



NEWS

In Partnership with ISOO • International Society of Oral Oncology

June 2017

Welcome to the June Issue of the MASCC Society News

We are all excited about the Annual Meeting in Washington, DC and hope to see you there! Note that the registration deadline is June 7th. The May issue of the Society News contains a sneak peek at the meeting to whet your appetite. In this month's issue, Ian Olver extends a welcome to the Annual Meeting and provides a snapshot view of MASCC from his perspective at halfway through his term as MASCC's President. We bring you news about upcoming supportive care meetings later this year. Also, we have a research highlight on gut microbiota in relation to cancer risk and treatment response, featuring the work of Hannah Wardill and Rachel Gibson. And we extend a warm welcome to all the new members who joined us in April!

All issues of the *MASCC Society News* are available online at www.mascc.org/society-news. 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

The focus for this month is clearly the Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. The meeting features an excellent and diverse scientific program with some topics new to MASCC meetings along with those that are more familiar. I am very grateful to Meeting Chair Rachel Gibson for her organizational expertise and to Kat Nehme for administrative and organizational support. Rachel and Kat have assembled an exciting program of topics and speakers and have worked with Kenes to ensure that delegates have a stimulating program, as well as many opportunities to network. The more senior members of MASCC are eager to engage with new members, so please introduce yourselves. I also acknowledge the innovative approach that Anna Boltong has taken to the Patient Seminar that will precede our meeting.

After the 2017 closing ceremony, our focus will become the 2018 meeting in Vienna, for which planning is already underway. MASCC plans to deliver another exciting meeting in a superb city.

For the past several months, a strategic planning team, comprising MASCC officers and leaders, has shared and discussed many ideas for the future of MASCC. Prior to the Washington meeting, we will meet to review prospects and directions. With a new Executive Director and Study Group Coordinator, now is an ideal time to embrace new directions that can strengthen MASCC, and we seek wide participation of our members in this process. I look forward to welcoming you and your research teams to Washington.

As I complete my first year as President, I remain impressed with the amount of effort from our staff and members on many fronts. As a multinational organization, MASCC involves complex financial and governance issues. Fred Ashbury, our journal Editor and liaison with Springer, leads the team in ensuring that the quality of our journal continues to improve. To date, 42 authors have volunteered to produce chapters for the second edition of the *MASCC Textbook of Cancer Supportive Care and Survivorship*. Our website is continually updated, and recent changes in the Society News ensure that information about our activities is timely and more widely disseminated to members. On top of that, we support the activities of our 16 Study Groups to help ensure their productivity. There is a lot more behind-the-scenes work not captured in this snapshot, but for all of it, I give thanks.

So, I feel like I am halfway through a marathon, but am thriving on the challenge to help all of you make MASCC the best that it can be.

~ Ian Olver



Ian Olver getting in shape for Washington

(Actually, this is a photo of Ian running the Greenbelt Half Marathon in Adelaide in preparation for the New York City Marathon in November.)

See You in Washington!

We're all looking forward to this year's Annual Meeting: MASCC/ISOO 2017! Join us in Washington, DC for an enticing program of workshops, plenary and parallel sessions, e-posters, and Study Group meetings. Find out about the latest research in supportive care, share your own ideas, and find opportunities to collaborate with experts from around the world. Enjoy leisure time with your colleagues, too. Dance the night away at this year's "MASCCUERADE Ball." And don't forget to take advantage of the many cultural opportunities and natural beauty that Washington has to offer.

Registration Deadline: June 7, 2017

REGISTER NOW!

2017 Annual Meeting Abstracts Available

Abstracts of the MASCC/ISOO 2017 Annual Meeting have been published by Springer and are now freely available as a PDF download via SpringerLink: *Support Care Cancer* (2017) 25 (Suppl 2):S21-S266. MASCC members can also access the supplement issue via mascc.org (log in and proceed to SCC Online Journal).

First Annual Treatment-Related Adverse Events Symposium: FOCUS ON MANAGEMENT

The First Annual Treatment-Related Adverse Events Symposium: Focus on Management will be held on Friday, October 27, 2017 in New York City. This CME course will take place at Zuckerman Research Center, 417 E 68th St, from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM. The Course Director is MASCC member Mario E. Lacouture, Director of the Oncodermatology Program at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Other MASCC members among the speakers are Kathryn Ciccolini and Efstathia Tzatha.



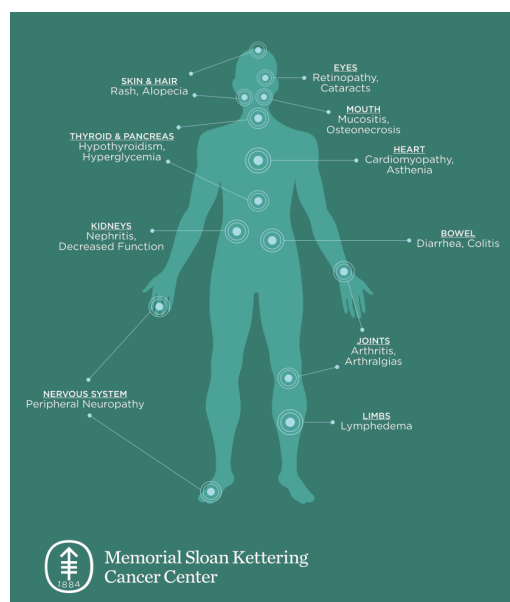
Mario E. Lacouture

In recent years, systemic anticancer therapies (cytotoxic chemotherapies, targeted therapies, immunotherapies), along with radiation and therapeutic implants, have resulted in remarkable improvements in survival of cancer patients. Despite the successes, the majority of patients develop toxicities of various organ systems, and these often have significant effects on overall health and activities of daily living. Such adverse effects can compromise the consistency of treatment and thus affect clinical outcomes. Thus, prevention and management of adverse events is critical for maximal therapeutic effect, as well as for optimal quality of life.

The course will focus on recognizing the impact of treatment-related adverse events on quality of life, clinical presentation, and grading, (2) understanding the mechanisms of acute and chronic adverse events, as well as interventions to prevent and treat them, and (3) discussion of procedures and clinical tools for assessing treatment-related toxicities in cancer patients. Specific toxicities to be addressed include cardiac, dermatologic, endocrine system, gastrointestinal, hematologic, neurological, ocular, renal, and rheumatologic. Other topics are hypersensitivity reactions, lymphedema, and exercise as treatment.

This course, available for 6.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits,TM is intended for physicians and other healthcare professionals in diverse areas of medical oncology — breast, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, gynecologic, head and neck, hematology, and neurological — as well as palliative medicine.

Early registration rate expires on August 1, 2017. Enter Promo Code **ADVEARLY** at registration. For further information, program brochure, and registration, to go <http://www.mskcc.org/AdverseEvents>.



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

Palliative and Supportive Care in Oncology Symposium

The 2017 Palliative and Supportive Care in Oncology Symposium will be held in San Diego, California, October 27-28. The abstract submission period is now open, as well as meeting registration. The Symposium promotes the integration of palliative care into oncology and offers an opportunity to present scientific research in support of this aim. This year's meeting features innovative models of oncology and palliative care integration, as well as numerous topics in symptom management, therapeutic management, and local interventions. The meeting's Program Committee includes MASCC members Eduardo Bruera, Petra Feyer, Allan Hovan, Thomas LeBlanc, Charles Loprinzi (Chair-Elect), Ian Olver, Eric Roeland, and Thomas J. Smith. Ourania Nicolatou-Galitis serves on the Steering Committee.

Abstract Submission Deadline is July 11 at 11:59 PM (EDT). Abstracts will be showcased through dedicated oral abstract sessions and all-day poster sessions, in addition to being published in a *Journal of Clinical Oncology* supplement.

For more information see <http://pallonc.org>.

SIOG

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY
OF GERIATRIC ONCOLOGY

Geriatric Oncology and Patient Care: The 2017 SIOG Annual Conference

The International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG) will hold its 2017 Annual Conference in Warsaw, Poland from November 9 to 11, 2017. The theme of this year's meeting is "From Research to Practice: Incorporating Geriatric Oncology into Patient Care." Geriatric oncology has been a rapidly growing field

over the past few years, with more and more information available about patient assessment and therapeutics. Incorporating this information into practice is a challenge for all oncologists. Conference sessions will emphasize ways to apply information gleaned from recent research to improve assessment and treatment.

The program will include multidisciplinary sessions on types of cancer, therapies, geriatric assessment, supportive care needs, and nursing education. The supportive care track will include the following topics: sarcopenia, cachexia, and nutrition; bone marrow toxicity; polypharmacy; palliative care; antiemetics; bone health; cognitive impairment and delirium management; neurotoxicity; mobility, ADLs and falls; fatigue; and psycho-oncology. Speakers include MASCC members Jervoise Andreyev, Paolo Bossi, Karis Cheng, Holly Holmes, Charles Kelly, Karen Mustian, Martine Puts, and Carla Ripamonti.

KEY DATES:

Abstract Submission Deadline: Thursday, June 8, 2017

Early Registration Deadline: Tuesday, June 20, 2017

Late Registration Deadline: Thursday, September 28, 2017

For more information, abstract submission, and registration: [SIOG 2017 Annual Conference](#).

The International Society of Geriatric Oncology, or Société Internationale d'Oncologie Gériatrique, is a multidisciplinary medical society of physicians in the fields of oncology and geriatrics, along with other allied health professionals. The Society has over 5,000 members in more than 75 countries around the world. Its goal is to foster the development of health professionals in geriatric oncology, in order to optimize treatment of older adults with cancer. Visit the Society's website for more information: www.siog.org.

Warsaw, Poland's largest city and capital, is an economic, political, and cultural center rebuilt from post-war rubble. It is the youngest European Old Town on the UNESCO list. The city of Chopin has a rich and unforgettable history and offers diverse cultural adventures — arts, museums, cathedrals, and entertainment, as well as historic buildings, shops, and cafés.



Supportive Care in Cancer Meeting

Belgrade, Serbia



The Second Regional Education Meeting on Supportive Care in Cancer Patients for Eastern Europe and the Balkan Region will be held in Belgrade, Serbia, from December 1-2, 2017, Falkensteiner Hotel, Belgrade, Serbia. Designed for medical oncologists who wish to improve their knowledge in supportive and palliative care, the meeting is supported by the Serbian Society for Medical Oncology, the Institute for Oncology and Radiology of Serbia, and MASCC, among other organizations. The Meeting Co-Chairs are Snežana Bošnjak, Dragana Jovanovic, and Matti Aapro. This year's topics include integrated models of supportive care, approaches to cancer pain, and management of cancer-induced nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, and other adverse effects of cancer and its treatment. Speakers include MASCC members Matti Aapro, Sam Ahmedzai, Jervoise Andreyev, Jeffrey Crawford, Jelena Dimitrijevic, Richard Gralla, Jørn Herrstedt, Carla Ripamonti, Fausto Roila, Andrea Skripekova, Miroslav Tomiska, Athina Vadalouca, and Ana Zilic.

Over 150 participants and lecturers, representing 21 countries, attended the First Regional Education Meeting, held in December 2016. The meeting promoted supportive care as an integral part of comprehensive cancer care and focused on facilitating the implementation of supportive care guidelines in routine practice. Topics also covered prevention and management of the major adverse effects of cancer and its treatment. See the February 2016 issue of the *MASCC Society News* for a report on the 2016 meeting.

For further information, contact suppcarebgd2017@fogg.rs. For registration: <http://supportivecare.fogg.rs>



June 4th is Cancer Survivors Day

Visit: www.ncsd.org

Cancer Survivors Day® is celebrated around the world each year on the first Sunday in June to honor cancer survivors, celebrate milestones, and show that life after a cancer diagnosis can be productive and rewarding. Created by the National Cancer Survivors Day® Foundation in the United States in 1988, the observance has gained global recognition and the NCSDF Foundation is working to involve many other countries. NCSDF is a day to draw attention to the ongoing challenges that face cancer survivors and to promote research, legislation, and resources that can improve survivors' quality of life. The nonprofit NCSDF Foundation provides free guidance, education, and networking to hundreds of hospitals, support groups, and other cancer-related organizations that host NCSDF events in their communities.

Gut Microbiota, Cancer Risk, and Treatment Response

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT

The human microbiota (microbiome) is an ensemble of trillions of bacteria and other microorganisms (archaea, fungi, protozoa, and viruses) that inhabit the epithelial barrier surfaces of the body. It has become increasingly clear that the microorganisms that live in the gut play a role in health and disease. Data now suggest that alterations in intestinal ecology can disrupt the balance of commensal and pathogenic bacteria, which in turn drives disease processes.

The microbiome is important for health and survival and affects numerous physiologic functions, with both local and systemic effects — from maintaining epithelial barrier homeostasis to regulating metabolism, neurological and cognitive function, hematopoiesis, inflammation, and immunity. It is also involved in the initiation, progression, and dissemination of cancer, both at epithelial barriers and in sterile tissues. Recent research¹ has shown that microbiota, especially in the gut, modulate the response to cancer treatment (chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and immunotherapy) and susceptibility to toxic adverse events. *Continued.*



continued... Recently, MASCC members Hannah Wardill and Rachel Gibson published an article in *The Conversation*² about how gut bacteria affect both cancer risk and response to treatment. The gut bacteria and the immune system are closely linked and in constant communication. This symbiotic and bi-directional relationship modulates each system and characterizes the link between the host and its resident microbes. Preclinical data show that mice with a decreased level of anti-inflammatory cytokines have higher levels of harmful gut bacteria and a greater susceptibility to bowel cancer. Moreover, when the gut microbiota of healthy mice is altered by the introduction of such harmful bacteria, their rate of bowel cancer increases. Most important, this risk is mitigated following fecal transfer from healthy donors. This relationship has its parallels in humans. A recent human study showed that long-term use of antibiotics, known to change the composition of gut microbiota, was associated with an increased risk of bowel cancer.

In their research, Wardill, Gibson, and their coworkers have found that high levels of the pathogenic bacterial phylogeny *Proteobacteria* (associated with dysbiosis and disease risk) in the gut prior to chemotherapy resulted in worse diarrhea and exacerbated weight loss in mice. These findings are consistent with evidence from human trials showing that patients' levels of pathogenic gut bacteria before they start cancer treatment is predictive of their likelihood of developing diarrhea. Similar findings have also been shown in patients treated with radiation therapy.

Hannah, Rachel, and their coauthors will present two abstracts at the 2017 MASCC Annual Meeting in June, summarizing some of their recent research — one study on humans³ and one on mice,⁴ undertaken to provide information about the mechanisms of chemotherapy-induced gut toxicity.

The first study, involving 10 patients with functional gut disorders, shows that dysbiotic fecal samples impair epithelial barrier integrity and directly activate mucosal afferent nerves suggesting a causative role in the generation of gastrointestinal symptoms. A second study on mice was conducted to determine the impact of gut microbiome composition on symptom generation in a preclinical model of irinotecan-induced gastrointestinal toxicity. The results showed that differential gut microbiome compositions were associated with altered gastrointestinal toxicity profiles following treatment with irinotecan. Taken together, these studies suggest that the gut microbiome plays a significant role in cancer therapy-induced gut dysfunction and shows a promising direction for future research.

This work is still in its infancy, and researchers are working to identify the specific bacteria critical to an optimal therapeutic response. The next challenge will be one of how to favorably modify a patient's gut bacteria to reduce the side effects of chemotherapy and improve chances of remission. Possibilities include fecal transfer, probiotics, and possibly diet. Increased understanding of the gut microbiota offers the potential to improve cancer treatment while reducing toxicity and represents a new frontier in precision and personalized medicine. Eventually, it is hoped that microbiota composition can serve as a biomarker, a diagnostic tool, and perhaps a therapeutic target.

¹Roy S and Trinchieri G. Microbiota: A key orchestrator of cancer therapy. *Nat Rev Cancer*. 2017 May;17(5): 271-285.

²Wardill H and Gibson R. How our gut bacteria affect cancer risk and response to treatment. *The Conversation*. May 10, 2017. <http://theconversation.com>.

³Wardill H, Gibson R, Van Sebille Y, Campaniello M, Dmochowska N, Mavrangelos C, Hughes P, Bowen J. Dysbiotic faecal supernatants disrupt colonic epithelial barrier function and increase colorectal afferent nerve excitation: A new mechanistic understanding for chemotherapy-induced gut toxicity.

⁴Wardill H, Gibson R, Van Sebille Y, Bowen J. Differential gut microbiome profiles produce altered gastrointestinal symptoms following chemotherapy: Does this point to a new predictive marker?



Hannah Rose Wardill, PhD, is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI), University of Adelaide. Her primary research focus is cancer treatment-related gut toxicity. A member of MASCC's Mucositis Study Group, she is currently section Co-Chair of the Study Group's update of the Mucositis Guidelines. Hannah is a 2016 recipient of MASCC's Young Investigator Award.



Rachel Jane Gibson, PhD, is Professor and Academic Dean, Division of Health Sciences at the University of South Australia. Her research has focused on the underlying pathogenesis of gut toxicity following chemotherapy. She is the current Section Co-Editor of Gastrointestinal Symptoms for the journal *Current Opinion in Palliative and Supportive Care*. Rachel is the Chair of this year's Annual Meeting.



MASCC Members at Large

Petra Feyer and Petra Ortner at the Biannual Congress of Supportive Therapy and Rehabilitation in Cancer, held in Munich this past March. See our report in the May 2017 issue of the MASCC Society News.

UPCOMING CONFERENCE REMINDERS

June 16-17, 2017

2nd Sapporo Conference for Palliative & Supportive Care in Cancer
Sapporo, Japan

<http://www.sapporoconference.com/en/index.html>

June 22-24, 2017

MASCC/ISOO Annual Meeting on Supportive Care in Cancer
Washington, DC USA

<http://www.mascc.org/meeting>

June 28 - July 1, 2017

SIOG 2017 Advanced Course

Treviso, Italy

<http://siog.org/content/siog-2017-advanced-course-treviso-italy>

July 9-12, 2017

International Conference on Cancer Nursing (ICCN) 2017

Anaheim, California, USA

<http://www.isncc.org/?page=Conference>

September 8 - 12, 2017

ESMO - European Society for Medical Oncology, 2017 Congress

Integrating Science into Oncology for a Better Patient Outcome
Madrid, Spain

<http://www.esmo.org/Conferences/ESMO-2017-Congress>

September 13-14, 2017

Cancer Nursing Congress

International Conference on Oncology Nursing & Cancer Care
Singapore

<http://cancer.nursingconference.com/>

October 20-21, 2017

Hellenic Society of Head and Neck Cancer & the 6th Day of Oral Oncology

Athens, Greece

<http://www.headneckcancer.gr/>

October 27, 2017

First Annual Treatment-Related Adverse Events Symposium: Focus on Management

417 East 68th St, New York, NY

www.mskcc.org/AdverseEvents

October 27-28, 2017

Palliative and Supportive Care in Oncology Symposium

San Diego, California

<http://pallonc.org>

November 9 - 11, 2017

SIOG 2017 Annual Conference

Warsaw, Poland

<http://siog.org/content/siog-2017-annual-conference-0>

December 1-2, 2017

Second Regional Educational Meeting

on Supportive Care in Cancer Patients for Eastern Europe and the Balkan Region

Belgrade, Serbia

suppcarebgd2017@fogg.rs

MASCC welcomes the new members who joined us in March!

Mary Lou Affronti, United States

Karlynn BrintzenhofeSzoc, United States

Claire Burke, United States

Emily Castellanos, United States

Juhee Cho, Republic of Korea

Richard Cohn, Australia

Jessica Engle, United States

Kareem Fakhoury, United States

Georgia Halkett, Australia

Hironobu Hashimoto, Japan

David Henry, United States

Lara Maria Innocentini, Brazil

Hiroshi Ishiguro, Japan

Jae Yong Jeon, Republic of Korea

Po-Ju Lin, United States

Bronwen Mayo, Australia

Jacqueline Mays, United States

Christine Moon, Canada

Lakshmanan SakthiKumar, India

Kwan Sik Seo, Republic of Korea

Nikolaos Tsoukalas, Greece

Antonio Vigano, Canada

Christina M. Wilson, United States

Future MASCC Meetings

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

& watch for more news about future MASCC/ISOO Annual Meetings!

June 28-30, 2018 - Vienna, Austria*

June 21-23, 2019 - San Francisco, California, USA

June, TBA, 2020 - Seville, Spain

**Please Note: Our April issue carried incorrect dates for the 2018 meeting.*

Have any news items to share? Please send contributions to MASCCnews@mascc.org.


2017
22-24 JUNE



MASCC/ISOO
ANNUAL MEETING ON
SUPPORTIVE CARE IN CANCER
WASHINGTON, DC USA
SEE YOU THERE!