals, refers to the financial distress or hardship that results from cancer treatment — specifically for patients with high out-of-pocket medical expenses. Financial distress is known to have a great impact on quality of healthcare as well as quality of life. The subject will be the focus of a MASCC joint session with the Oncology Nursing Society at the 2017 MASCC/ISOO Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

The objectives of the review were to answer three main questions: What is the extent of financial toxicity among cancer survivors? How is it measured? What factors are associated with it? The resulting findings are based on 25 studies (drawn from 417 citations) published from January 1, 2013 to June 30, 2016. This limited focus was intended to provide the most up-to-date picture of financial toxicity in cancer patients and avoid overlap with a previous review on this topic (Azzani 2015). Studies reviewed included indices of financial toxicity in three categories: monetary, objective (tangible consequences of a shortage of money, such as increasing debt level, loans, etc.), and subjective (perceptual, psychological).

The studies reviewed included a total of 47 different measures of financial toxicity, and most used more than one such measure. Some studies also included the consequences of financial toxicity, including treatment non-adherence, changes in insurance coverage, changes in end-of-life care choices, and effects on quality of life.

A large number of cancer survivors experience some form of financial hardship, and they experience higher levels of financial toxicity than patients who do not have cancer but might have other chronic diseases. Up to 48% of patients in the studies reviewed reported financial toxicity in monetary terms, and up to 73% reported significant financial hardship when subjective indicators were taken into account. Among cancer patients, the most common determinants of financial toxicity were female gender, younger age, lower income, adjuvant therapies, and having a recent diagnosis.

The authors acknowledge that financial toxicity is a complex problem, but greater awareness and acknowledgement of it is one step toward finding solutions that will reduce its effects and optimize patient outcomes. Healthcare professionals, governments, patients, their families, and welfare providers all have a part to play. Key points for decision makers to consider include the following:

- Financial toxicity can affect a substantial number of patients with cancer, even those in universal healthcare systems or with health insurance.
- More recognition and research is needed on the dual problems of high out-of-pocket costs and reduced income as work participation declines following cancer.
- Patients and providers need to seek out information on costs and explore inexpensive options to minimize financial hardship.

The authors review the quality and limitation of research to date and specific needs for future research. While financial toxicity affects treatment adherence, the intersection of financial issues with other determinants of adherence is not well understood, and the long-term implications for health services are not known. In the future, more standardized tools, as well as prospective and longitudinal study designs, will improve our understanding of financial toxicity.

*Gordon LG, Merollini KMD, Lowe A, Chan RJ. A Systematic Review of Financial Toxicity Among Cancer Survivors: We Can't Pay the Co-Pay. *Patient* (2016). doi:10.1007/s40271-016-0204-x.



Second Annual Guildford Supportive Care in Cancer Course

Over 200 participants attended the 2nd Guildford Supportive Care in Cancer Course, November 9-10. Hosted by the Royal College of Physicians, London, the course was organized by the Andrew Davies and the Department of Supportive & Palliative Care at the Royal Surrey County Hospital (incorporating St. Luke's Cancer Centre). The focus of this year's course was metastatic bone disease and strategies for preventing and managing its development and progression. Other topics this year included symptom assessment, anemia, neutropenia, lymphedema, skin problems, psychological issues, diet, sleep, exercise, and complementary therapies. Speakers included specialists in clinical oncology, medical oncology, hemato-oncology, palliative medicine, orthopedic surgery, and allied health professionals. Andrew Davies reflected that, "the success of this year's course underscores the importance of supportive care in modern oncology and the unmet need for supportive care education the multidisciplinary care team." Plans are underway to hold a third course in 2017.



Course Organizer Andrew Davies

Did you know...?

Need Payment Verification for Your Membership or Renewal Dues?

When you joined MASCC (or renewed your membership), you received an email from mascc@memberclicks-mail.net. (If you don't see it, please check your junk mail and suspect mail folders). The email contains your member ID and payment information, including receipt date, receipt ID, transaction ID, and amount paid. You should be able to use this as payment verification.

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If you forget your MASCC website username or password, use the links beneath the Login button on the Login page to retrieve it. You will be asked to enter your email address. Your login information will be sent to you. If you have changed your email, since providing it to MASCC or do not know what email we have on file, contact Beth Hollen at bhollen@mascc.org.

REMINDER • Upcoming Conferences

December 2-3, 2016

The Regional Education Meeting on Supportive Care in Cancer Patients for Eastern European and Balkan Region

Belgrade, Serbia

<http://suppcare2016.fogg.rs>

March 23-25, 2017

NCCN 22nd Annual Conference Improving the Quality, Effectiveness, and Efficiency of Cancer Care

Orlando, Florida, USA

<https://www.nccn.org/professionals/meetings/>

New MASCC Members

MASCC welcomes the following new members who joined us in October!

Connie Alvarez-Haines, Canada
 Pricivel Carrera, The Netherlands
 Phichai Chansriwong, Thailand
 Penny Choi, Hong Kong
 Vittorio Fusco, Italy
 Shuwei Gao, United States
 Pere Gascon, Spain
 Margherita Gobbo, Italy
 Hans Peter Jungbluth, Germany
 Zge Keskin, Turkey
 Ryna Levy-Milne, Canada
 Kristine Eidal Tanem, Norway
 Walter Tsang, United States
 Masatoshi Usubuchi, Japan
 Eyal Zur, Israel

MASCC/ISOO
ANNUAL MEETING
 SUPPORTIVE CARE IN CANCER

22-24 June | Washington DC, USA

Save the Date!

2017
 SUPPORTIVE CARE
 MAKES EXCELLENT
 CANCER CARE POSSIBLE

Have any news items to share?

Please send contributions for the MASCC News to MASCCnews@mascc.org
 or to Toni Clark, Editor at tclark@mascc.org

For more information please contact: Åge Schultz, MASCC Executive Director: aschultz@mascc.org