Welcome to the September Issue of the MASCC Society News

This issue of the Society News is our first wholly electronic edition. Beginning with this issue, we will no longer publish the News in the back pages of Supportive Care in Cancer. You can read each issue on the MASCC website or download the PDF file to read offline.

This month, we bring you a message from MASCC President Ian Olver and a special invitation to MASCC/ISOO 2017 from Annual Meeting Chair Rachel Gibson. We feature an interview with Luke Peppone, the recipient of MASCC’s 2016 Outstanding Young Investigator Award. We’re pleased to announce the formation of a new supportive care center in Brazil and the Japanese Association of Supportive Care in Cancer. Finally, we have some upcoming conference reminders, and we extend a warm welcome to the 37 new members who joined us in June and July.

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

I welcome all the new members who have joined us since the Adelaide meeting. I’ve encouraged the Study Group Chairs to reach out to you, and I encourage you to become involved in Study Group projects in your interest areas. There is lots of ongoing activity in planning and revising guidelines and discussing trials and surveys across our Study Groups.

Planning for the Washington DC meeting is well underway. The Study Groups are rising to the challenge of joining together to submit workshop proposals in areas of common interest. We have new topics, such as financial toxicity, and we will build on the new initiatives introduced this year in Adelaide, such as e-posters with presentations. We are also exploring the possibilities of holding small-group expert sessions and mentoring sessions. In collaboration with ISOO, we have undertaken a project to strengthen the social media presence of both MASCC and ISOO, which should help us engage with more of our members.

A second edition of The MASCC Textbook of Cancer Supportive Care and Survivorship is progressing well. The chapter authors are working hard to meet the deadline so that the new edition can be launched at the Washington meeting.

Prior to the Washington meeting, the new Board of Directors will hold a strategic planning day. We welcome suggestions from members with ideas for new MASCC initiatives — especially ways that MASCC can enhance support for the supportive care capabilities of its professional membership.
Join Us in Washington, DC!
An Invitation from Annual Meeting Chair, Rachel Gibson

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer (MASCC) and the International Society of Oral Oncology (ISOO), I am delighted to invite you to join me at the 2017 Annual Meeting in Washington DC, USA. Mark June 22-24, 2017 on your calendar now!

The MASCC/ISOO Annual Meeting is unique in its multidisciplinary approach to the scientific program. The 2017 meeting will feature plenary sessions on financial toxicity, precision medicine, and immunotherapy side effects. These topics span a range of specialties and allied professions, enabling the whole team to come together to discuss issues of mutual interest on a global platform. Themed pre-conference workshops will provide a unique opportunity for in-depth discussions on specific areas of side effect management. In addition, mentored sessions for poster presenters will provide guidance from world leaders for our experts of the future.

2017 will build on the phenomenal success of the 2016 meeting in Adelaide, Australia by widening the international nature of discussion and exchanges to include delegates from Asia, Australasia and the Far East. Washington, DC, the US capital, is a compact city defined by imposing neoclassical monuments, such as the Lincoln Memorial, as well as many museums and performing arts venues. As the heart of US government and finance, it is home to the White House, Federal Reserve, and the National Archives Building, which houses the US Declaration of Independence. Fascinating museums include the Smithsonian Institution, the National Gallery of Art, and the National Museum of Natural History. For culture, the Kennedy Center of Performing Arts is a “must.” The National Cancer Institute is only a short distance away in Bethesda, Maryland.

Please share this invitation with any colleagues who might be interested in attending. Meanwhile, I look forward to welcoming you to MASCC/ISOO 2017!

Warmest regards,
Rachel Gibson, MASCC Annual Meeting Chair

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Japanese Association of Supportive Care in Cancer

The Japanese Association of Supportive Care in Cancer (JASCC) was established in 2015 to advance supportive care for people with cancer. The multidisciplinary organization aims to develop safe and effective supportive care, to promote interdisciplinary research and education, and to contribute to the national welfare of Japan. JASCC members include physicians, nurses, pharmacists, physiotherapists, and other professionals, as well as cancer survivors.

JASCC was founded with the recognition that patient survival and quality of life are both improved when supportive care is made an integral part of cancer treatment and follow-up. Important aspects of supportive care include the education of patients about their disease and prognosis, alleviation of cancer symptoms and complications, prevention or reduction of treatment toxicities, bridging the gaps in understanding between patients and caregivers, and the provision of psychosocial support for cancer survivors. JASCC cites MASCC’s dedication to research and education in supportive cancer care, and the organization plans to collaborate with MASCC, as well as with ESMO, ASCO, and other professional societies. JASCC aims to organize professionals working in various oncology fields, to support basic as well as clinical research, to educate medical staff and cancer patients, and to promote evidence-based supportive care.

JASCC held a seminar on CINV and Cachexia at the 2016 MASCC/ISOO Annual Meeting in Adelaide, Australia. Speakers included MASCC members Matti Aapro and JASCC President Kazuo Tamura. JASCC is holding its first Annual Meeting, September 3-4, at the Jikei University School of Medicine in Tokyo. The theme of the meeting is “Management of Adverse Events Leads to Success in Cancer Treatment.”

For more information, contact the JASCC Secretariat Office or email jascc@jascc.jp.
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Outstanding Young Investigator — Luke Peppone

This year’s Outstanding Young Investigator Award was presented at the MASCC/ISOO Annual Meeting to Luke Peppone, PhD, MPH, for his research on “Efficacy of Omega-3 (ω-3) Supplementation Versus Omega-6 (ω-6) Supplementation for Reducing Cancer-Related Fatigue Among Breast Cancer Survivors: A URCC NCORP Randomized Controlled Trial.”

Luke earned a PhD in Epidemiology and Community Health from the State University of New York (Buffalo, NY, USA) and a Master of Public Health at the University of Rochester (New York, USA). He also completed a fellowship in Cancer Control and Prevention at the US National Cancer Institute. Luke currently holds a dual appointment as Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery and the Department of Orthopaedics, School of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Rochester Medical Center in Rochester, New York. He has received numerous research awards, including a Young Investigator Award from MASCC in 2010. He has received awards and citations from ASCO, the US National Institutes of Health, the Society of Behavioral Medicine, and the American Society of Preventive Oncology.

Luke’s areas of research include the effects of high-dose vitamin D on bone health and musculoskeletal symptoms in breast and prostate cancer patients, the effects of yoga on musculoskeletal symptoms, on cancer-related fatigue in older cancer survivors, and on insomnia and sleep quality in cancer patients. Luke has also studied cancer-related fatigue and depression during chemotherapy, partner support and psychological distress among prostate cancer survivors, an exercise intervention to reduce psychological distress among lesbian, gay, and heterosexual cancer survivors, and racial differences in information needs before and after cancer surgery. He has plans to begin new clinical trials using an omega-3 drink to reduce cognitive impairment in cancer survivors and using vaporized cannabis to treat nausea and neuropathic pain in patients receiving chemotherapy. He has authored or co-authored numerous research reports. Recent articles have appeared in Breast Cancer Research and Treatment, The Journal of Cancer Education, the Journal of Cancer Psychopharmacology, the Journal of Cancer Survivorship, Journal of Geriatric Oncology, Clinical and Translational Medicine, and Supportive Care in Cancer - to name but a few! Luke is a member of three MASCC Study Groups: Antiemetics, Fatigue, and Palliative Care. He can be reached at ricapone@uol.com.br.

Ricardo Caponero Named Coordinator of Supportive Care Center in Brazil

MASCC member and medical oncologist Ricardo Caponero, MD, has been named Coordinator of a new supportive care center in Brazil: the Centro Avançado em Terapia de Suporte e Medicina Integrativa (CATSMI) (Advanced Centre in Supportive Therapy and Integrative Medicine). Ricardo and his team aim to show that there is more to cancer care than the prescription of drugs, which do not always improve the length or quality of life. A mission of the center is to identify and promote evidence-based integrative therapies and to support clinical research in this area.

Ricardo graduated in Medicine from Universidade de São Paulo, in 1984. He completed a Fellowship in Radiotherapy at Hospital das Clínicas da FMUSP, and became board-certified in medical oncology in 1989. He is a Past President of the Brazilian Association of Palliative Care and now serves as its Scientific Director. He is also Associate Director of the Simpósio Internacional de Dor Institute, President of the Scientific Advisory Board of FEMAMA, the Brazilian Federation of Philanthropic Breast Health Supporting Organizations, and serves on the Editorial Board of the Quality of Life in Oncology Resource Center. Ricardo is a member of three MASCC Study Groups: Antiemetics, Fatigue, and Palliative Care. He can be reached at ricapone@uol.com.br.

We caught up with Luke after the Annual Meeting to learn more about his research and interest in supportive care.

MASCC: How did you become interested in supportive care?

Luke Peppone (LP): After I graduated with a PhD in epidemiology, I was still unsure of what I wanted to do. I ended up meeting with Dr. Gary Morrow at the University of Rochester who ran a supportive care research program. It was all new to me and very interesting. He offered me a position in his training program, which I accepted. I was very interested in nutritional products and exercise, and how they might ease the suffering of cancer patients. I love the fact that we run mainly clinical trials. We take an idea and put it into action and test it right away. This gives us the ability to answer questions and answer them quickly. And I would say that the vast majority of patients love participating in these trials. Within the context of our trials, participants always have someone to talk about their disease, their problems, and their lives, which is very comforting to them.

MASCC: What do you think are the most important areas of supportive cancer care today?

LP: There are so many important areas of supportive care that is difficult to name a few. And with all the new therapies emerging, so do new side effects and toxicities. I think the long-term side effects experienced by survivors, such as fatigue, cognitive impairment, and pain, make up a really important area in supportive care, especially since survival rates continue to improve and cancer survivors are living longer than ever before. It's our job to help them live those lives as well as they can. Another important area of supportive care is that of treating the toxicities of chemotherapy, immunotherapy, and radiotherapy. These are life-saving treatments, and our job in supportive care is to make sure patients can tolerate these treatments to give them the best chance at beating cancer.

MASCC: What do you find to be the most exciting areas of research?

LP: There are so many areas that I'm interested in that it's difficult to pick! I'm particularly interested in translational research. It used to be enough to show that an intervention was successful. As we have progressed in research, that is no longer enough. We need to understand why and how an intervention works. Understanding the biological pathways allows us to better identify new treatments. As we progress, I'm confident that we will continue to find new treatments and interventions for these side effects and toxicities. Hopefully, one day, patients will come to be treated for cancer and won't have to worry about what side effects may follow.

MASCC: What did you like best about this year's MASCC meeting?

LP: This year's meeting was amazing. Drs. Keefe and Olver did a tremendous job. I'm from the United States, and this was my first trip to the Southern Hemisphere. It was absolutely amazing to see some of Australia and I hope to go back. At the meeting, there was so much interesting research that I didn't have time to see all the posters or hear all of the presentations. I was so impressed with the high level of research in supportive care — which shows that the future is very bright for us in this field. One of the best parts of the meeting for me was just being able to talk with other researchers from around the world and hear about what they're doing. I left the meeting with a bunch of new friends and new collaborations, and I believe these collaborations will yield some high-impact research!

MASCC: What lessons or insights from MASCC will you bring to your own work?

LP: Just seeing how other researchers look at and approach supportive care research has changed the way I do my own research. The best part of talking with other researchers is that you learn not only what works, but also what doesn't work. That's very important, since all of our time and funds are finite. We don't want to waste resources on something that may never work. Talking with these colleagues makes me that much more efficient, and I hope that I've been able to do the same for others.

The VCCC Survivorship Conference: Improving Outcomes for Cancer Survivors

The Inaugural VCCC Survivorship Conference will be held in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia on Thursday October 13th. This meeting will provide a platform for disseminating new research in the field of cancer survivorship and will include discussions of post-treatment care models, the challenges of conducting cancer survivorship research, and future directions for research and care.

The meeting will be held in association with the Fourth Psycho-Oncology Research Conference, which takes place on Friday October 14. With its theme of “Living With and Beyond Cancer,” the meeting will focus on the practical challenges of cancer survivorship, including issues of identity and the development and use of new technologies.

Both conferences, held at the Victoria Comprehensive Cancer Centre, will take place from 9 AM to 5 PM. Registration will open at 8:15 AM.

For more information, contact Hannah Cross, hannah.cross@unimelb.edu.au, (03) 8344 8682
Upcoming Conference Reminders: November - December

November 9-10, 2016
2nd Annual Guildford Supportive Care in Cancer Course
Royal College of Physicians, London
http://www.mascc.org/guildford-supportive-care

November 17-19, 2016
SIOG Advanced Course: Phase 2
Milan, Italy
http://www.sioq.org OR email for information at events@sioq.org

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

New MASCC Members

MASCC welcomes the following new members who joined us in June and July. Members who joined us onsite at the Annual Meeting in Adelaide were listed in the special Annual Meeting Issue of the Society News.

Barbara Plehiers, Belgium
Robyn Berry, Australia
Deborah Buick, Australia
Taylor Butler, United States
Matthew Corba, United States
Katherine Clark, Australia
Jose De Jesus Cuevas Manuarrez, Mexico
Karine Darbinyan, United States
Chloe Furst, Australia
Abby Fyte, Australia
Missy Gallo, United States
Lyndal Gray, Australia
Kouji Katsura, Japan
Kirio Kawai, Japan
Pascal Lamanque, Canada
Lucy Lehane, Australia
Tammy Lehn-Van Diem, Australia
Iris Mann, Germany
Anthony Maraveyas, United Kingdom
Cathy Maxwell, United States
Victor Manuel Medina Perez, Cuba
Nikita Mehra, India
Emma Merry, New Zealand
Patricia O’Brien, United States
Katsuhito Omae, Japan
Ruth Powys Russell, Nepal
Amy Proffitt, United Kingdom
Liudmila Schafer, United States
Paul Song, United States
Heidi Stein, United States
Marisa Stevens, Australia
Maciej Stukan, Poland
Toru Takiguchi, Japan
Tim To, Australia
Eswaran Waran, Australia
Tiffanie Washington, United States
Leeroy William, Australia

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

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