Welcome to the October Issue of the MASCC Society News

This month, President Ian Olver reports on the recent ESMO meeting, highlights new initiatives at MASCC, and announces the resignation of Don Gubitosa. This issue of the News also brings you an in-depth profile of the Hemostasis Study Group, a report on the 2017 ESMO meeting, this year’s Annual Meeting Travel Scholarship application deadline, announcements of several upcoming meetings, and other conference reminders. We extend a warm welcome to the new members who joined us in August. And we encourage every member to be a MASCC ambassador!

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

This edition of Society News highlights the increasing interactions between MASCC and other groups with like interests. MASCC had both a joint session and a booth at ESMO where the attendance was nearly 24,000. Although the title of the conference was “Integrating Science into Oncology for a Better Patient Outcome,” the meeting’s focus was on emerging immunotherapies. This was reflected in the MASCC-ESMO Joint Symposium at which I presented an overview of new toxicities associated with these agents, and Nathan Cherny highlighted the role of steroids in supportive care, including the treatment of immunotherapy toxicities. Richard Sullivan focused on financial toxicity, and Francisco Pimentel summarized the issues associated with returning to work after cancer. The MASCC booth was busy, and Melissa and I were able to meet with several groups, including the Brazilian Society of Medical Oncology and Springer Healthcare.

There are many other examples of such engagement in the articles below, including ASCO’s upcoming Palliative and Supportive Care in Oncology Symposium, at which Charles Loprinzi, Petra Feyer, and I represented MASCC on the organizing committee. At MASCC/ISOO 2018 in Vienna, we will hold several joint sessions with other societies and will endorse a preconference regional German meeting. The second annual JASCC (Japanese Association of Supportive Care in Cancer) takes place this month. It will feature several MASCC speakers, and I will take the opportunity to visit Yokohama to assess its potential as a location for our 2021 meeting.

As a follow-up to the Strategic Planning Meeting in Washington, we have completed a prioritization exercise, and I am pleased to say that we have already embarked on some of the strategies outlined. Anna Boltong and the Publications Committee have enthusiastically embraced a project to increase our social media presence. One result is a planned session on using social media at the Vienna meeting, which should help to increase our presence in the Twittersphere!

We will work with Springer Healthcare Education, a medical education division of Springer that helps produce customized educational programs, to develop new educational content. We are planning to create educational modules based on sessions at the Vienna meeting. These will include video clips from the presentations to enhance impact. These products will also serve as an educational legacy of the meeting. In addition, we are exploring initiatives with representatives from the pharma industry to further enhance our educational resources for our members and the wider community.

Finally, we will soon bid farewell to Don Gubitosa, Study Group Coordinator and Manager of Sponsor Relationships. Don has resigned for personal reasons, but will stay with us until his replacement is found. To that end, we will make the position description available and would be delighted to hear from any member who might know of someone interested in this role. We have enjoyed working with Don on issues relating to Study Groups and our engagement with industry, and have benefited greatly from his vast experience in that area. On behalf of our members, I wish to thank you, Don, for your contributions to MASCC and I wish you well.

~ Ian Olver
MASCC Breakfast in San Diego

Meet with MASCC Members at ASCO’s Palliative and Supportive Care in Oncology Symposium

MASCC is proud to co-sponsor the ASCO Palliative and Supportive Care in Oncology Symposium on October 27-28, 2017, in San Diego, California, USA. If you are attending, please join with other MASCC members at the Symposium’s complimentary, continental breakfast on Saturday morning, October 28, at 7:15 AM for an informal networking, get-together. Look for the sign on our table. Please bring a friend and/or prospective MASCC members. For more information, contact Melissa Chin (mchin@mascc.org), Ira Parker (pdbhys@yahoo.com), or stop by the MASCC booth at the meeting! See you there!

This year’s Symposium will provide educational and networking opportunities for healthcare professionals on cancer symptom management and the integration of palliative and supportive care across various cancer-care settings. Session topics include innovative models of palliative and supportive care integration, supportive and palliative care challenges in older adults, symptom management, palliative and supportive care in the immunology era, tough issues in opioid management, sexual health and palliative care, and the roles and risks of palliative radiation therapy and palliative surgery. The meeting will also feature oral abstract presentations and poster sessions, a Trainee and Early-Career Luncheon, faculty-led Poster Walks, and a “Death Café”—a forum for open, informal discussion about the end of life. Several MASCC members will participate in the program, including Eduardo Bruera, Andrea L. Cheville, Allan Hovan, Thomas W. LeBlanc, Charles L. Loprinzi, Sandra Mitchell, Rudolph M. Navari, Ira R. Parker, Eric Roeland, and Thomas J. Smith.

MD Anderson Cancer Center: 21st Annual Interdisciplinary Conference on Supportive Care, Hospice, and Palliative Medicine

The 21st Annual Interdisciplinary Conference on Supportive Care, Hospice, and Palliative Medicine will be held at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas on October 13-14, 2017. The program is designed for physicians and other health professionals in numerous fields, including palliative care, oncology, internal medicine, family practice, psychiatry, and anesthesiology. It may also be of interest to psychologists, sociologists, ethicists, chaplains, and others who confront the challenges of end-of-life care. Featured speakers include MASCC member Eduardo Bruera, MD, FAAHPM. MASCC member Sriram Yennu is the Program Chair. The program is available for AMA PRA Category 1 accreditation. For more information, see the Conference Brochure.

SIOG 2017 Annual Conference: Incorporating Geriatric Oncology in Patient Care

The 2017 Annual Meeting of SIOG, the International Society for Geriatric Oncology, will take place in Warsaw, Poland from November 9 to 11. This year’s theme is “From Research to Practice: Incorporating Geriatric Oncology into Patient Care.”

Among the Track Leaders are MASCC members Petra Stolz-Baskett, Karis Kin-Fong Cheng, Holly Holmes, Martine Puts, and Carla Ripamonti. The faculty also includes MASCC members Charles Kelly, Kah Poh Loh, and Karen Mustian. Matti Aapro serves on the Scientific Program Committee.

The goal of SIOG is to foster the development of health professionals in the field of geriatric oncology, in order to optimize treatment of older adults with cancer. SIOG promotes these efforts in three important directions: education, research, and clinical practice. This year’s meeting will include multidisciplinary sessions on solid tumors, hematological malignancies, new therapies, geriatric assessment, supportive care, and an educational forum for nurses.

Warsaw, the capital of Poland for over 400 years, is also the country's largest city and a vibrant economic, political, and cultural center. This, the youngest of UNESCO's “European Old Towns,” is also known as the city of Chopin. It offers a diversity of art and architecture, castles and cathedrals, parks, and a Palace of Culture and Science.

For more information, visit SIOG 2017.

Supportive Care in Cancer for Eastern Europe and the Balkan Region

The Second Regional Educational Meeting on Supportive Care in Cancer Patients for Eastern Europe and the Balkan Region will be held in Belgrade, Serbia, December 1-2, 2017. MASCC member Matti Aapro will deliver the Plenary Lecture, “Supportive Care Makes Excellent Cancer Care Possible.” Topics include cancer pain, chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting, and management of numerous adverse effects of cancer and its treatments. Other MASCC members among the speakers are Sam H Ahmedzai, Snežana Bošnjak, Jeffrey Crawford, Jelena Dimitrijević, Vladislava Djurasinovic, Richard Gralla, Jørn Herrstedt, Miroslav Tomiška, Carla Ripamonti, Fausto Roila, Andrea Skripekova, Athina Vadalouca, Ana Vidovic, and Ana Zilic.

Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, is also a center of Serbian culture, education, science, and economy. Situated at the confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers, Belgrade is one of the oldest cities in Europe and, since ancient times, has been located at the crossroads of Eastern and Western Europe. Today, the city is thriving and diverse, a crossroads of old and new. Meeting Chairs Snežana Bošnjak, Matti Aapro, and Dragana Jovanovic are eager to welcome you to Belgrade and this exciting meeting. For more meeting information, see the Meeting Website.
PROFILE: Hemostasis Study Group

The prevention and management of thrombosis and hemorrhage present unique challenges in cancer patients. Cancer can trigger a number of coagulation abnormalities that increase the risk of thrombosis and hemorrhage. Cancer and the hemostatic system are interconnected in several ways, with each disease state having the potential to affect the progression of the other. In addition, some cancer treatments have prothrombotic effects. While many new approaches are under development, there remains a need for improved risk assessment and for increased visibility of the risks among cancer patients, their caregivers, and healthcare providers.

The Hemostasis Study Group is led by Carmen Escalante, Chair, and Vice-Chairs Thomas W. Butler and Carme Font. The Group currently comprises 24 members, representing Australia, Greece, Pakistan, the Republic of South Korea, Serbia, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The Study Group is dedicated to improving the prevention and management of coagulation disorders in cancer patients by promoting clinical and epidemiological research and by providing guidance and guidelines to healthcare providers regarding bleeding and clotting complications from cancer diagnosis to the end of life. Its goals are to promote multidisciplinary approaches for the development of useful tools for clinicians, promote patient-centered clinical research, increase awareness of coagulation abnormalities in people with cancer, and increase the availability of evidence-based treatments for people with such bleeding or clotting complications. The Group also serves as an information resource for all MASCC members and aims to develop collaborations with other MASCC Study Groups, such as Education, Neutropenia, Infection & Myelosuppression, and Rehabilitation, Survivorship & Quality of Life.

To meet its goals, the Study Group has set forth the following objectives:

- To keep up to date with current evidence-based guidelines regarding the treatment of cancer patients with bleeding and clotting problems related to their disease;
- To evaluate existing management guidelines for merit and adequacy;
- To promote multinational and multidisciplinary cooperative networks among those involved in the care of cancer patients with thrombotic and bleeding complications, including physicians, nurses, pharmacists, psychologists, and other professionals involved in patient education.
- To focus on anticoagulation treatment and quality of life for cancer patients in different settings during the cancer journey: VTE prevention and management; outpatient and inpatient settings; VTE and bleeding complications in patients receiving active cancer-specific treatments, as well as those receiving palliative care.

Recent Activities

**Workshop.** Most recently, the Hemostasis Study Group, in collaboration with MASCC’s Education Study Group, offered a workshop on Venous Thromboembolism at the 2017 MASCC/ISOO Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. The workshop brought together a multinational group of experts to review current evidence and needed knowledge regarding cancer-associated venous thromboembolism (VTE). It included discussions of the clinical challenges and promoted the education of patients, providers, and family members. All of the slides from the workshop presentations are available at the [Hemostasis Study Group page](https://www.mascc.org) on the MASCC website.

**Guideline Development.** The Study Group is currently engaged in developing guidelines for the management of various aspects of VTE, with special attention to educational and quality-of-life dimensions for patients and healthcare providers. This effort is in its beginning stages and volunteers are needed to work on this important project. If you have an interest, please contact Thein Oo ([THOo@mdanderson.org](mailto:THOo@mdanderson.org)) or Taylor Butler ([taylor.w.butler@gmail.com](mailto:taylor.w.butler@gmail.com)).

**Publications.** Research by Study Group members includes work on prediction and risk assessment, clinical features and outcomes in patients with cancer-related incidental and symptomatic PE, the clinical course of VTE by cancer site, clinical factors that affect the rates of PE and bleeding in patients with VTE, management of PE and VTE, and much more. Recent publications can be accessed at the Hemostasis Study Group web page, which also carries highlights of recent and ongoing research by Study Group members, practice resources, and upcoming meetings in the area of VTE and hematology.

**Study Group Communications and Website Development.** The Study Group’s leaders hold regular virtual meetings to discuss ongoing projects and opportunities and updates are regularly sent to members. The leaders are interested in increasing communication channels within the Study Group and seeing more members become involved in the ongoing work of the group.

The Study Group leaders have been updating the [Hemostasis web page](https://www.mascc.org) and plan to continue with regular updates of publications, research, workshops, and projects. The web page content also includes upcoming international meetings and events related to VTE and current evidence-based VTE guidelines. The leaders are currently seeking a volunteer to serve as a website liaison, who will coordinate postings and help keep the site up to date in collaboration with MASCC’s Web Editor, Toni Clark. Please contact any of the Study Group leaders (see bios and emails below) if you would like to participate in this way.

*Continued...*
**Plans for the Future**

The Study Group plans to develop educational materials on the subject of VTE and other aspects of hemostasis for patients, caregivers, and clinicians. An Education subgroup has been formed to collaborate with MASCC’s Education Study Group. Anyone interested in contributing to this effort should contact Paz Fernández-Ortega (mpax2001@yahoo.es) or Judy Phillips (jppdpsp@msn.com) of the Education Study Group.

**Research Participants Wanted.** Study Group member Cristhiam Rojas Hernandez is now recruiting adult participants for a study of treatment adherence, quality of life, and resource utilization during anticoagulant therapy for cancer-related VTE. See the [Hemostasis Study Group web page](http://example.com) for more information about the study, including eligibility and exclusion criteria. Or contact Cris at cmrojas@mdanderson.org.

**Get Involved!**

Study Group leaders Carmen Escalante, Carme Font, and Thomas Butler look forward to hearing from anyone who is interested in joining the group and participating in its current and future projects. If you are already a member, invite a colleague to join the Study Group!

The Study Group leaders have submitted proposals for a workshop and parallel session at the 2018 MASCC Annual Meeting and look forward to seeing members old and new in Vienna.

**Study Group Leaders**

**Study Group Chair Carmen Escalante, MD, FACP** is Professor and Chair of General Internal Medicine, Division of Internal Medicine, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, USA. She is also Professor, Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine, Bryan, College Station, Texas and Associate Professor, Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston. In addition to current research on VTE in cancer patients, other current research projects include studies of cancer-related fatigue, treatment of fatigue in breast cancer patients, hypertension as an adverse effect of axitinib, and the relationship between fatigue and apathy in cancer patients. She has been voted one of the Best Doctors in America (2011-2012, US News and World Reports) and Top Doctor in Houston, Texas in 2013. Her most recent publications include a prospective cohort study of cancer patients diagnosed with incidental VTE on routine computed tomography scans (Support Care Cancer 25 (5):1571-1577, 2017) and a clinical assessment of cancer-related fatigue (JCOM 24 (5) :217-227, 2017). Carmen can be reached at cescalan@mdanderson.org.

**Vice Chair Thomas W. Butler, MD** is a Senior Staff Medical Oncologist and Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary Clinical Oncology at the USA Mitchell Cancer Institute, in Mobile, Alabama, USA. He is also Associate Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine & Department of Physician Assistant Studies, at the University of South Alabama in Mobile, and he serves as Coordinator of the Multidisciplinary Cancer Conference at the Mitchell Cancer Institute. Tom’s research and clinical interests include malignancies of the blood, chronic lymphomas, breast cancer, and head and neck cancer. His most recent publications include a studies of neoadjuvant chemotherapy in women with breast cancer, treatment for refractory diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, and advance care planning in relation to patient treatment preferences and quality of care at the end of life. Tom can be reached at tbutler@health.southalabama.edu.

**Vice Chair Carme Font, MD, PhD** is a Senior Specialist in Internal Medicine at the Hospital Clinic of Barcelona, in Barcelona, Spain. She serves in the Medical Oncology Department as attending physician in Supportive Care in Cancer, mainly for unscheduled visits at the Outpatient Cancer Clinics and the Emergency Department, and occasionally also in the Medical Oncology inpatient wards. Her main areas of interest are promotion of outpatient management of acute, cancer-related complications, promotion of patient-centered medicine, febrile neutropenia and other acute infections in cancer patients; and cancer-associated thrombosis. Carme regularly teaches at the University of Barcelona as Assistant Professor in issues related to supportive cancer care. She actively participates as a member and clinical researcher of the Thrombosis & Cancer Study Group of the Spanish Medical Oncology Association (SEOM) and of the international Registro Informatizado de Enfermedad TromboEmbolica (RIETE) Registry. She is a coauthor of more than 50 peer-reviewed publications. Carme can be reached at cfont@clinic.cat.
Travel Scholarship
Deadline: December 31, 2017
MASCC offers a limited number of travel scholarships to attend the MASCC/ISOO Annual Meeting. Scholarship recipients receive complimentary meeting registration and reimbursement of travel expenses up to an amount determined annually by the MASCC Executive Board. Scholarships are presented to awardees at the Annual Meeting.
This scholarship is given to oncology healthcare professionals whose practice or research focuses on supportive care in cancer, including physicians, nurses, social workers, pharmacists, dental hygienists, and psychologists. Qualified applicants must affirm their inability to attend the meeting without scholarship funds and must live and work in a country of limited resources. For more information and an application, see MASCC Awards and Scholarships.

Future MASCC/ISOO Meetings

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<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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Early Abstract Submission
Deadline: December 31, 2017
See MASCC/ISOO Annual Meeting website for abstract topics and more information.

MASCC/ISOO 2018
Help Spread the Word!
Our 2018 Meeting Toolkit is now available.
http://www.mascc.org/meeting-toolkit
Find PowerPoint slide sets, banners, adverts, and email signature banners.

Be a MASCC/ISOO Ambassador!
Say a few words about MASCC/ISOO and our Annual Meeting at your next speaking engagement. Contact Melissa at mchim@mascc.org for MASCC slides to add to your presentation.

Have any news items to share? Please send contributions to Toni at tclark@mascc.org.

MASCC welcomes the new members who joined us in August!
Ruth Aponte Wesson, United States
Maria Fernanda Garcia Salamanca, Mexico
Teresa Lootsgaarden, United States
Mohamed Mahgoub, United Kingdom
Vitor Silva, Brazil
Kara Thompson, United States

MASCC/ISOO
ANNUAL MEETING ON SUPPORTIVE CARE IN CANCER
28-30 JUNE • VIENNA, AUSTRIA
Save the Date!