Message from the Editorial Team

Message from Anna Ugalde and Anna Boltong

Welcome to another edition of the MASCC Society News. This month we are delighted to bring you some news from the successful MASCC meeting in Berlin, which was extremely well attended with over 1300 delegates, representing some 70 countries and presenting over 830 abstracts. We showcase the award winners for the 2013 meeting, and in the next edition, we’ll have stories from interviews with some of our winners. Also, in this issue we profile a session at the MASCC Annual Meeting on Digital Guidelines in Supportive Care in Cancer, which was presented by Professor Ian Olver from Australia. We have also included an interesting story on a nutrition program for cancer survivors being run at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre in Toronto and a discussion of a recently published article on a survey on spirituality care involving MASCC members. We hope you enjoy perusing the list of publications by and relevant to MASCC members. Last (but by no means least!), we’d like to get you thinking about Miami, Florida – where the next MASCC/ISOO International Symposium for Supportive Care in Cancer will be held, on the June 26th-28th, 2014!

From the editors, Anna & Anna

Highlights from the 2013 MASCC/ISOO International Symposium

The 2013 MASCC/ISOO Meeting highlights include:

- 1300 + Delegates from more than 70 countries
- 830 + peer-reviewed Abstracts
- 80 + International Speakers
- 16 Parallel Sessions
- 5 Workshops
- 7 Satellite Symposia
- 5 Plenary Sessions
- 5 Oral Presentations Poster Sessions
- 3 ISOO Courses Accreditation

Symposium photographs are available for download at: www.mascc.org/symposium-photo-gallery
2013 Distinguished Service Award - Declan Walsh, MD, MSc, FACP, FRCP

The MASCC Distinguished Service Award recognizes meritorious service and outstanding contribution to the society and its mission. This award is reserved for those with the highest levels of support to the society and unparalleled contributions to the society’s mission. Each year, the winner receives the award at the annual MASCC Symposium. This year, Declan Walsh (Cleveland Clinic Cancer Centre) was the recipient of this award. Declan’s major research interests lie in the clinical syndromes common in advanced cancer and the clinical pharmacology of symptom control. He has authored over 600 papers, abstracts and chapters.

2013 Outstanding Young Investigator - Michelle Janelsins

Ten awards for outstanding abstracts submitted by Young Investigators were announced during the MASCC/ISOO 2013 International Symposium on Supportive Care in Cancer, Berlin, Germany. Successful applicants are less than 40 years of age and their abstracts ranked in the top 20% of all accepted abstracts. This year, Michelle Janelsins from the University of Rochester, USA was awarded the Outstanding Young Investigator Award for her abstract: YOGAS® YOGA: Improved Memory and Memory-Medicated Improvements in Fatigue and Quality of Life (QOL) in a Nationwide PHASE III RCT.

Congratulations to the 2013 Young Investigator Award winners:
Yin Ting Cheung (Singapore), Gillian Bedard (Canada), Raymond Jang (Canada), Michael Poon (Canada), Yun-Chi Hung (Australia), Leanne Kolnick (USA), Kirsten Wentlandt (Canada), Yi Ling Teo (Singapore) and Lei Sima (China).

2013 Cynthia N. Rittenberg Travel Scholarship - David Makumi

A number of travel scholarships are awarded to applicants from developing countries to help cover travel expenses to attend the MASCC meeting. The highest ranking nurse applicant is awarded the Cynthia N. Rittenberg Travel Scholarship. Congratulations to David Makumi from Kenya, who is the 2013 Rittenberg Travel Scholarship recipient.

Congratulations to all the successful travel scholarship winners:
Csaba Dogi (Romania), Aneta Dimitrovska (Macedonia), Tahir Mehmood (Pakistan), Pamela Were (Kenya), John Were (Kenya), Natalia Carafizi (Rep of Moldova), Clare Manicom (South Africa ), Narges Mirjalili (Iran), Andrew Olanganju (Nigeria), Manoj Kumar Behera (India), P.S. Sethaeshkumar (India), Mukelabai Mukelabai (Zambia), Luciana Ramadas (Brazil).
Digital Guidelines and Supportive Care in Cancer: Presentation at MASCC

In a session on Guidelines and Supportive Care in Cancer at the recent MASCC meeting in Berlin, Professor Ian Olver (Australia) presented an evaluation of the digital clinical practice guidelines project at Cancer Council Australia. He noted a key problem with print guidelines is that they rapidly become out-dated and they are difficult to disseminate widely. The Cancer Council’s solution was to develop and trial an internet based wiki platform that opens up guidelines to an international audience for review, comment and update. All of the steps of guideline development were similar to published print guidelines: identifying questions, searching and appraising relevant literature, formulating evidence-based recommendations and reporting the strength of the evidence. In the Wiki Platform approach, only the guideline developers can change a guideline, but experts and the public can comment at any time to which the guideline writers respond. As new papers become available they are posted on the wiki and the guideline authors decide whether the recommendations need altering. This approach allows wiki guidelines to be regularly updated.

The lung cancer guidelines were tested using this approach. Results showed that both clinicians and the public readily engage with the wiki guidelines. The next step is to include an education module with the guidelines. Further results will be presented in a plenary at the Guidelines International Conference in San Francisco, 18th – 21st August, 2013.

The ELLICSR Kitchen Culinary Nutrition Program for Cancer Survivors

The ELLICSR Centre for Health, Wellness and Cancer Survivorship at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre in Toronto, Canada, brings cancer survivors, clinicians, educators and researchers together to develop, test and evaluate innovative self-management strategies for improved health and wellness and to generate new knowledge in cancer survivorship.

The ELLICSR Kitchen is a culinary nutrition program established to support people touched by cancer. It employs education, skills training and support to promote nutrition self-management behaviors. The ELLICSR teaching kitchen is a dynamic facility equipped for cooking demonstrations for large groups of up to 40 people or specialized hands-on workshops for smaller groups. The program conducts culinary nutrition research and develops tools and resources to empower cancer survivors and their families to manage cancer-related symptoms and side effects using dietary strategies, and to maximize nutrient intake by increasing the frequency and quality of at-home meal preparation. The recipe development process and registered dietitian and wellness chef model were informed by research from an innovative, interactive cooking and nutrition intervention for colorectal cancer survivors conducted at ELLICSR that brought together a multidisciplinary team including a chef, dietitian, food scientist and health researcher. A program evaluation of weekly wellness cooking classes indicated that 94% of participants intended to prepare healthier meals and 97% intended to incorporate recipes from the class into their diet. Ongoing research includes evaluating nutrition self-management interventions to ameliorate treatment side effects.

New content is generated weekly on the program’s virtual home, [www.ellicskitchen.ca](http://www.ellicskitchen.ca), where anyone can go to find recipes, nutritional information, watch live and archived cooking demonstrations, connect with the ELLICSR Kitchen team, and other people interested in healthy eating via various social media platforms. The ELLICSR Kitchen team can also be followed on Facebook and twitter.

MASCC Member Survey in the Literature

MASCC members recently participated in a survey that has been published on beliefs about spiritual care. Published in the June edition of Supportive Care in Cancer, the authors aimed to gain a perspective of physicians’ understanding of spiritual care needs in patients and to identify opportunities to improve the approach to and delivery of spiritual care. Interestingly, the majority of the 271 responders from 41 countries reported that spiritual care plays an important role in the total care of cancer patients, but few members indicated their institutions actually provide spiritual care. This manuscript discusses important implications for development of spiritual care guidelines and training for MASCC members. For the full manuscript, please refer to the June 2013 issue of Supportive Care in Cancer: Ramondetta LM, Sun C, Sarbone A, Olver I, Ripamonti C, Konishi T, Baider L, Johnson J. Surprising results regarding MASCC members’ beliefs about spiritual care. Support Care Cancer. 2013 Jun 18. PubMed PMID: 23775154.
Some New Supportive Care Publications by MASCC Members


