



NEWS

In Partnership with ISOO • International Society of Oral Oncology

November 2015

Welcome to the November Issue of the Society News

Message from the Editor, Toni Clark

This month we are pleased to announce the US FDA approval of rolapitant for delayed CINV. We bring you news about MASCC members Christine Miaskowski and Cesar Migliorati. We have a Profile of the Respiratory Study Group and a Research Highlight featuring the work of MASCC members Alex Chan, Ray Chan, and Alexandra McCarthy. We also have an updated list of all of our Study Group Chairs and Vice-Chairs. This month we welcome 18 new members who joined us in August.

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

FDA Approves Rolapitant for Chemotherapy-Induced Nausea and Vomiting

On September 2, 2015, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved rolapitant (Varubi™) for the prevention of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting (CINV). Rolapitant, developed by Tesaro, Inc., is a selective and competitive neurokinin 1 (NK-1) receptor antagonist and is relatively long-acting with a half-life of about 7 days). The approval was based on three phase III clinical trials conducted by a research team that included MASCC members Bernardo Rapoport, Martin Chasen, Allen Poma, Lee Schwartzberg, and Rudolph Navari. These randomized, double-blind, controlled trials established the safety and efficacy of rolapitant. The drug was associated with a significant reduction in vomiting and use of rescue antiemetic drugs. Patients treated with rolapitant also reported both fewer episodes of nausea that interfered with their day-to-day life.

Currently, up to 50% of patients undergoing highly or moderately emetogenic chemotherapy experience delayed CINV (25 to 120 hours after chemotherapy), even when taking a 5-HT₃ receptor antagonist and corticosteroid. Since rolapitant is neither an inducer nor inhibitor of the metabolic enzyme CYP3A4, it is less likely to interact with other drugs, especially chemotherapy that is metabolized by CYP3A4. Rolapitant is the third NK1 receptor antagonist (after netupitant and aprepitant), a class of drugs important in controlling debilitating nausea and vomiting in chemotherapy patients. The results of the phase III trials were reported at the 2014 MASCC/ISOO Annual Meeting and in the following papers.

Rapoport BL, Chasen MR, Gridelli C, Urban L, Modiano MR, Schnadig ID, Poma A, Arora S, Kansra V, Schwartzberg LS, Navari RM. Safety and efficacy of rolapitant for prevention of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting after administration of cisplatin-based highly emetogenic chemotherapy in patients with cancer: two randomised, active-controlled, double-blind, phase 3 trials. *Lancet Oncol.* 2015, Aug 10. [Epub ahead of print]

Schwartzberg LS, Modiano MR, Rapoport BL, Chasen MR, Gridelli C, Urban L, Poma A, Arora S, Navari RM, Schnadig ID. Safety and efficacy of rolapitant for prevention of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting after administration of moderately emetogenic chemotherapy or anthracycline and cyclophosphamide regimens in patients with cancer: a randomised, active-controlled, double-blind, phase 3 trial. *Lancet Oncol.* 2015, Aug 10. [Epub ahead of print]

Cancer Therapy and Osteonecrosis of the Jaw

A presentation by Cesar Migliorati at the 2015 MASCC/ISOO meeting was the subject of a feature in the August *ASCO Post*. Cesar discussed the risks of this condition in the setting of cancer chemotherapy. He pointed out that there are now several chemotherapy agents associated with it. Cesar reviewed common myths about osteonecrosis of the jaw and presented useful information on symptom recognition, risk factors, and treatment approaches. You can read the full article in Volume 6, Issue 15, of the *ASCO Post*: [Dispelling the Myths Associated With Osteonecrosis of the Jaw](#), by Meg Barbor.



Christine Miaskowski Inducted into International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame

MASCC member Christine Miaskowski, PhD, RN, FAAN, was one of 19 nurse researchers inducted this year into the International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame by the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI). The ceremony took place on July 25th at STTI's 26th International Nursing Research Congress in Puerto Rico. The International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame recognizes nurse researchers who have achieved significant and sustained national or international recognition and whose research has improved the profession and the people it serves.

Christine is a Professor in the Department of Physiological Nursing at the University of California, San Francisco, where she holds the Sharon A. Lamb Endowed Chair in Symptom Management Research and is an American Cancer Society Clinical Research Professor. An internationally recognized expert on pain and symptom management, she has secured millions of dollars in funding from the US National Institutes of Health and has authored more than 450 publications.

Christine is a member of MASCC's Fatigue, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care Study Groups. At the 2015 MASCC/ISOO Annual Meeting, she presented a paper titled, "Comparison of Upper and Lower Extremity Characterization of Chemotherapy-Induced Neuropathy Using Patient-Reported Outcome Measures." Her current research interests include the identification of phenotypic and molecular characteristics that predict increased risk for a higher symptom burden in patients with cancer.



Study Group Leadership Update

As of June 2015, there are several changes in MASCC Study Group Chairs and Vice-Chairs. Appointments are made (for 3-year terms) by the MASCC President and Executive Committee and are based on recommendations from Study Group leaders. All of the current positions are listed below. Don't forget to visit your Study Groups on the MASCC website (<http://www.mascc.org/study-groups>) to see recent meeting minutes, announcements, activities, and publications. From each Study Group page, you can also contact your Study Group leaders.

Antiemetics

Chair: Matti Aapro, MD (maapro@genolier.net) - Switzerland
 Vice-Chair: Bernardo Rapaport, MD (brapaport@icon.co.za) - South Africa
 Vice-Chair: Rita Wickham PhD, RN, AOCN (rita_wickham@yahoo.com) - USA

Bone

Chair: Ourania Nicolatou-Galitis, DDS (nicolatou.galitis@hotmail.com) - Greece
 Vice-Chair: Winston Tan, MD (Tan.winston@mayo.edu) - USA
 Vice-Chair: Beatrice Edwards, MD (BEwards@MDAnderson.org) - USA

Education

Chair: Paz Fernández Ortega, RN, MsC, PhD (mpax2001@yahoo.es) - Spain
 Vice-Chair: Manon Lemonde, PhD, RN (manon.lemonde@uoit.ca) - Canada
 Vice-Chair: Judy Phillips, DNP, FNP-BC, AOCN (jppdap@msn.com) - USA

Fatigue

Chair: Karen Mustian, PhD (Karen_mustian@urmc.rochester.edu) - USA
 Vice-Chair: To be announced

Geriatrics

Chair: Christopher Steer, MBBS, FRACP (csteer@bordermedonc.com.au) - Australia
 Vice-Chair: Holly Holmes, MD (holly.m.holmes@gmail.com) - USA

Hemostasis

Chair: Jakica Tancabelic, MD, FAA (jtancabe@stormontvail.org) - USA
 Vice-Chair: Rekha Paramewaran, MD (paramesr@mskcc.org) - USA
 Vice-Chair: Carme Font, MD (cfont@clinic.ub.es) - Spain

Mucositis

Chair: Sharon Elad, DMD MSc (Selad@urmc.rochester.edu) - USA
 Vice-Chair: Paolo Bossi, MD (Paolo.Bossi@institutotumori.mi.it) - Italy
 Vice-Chair: Cheng Kin Fong Karis, PhD, RN (karis_cheng@nuhs.edu.sg) - Singapore

Neurological Complications

Vice-Chair: Alex Chan, PharmD (phaac@nus.edu.sg) - Singapore
 Vice-Chair: Deirdre Pachman, MD (Pachman.deirdre@mayo.edu) - USA
 Vice-Chair: Lise Eckhoff, MD (lise.eckhoff@rsyd.dk) - Denmark

Neutropenia, Infection & Myelosuppression

Chair: Bernardo Rapaport, MD (brapaport@icon.co.za) - South Africa
 Vice-Chair: Jean Klastersky, MD (jean.klastersky@bordet.be) - Belgium

Nutrition

Chair: Liz Isenring, PhD (e.isenring@uq.edu.au) - Australia
 Vice-Chair: Florian Strasser, MD, ABHPM (fstrasser@bluewin.ch) - Switzerland

Oral Care

Chair: Deborah P. Saunders, BSc, DMD (dsaunders@hnsudbury.ca) - Canada
 Vice-Chair: Siri Beier Jensen, DDS, PhD (sirib@sund.ku.dk) - Denmark

Palliative Care

Chair: David Hui, MD (dhui@mdanderson.org) - USA
 Vice-Chair: Mellar Davis, MD, FCCP (davis6@ccf.org) - USA
 Vice-Chair: Andrew Davies, MD (adavies12@nhs.net) - UK

Pediatrics

Chair: Marianne van de Wetering, PhD, FCP(SA) MMed(SA) (m.d.vandewetering@amc.uva.nl) - The Netherlands
 Vice-Chair: Faith Gibson, PhD, RN (gibsof@gosh.nhs.uk) - UK
 Vice-Chair: Wim Tissing, MD, PhD (w.j.e.tissing@bkk.umcg.nl) - Netherlands

Psychosocial

Chair: Lidia Schapira, MD (lschapira@partners.org) - USA
 Vice-Chair: Penelope Schofield, PhD (pschofield@swin.edu.au) - Australia

Rehabilitation, Survivorship & Quality of Life

Chair: Irma Verdonck-de Leeuw, PhD (IM.Verdonck@vumc.nl) - The Netherlands
 Vice-Chair: Paul B. Jacobsen, PhD (paul.jacobsen@moffitt.org) - USA
 Vice-Chair: Francisco Luis Pimentel, MD (fpimentel@ua.pt) - Portugal

Respiratory

Chair: Sam Ahmedzai, MD (s.ahmedzai@sheffield.ac.uk) - UK
 Vice-Chair: Wojciech Leppert, MD (wojciechleppert@wp.pl) - Poland

Skin Toxicities

Chair: Jane Bryce, M.S.N. (jane.bryce@usc-intnapoli.net) - Italy
 Vice-Chair: Jennifer Choi, MD (Jennifer.choi@yale.edu) - USA
 Vice-Chair: Mario E Lacouture, MD (lacoutureM@mskcc.org) - USA

Profile: The MASCC Respiratory Study Group



Sam Ahmedzai

The MASCC Respiratory Study Group was formed in 2013 with a goal of promoting research and collaboration toward the improved clinical management of respiratory effects of cancer and its treatments. The Study Group is led by Sam H. Ahmedzai, BSc, MBChB, MRCP, FRCPS, FRCP, Chair, and Wojciech Leppert, MD, Vice-Chair.

With clinical training in both oncology and respiratory medicine, Sam Ahmedzai is Emeritus Professor of Palliative Medicine and Head of the Academic Unit of Supportive Care in the Department of Oncology at the University of Sheffield, UK. He established the first UK palliative care research program at the Leicestershire Hospice, where he previously served as Medical Director. He led the Adult Cancer Survivorship program in Sheffield, initiated the Science Committee of the Association for Palliative Medicine, and has been an advocate of both patient and public involvement in cancer research. Sam also led the EORTC Quality Of Life Group, which produced the EORTC QLQ-C30, the world's leading tool for measuring quality of life in cancer. He chairs the committee that is producing the NICE guidance on end of life care for adults in the UK and also leads the National Cancer Research Institute's (NCRI) Clinical Studies Group on Supportive and Palliative Care. Sam is currently Editor-in-Chief of *Current Opinion in Supportive and Palliative Care* and of the Oxford University Press textbook series in Supportive Care.

Sam has been a member of MASCC for many years and was honored in 2014 to host a special symposium on supportive care of cancer at the UK NCRI annual conference. The keynote speakers were the first MASCC President, Jean Klastersky, and the Immediate Past President, Dorothy Keefe. Perhaps as a result of this publicity for supportive care in the UK cancer scene, the 2015 MASCC conference in Copenhagen had the largest British contingent ever!

Wojciech Leppert is Assistant Professor and Chair of the Department of Palliative Medicine at Poznan University of Medical Sciences in Poland, where he teaches palliative medicine and supportive care to medical and nursing students. He is also involved in patient care at a home hospice, an outpatient clinic, a day-care center, and in an inpatient palliative care unit. Wojciech's research interests include chronic and acute cancer pain management with a focus on opioids, palliative care for patients with lung cancer, gastrointestinal symptoms, quality of life assessment in palliative care patients, and ethical problems in palliative care. Wojciech has collaborated with Sam on producing and validating a holistic needs assessment screening tool, SPARC, with a Polish language version.

The Study Group has identified the production of evidence-based guidelines as a high priority for cancer care and has made progress toward developing such a guideline for the management of dyspnea in cancer patients. Dyspnea (breathlessness) is one of the most common symptoms among people with cancer, and it occurs at all stages of the disease. It can be a result of cancer, itself, or an adverse effect of cancer treatments.

The first goal of the Study Group is to clarify and make recommendations regarding the use of opioids to treat dyspnea. The group has conducted a literature review of publications pertaining to the use of opioids to manage dyspnea in cancer patients and in palliative care. This resulted in a total of 35 papers, but few of these are of sufficient quality to support a guideline. The Respiratory Study Group plans to use the information gleaned, along with expert consensus, to produce a position paper on the management of dyspnea in the context of cancer care. Other projects of the Study Group will include measurement of dyspnea, management of cough, pleural effusion, and pulmonary toxicities of cancer treatment.

The Study Group's work to date was summarized in a paper by Sam Ahmedzai, along with M. McGregor, and R. Theobald, and was presented at the MASCC/ISOO Annual Meeting in Copenhagen this past June.*

*S.H. Ahmedzai, M. McGregor, R. Theobald. Developing an Evidence-Based Guideline for Management of Dyspnea in Cancer Patients: Description of a MASCC Respiratory Study Group Task. Academic Unit of Supportive Care, The University of Sheffield, Sheffield, United Kingdom.



Wojciech Leppert



National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization

November is National (US) Hospice and Palliative Care Month

November is National Hospice and Palliative Care Month in the US. The observance is sponsored by the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO), which is the largest nonprofit membership organization representing hospice and palliative care programs and professionals in the US. Its mission is to lead and mobilize social change for improved care at the end of life. This year's theme is "Hospice. Helps. Everyone." The organization provides its members with numerous resources and free materials to be used in outreach activities. For more information, visit NHPCO's website: <http://www.nhpc.org/resources/outreach-tools>.

World Cancer Day 2016-2018 Campaign Launch

The 2016-2018 World Cancer Day campaign was officially launched on September 4, 2015 with the theme, "We Can. I Can." Numerous members, partners, stakeholders, and supporters participated in the launch webinar, which introduced the campaign theme, presented the new 3-year structure and objectives, and provided tips on how to participate. Campaign posters, launch slides, and a replay of the launch presentation are available from worldcancerday.org.



Managing Cognitive Changes After Chemotherapy

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT

Changes in cognitive function are often reported as a result of chemotherapy and are especially common among women being treated for breast cancer. Memory problems are common, as well as impairments in information processing speed, multitasking, language skills (such as word-finding), attention, and concentration. The prevalence of such changes in cognitive function can range from 16% to 75% during treatment. And these adverse effects, which often persist for many years after treatment is finished, have serious consequences for both function and quality of life.

Earlier this year, a research team including MASCC members Alex Chan, Ray Chan, and Alexandra McCarthy published a systematic review of pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic interventions for managing cognitive changes after chemotherapy for breast cancer. The review covers 15 years of randomized controlled trials representing 1,136 participants. Pharmacologic interventions included psychostimulants (such as d-methylphenidate, methylphenidate, and modafinil), epoetin alfa, and Ginkgo biloba. Non-pharmacologic methods were cognitive training and physical activity. Cognitive strategies that resulted in improvement included training in memory improvement, processing speed, and executive functions (memory, cognitive flexibility, multitasking, planning, attention). Some other interventions, such as meditation and cognitive behavior therapy for stress management, did not improve cognitive function.

On average, pharmacologic agents were not effective (except for self-reported function in one study). Cognitive training led to benefits in cognitive function, memory, verbal function, language, and orientation or attention. Physical activity interventions were found effective for improving executive function and self-reported concentration.

Cognitive training and physical activity both appear to be superior to pharmacological management of cognitive changes associated with breast cancer chemotherapy. The authors discuss limitations of research to date and suggest directions for future studies. Well-designed clinical studies of cognitive management strategies are needed to improve both function and quality of life of women being treated for breast cancer.

The free full text of this study is available from the *European Journal of Cancer*:

[http://www.ejccancer.com/article/S0959-8049\(15\)00006-4/fulltext](http://www.ejccancer.com/article/S0959-8049(15)00006-4/fulltext)

Or via ScienceDirect: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0959804915000064>

Source: Chan RJ, McCarthy AL, Devenish J, Sullivan KA, and Chan A. Systematic review of pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic interventions to manage cognitive alterations after chemotherapy for breast cancer. *Eur J Cancer*. 2015 Mar;51(4):437-50.

New MASCC Members

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

Noor Al-Dasooqi, Australia
Claude Boiron, France
Janet Ely, United States
Saadia Faiz, United States
Seiji Hattori, Japan
Kunal Jain, India

Christoffer Johansen, Denmark
Geeta Joshi, India
David Krisky, United States
Andrezej Kudelka, United States
Franziska Kuehne, Germany
Yoshiharu Motoo, Japan

Helen O'Sullivan, United States
Philip Odiyo Ouma, Nigeria
Mary Pfeifer, United States
Kuldeep Sharma, India
Kathleen Smalky, United States
Grace Yang, Singapore

Australia

**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

MASCC/ISOO
ANNUAL MEETING ON
SUPPORTIVE CARE IN CANCER
Adelaide, Australia | 23-25 June, 2016



Join us in celebration of our 25th Anniversary!

To register for updates on Adelaide, go to: <http://www.mascc.org/meeting> and enter your email!

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