Welcome to the September Edition of the MASCC Society News

Message from Editors Anna Ugalde and Anna Boltong

This month we bring you the wrap up from the 2014 MASCC/ISOO Symposium held in Miami, including award winners in the category of Distinguished Service and Young Investigators. We speak to some of the symposium travel scholarship recipients and ask them to tell us about their highlights from the symposium. We also profile TESARO, which is an oncology focused biopharmaceutical company and a member of MASCC’s Corporate Advisory Council. We also profile a new member Andrey Akopov and his work on photodynamic therapy. As well as new publications from MASCC members to review, in this edition we are asking all MASCC members to get in contact regarding recent publications; over the coming months we will promote these within the MASCC community.

From your editors, Anna & Anna

Updates from the 2014 MASCC Annual Symposium!

MASCC President, David Warr
Meeting Chair, Declan Walsh

The 2014 MASCC/ISOO Miami symposium saw 903 delegates from more than 57 countries come together for three action packed days at the end of June. As well as the exceptionally high standard suite of peer-reviewed abstracts, international speakers, oral, poster, plenary, parallel sessions and satellite symposia, multiple study group workshops were conducted.

Distinguished Service Award – Dorothy M K Keefe

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.

The immediate past-president of MASCC, Professor Dorothy Keefe, was awarded the 2014 Distinguished Service Award. Dorothy has championed the highly successful mucositis study group; her work has advanced our understanding of the pathophysiology of mucositis and she has led MASCC through two terms as president and has been an integral part of the program of multiple annual meetings. Congratulations Dorothy.
**Outstanding Young Investigator – Gabriela Silva Bisson**

Ten awards for outstanding abstracts submitted by Young Investigators were announced during the 2014 MASCC Annual Meeting. Successful applicants are less than 40 years of age and their abstracts ranked in the top 20% of all accepted abstracts. This year, Gabriela Silva Bisson from the Department of Maternal-Infant and Public Health Nursing, University of São Paulo at Ribeirão Preto College of Nursing, Ribeirão Preto, Brazil, was awarded the Outstanding Young Investigator Award for her abstract: “Pro-inflammatory cytokines correlate with anxiety and depression in patients with colorectal cancer”.

**Young Investigator Award Winners**

Tine De Ryck, Belgium, Joanne Bowen, Australia, Lorella Ciutto, Canada, Dimitra Galiti, Greece, Erin Wong, Canada, Karrie Wong, Canada, Maria Tavakoli-Ardakani, Iran, Divyesh Kumar, India

**Travel Scholarship Winners**

Andrey Akopov, Russia, Surendra Chaudhary, India, Csaba Degi, Romania, Galina Kuznecova, Latvia, Sandip Mukhopadhyay, India, Stephen Samuel, India, John Weru, Kenya, Karthikeyan Guru, India, Muhammad Hoque, South Africa, Sergejs Kuznecovs, Latvia

This year at our Annual Meeting in Miami, all 17 of the Study Groups held their business meetings to discuss new and ongoing projects. In addition, they organized and held 6 workshops the morning before the meeting, resulting in 256 registrants to these workshops.

**Study Group Workshops**

The Mucositis Research Workshop, chaired by Raj Lalla, featured cutting edge abstract presentations from young investigators. An expert panel weighed in on the presentations and discussed the many challenges of mucositis, as well as promising treatments on the horizon.

The Cancer Care Pathways Workshop, chaired by Liz Isenring, brought together experts on nutrition and cachexia, psycho-oncology, speech pathology, palliative care, and rehabilitation to discuss the integration of cancer care to achieve optimal patient outcomes. Case vignettes were used to challenge participants.

Spiritual Wellbeing Across Cancer Care, organized by Ian Olver and chaired by David Hui, dealt with assessment of spirituality and how MASCC members feel about spirituality (using a survey designed for that purpose). In addition, palliative care experts discussed spirituality and religiosity in advanced cancer, dignity therapy, and a chaplain discussed his role in provision of spiritual care. A case study and a panel discussion wrapped up this thoughtful discussion of often-overlooked issues.

Beware of Infections in Both Adults and Children, chaired by Bernardo Rapoport and Marianne van de Wetering, looked at infections in all cancer populations but put special emphasis on the difficulties in dealing with infections in children. Some of the new cancer agents were reviewed in light of the increased infections seen in patients using these agents.

Oral Problems in Advanced Cancer Workshop, chaired by Andrew Davies, focused on the spectrum of oral conditions faced by cancer patients. Interactive case presentations touched on issues such as fungal infections, bacterial infections, and xerostomia.

Geriatric Oncology and Cancer-related Fatigue Workshop, chaired by Sriram Yennu, looked at the special problems faced by geriatric cancer patients. Fatigue was used as a model for this discussion and case studies featuring different cancer stages were reviewed.
Travel Scholarships Winners, continued.

Csaba Degi, Romania, who presented an abstract entitled Making the case for psychosocial oncology actions in Romania: evidence from repeated cross-sectional data. Miami highlight: The MASCC poster reception: best of the best was a great idea; it gave a sense of what is happening today in supportive cancer care around the world.

Galina Kuznecova, Latvia, who presented an abstract entitled Targets for psychosocial support: family and work in breast cancer patients. Miami highlight: The best for me was the sponsored symposium “Comprehensive cancer care for common GI abnormalities in cancer patients”. Dorothy Keefe was the best from faculty.

Surendra Chaudhary, India, who presented an abstract entitled A Pilot study of efficacy of lactobacillus CD2 lozenges in preventing high-dose chemotherapy induced oral mucositis in patients undergoing hematopoietic stem cell transplantation. Miami highlight: Meeting all the MASCC faculties and Chairs. I found them highly friendly, open to discussions, sharing their thoughts and experiences on various topics.

Stephen Samuel, India, who presented an abstract entitled Physical therapy based exercise interventions for cancer survivors in India: A systematic review. Miami highlight: The multidisciplinary facet of the symposium in Miami was its greatest highlight.

Sandip Mukhopadhyay, India, who presented an abstract entitled Olanzapine, concurrent chemotherapy induced nausea and vomiting: the surprise continues. Miami highlight: Rolapitant is a potent, highly selective, long-acting NK-1 receptor antagonist for the prevention of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting that has completed Phase 3 trials.

John Weru, Kenya, who presented an abstract entitled An exploratory study of the attitudes of palliative care practitioners to the use of palliative care assessment tools in Kenya. Miami highlight: I belong to three working groups: palliative care, fatigue and cachexia -the workshops were a source of networking and great scientific knowledge from different parts of the world.

Sergejs Kuznecovs, Latvia, who presented an abstract entitled 5-FU with phallus impudicus juice in elderly patients with advanced colorectal cancer: 20 years of experience and, Why patients with cholangiocarcinoma are doomed to palliative care: retrospective study of diagnosis and treatment. Miami highlight: Dorothy Keefe’s presentation and the quality of all the posters.

Andrey Akopov, Russia, who presented an abstract entitled Endobronchial palliative photodynamic therapy for inoperable central lung cancer (a profile of Andrey and his work are featured below).

MASCC Corporate Advisory Council:

The Corporate Advisory Council (CAC) members work closely with MASCC in many ways, including participation in annual meetings. Last month we profiled Helenum Healthcare SA, and this month we profile another MASCC CAC member, TESARO, with an interview with Helena O’Beirne, Vice President, Global Medical Affairs at TESARO and Kristin Ainsworth, Vice President of Marketing at TESARO.

Who are TESARO?

TESARO is an oncology-focused biopharmaceutical company dedicated to improving the lives of cancer patients by developing and providing safer and more effective therapeutics and supportive care products. Our associates share a passion for helping patients with cancer.

Why have TESARO decided to become a member of the MASCC CAC?

At TESARO, we are committed to improving patient care through progress in medicine and increased understanding of important diseases. By collaborating with MASCC, we hope to advance this vision into a reality; being a member of the CAC we can have a greater contribution to activities to enhance care for cancer patients and/or the practice of oncology. In summary, we would like to foster an increased understanding of scientific, clinical, and health care issues that enhance patient care.

How is supportive care in cancer relevant & important to TESARO?

TESARO views supportive care as a critical component of patient treatment and support. We believe that advances in cancer therapy deserve complementary advances in supportive care, and as such, we are currently developing a number of oncology product candidates including Rolapitant. Rolapitant is a potent, highly selective, long-acting NK-1 receptor antagonist for the prevention of chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting that has completed Phase 3 trials.

How long has TESARO been a CAC member?

Founded in 2010, TESARO is new to CAC, but the TESARO team has been very involved in cancer supportive care for many years.

What member benefits do you & TESARO most enjoy & make use of?

TESARO looks forward to working with MASCC to advance the field of cancer supportive care by supporting educational initiatives for physicians, nurses, patients and caregivers. We at TESARO also look forward to advancing the mission of the MASCC organization, and helping MASCC showcase its offerings to healthcare professionals.

Looking for the 2014 photos?

http://www.mascc.org/photo-gallery
Meet a new MASCC Member, **Andrey Akopov**

I am a Professor and Head of Thoracic Surgery, Oncology and Bronchology; at the Pavlov First State Medical University, in Saint-Petersburg, Russia. I am interested in palliative treatment of lung cancer (including airway stenoses, pleural effusion, palliative surgeries). I have decided to join MASCC to gain further insights into the evidence-based and emerging approaches to palliative care for cancer. In my country this medical problem is not given enough attention. In a future I plan to create a new specialized department for cancer palliation in my University. We developed original approaches, including photodynamic therapy (see boxed text), which are relatively new for the majority of colleagues in Europe and USA.

### Photodynamic therapy (PDT)

**What is PDT?** PDT is a cancer treatment increasingly used with clinical success to treat several cancers including respiratory, gastrointestinal and skin cancers

**How does it work?** Photodynamic therapy (PDT) uses the combination of: 1) A photosensitising drug - administered either systemically or topically, 2) Light – usually administered by a laser source, and 3) An adequate concentration of molecular oxygen; to cause selective damage to target tissue

**What are the advantages of PDT?** • Relatively non-invasive • Allows accurate targeting • Repeated doses can be given without total-dose limitations • Healing process results in little or no scarring • Can usually be administered in an outpatient or day-case setting • Convenient for the patient

**Where can I read more about PDT?**

• A specialist journal, Photodiagnosis and Photodynamic Therapy is concerned exclusively with these topics [http://www.pdpdt-journal.com/](http://www.pdpdt-journal.com/)


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**Call for MASCC Member Publications!**

• Have you published in the area of Supportive Care?

• Are you interested in reading the contributions of MASCC members?

• Would you like to promote your work within the MASCC Community?

The MASCC community includes some of the world’s top clinicians and researchers working in supportive care. MASCC is proud of the diverse membership of experienced members and early career clinicians and researchers; our goal is to advance and ensure the successful delivery of supportive care for people affected by cancer.

Please email your citations to anna.ugalde@svhm.org.au and anna.bolton@cancervic.org.au

The reference is adequate; hard copies of papers are not required.

We may even be in touch for an interview about your work!

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**Publications from MASCC members**


Publications from MASCC members, continued


