Welcome to the April Issue of the MASCC Society News

This month, President Ian Olver expresses his thanks to all of our members who give so freely of their time and energies in support of MASCC’s mission and activities. He also provides updates on the MASCC textbook, the Annual Meeting, and the recent Board of Directors election. In this issue of the Society News, we join organizations around the world in recognizing the invaluable contributions of cancer nurses with a focus on their role in survivor care. We also have news about a pilot project of the MASCC Ambassador Program in India. We’re pleased to announce the 18th Annual Conference of the International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG), with a call for abstracts. And we include many other conference reminders and deadlines. We extend a warm welcome to the new members who joined us in February. And we encourage every member to be voice for MASCC!

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

President’s Message

A society thrives because of the support of its members. At MASCC, we are very fortunate to have members who volunteer their time in so many ways: on the Board, chairing our Study Groups, serving on our committees, and contributing to the success of our Annual Meeting. All are greatly appreciated. Over the years, we have tried to recognize some contributions by offering subsidies to help with expenses, such as the attendance at our meetings. The extent of these rewards cannot correlate with the amount of time given by the member, or with the extent of our appreciation, but are rather determined by what MASCC can afford. Many members give time, effort, and talent for no reward except their desire to make a contribution to MASCC’s continued growth and success. We are grateful to all and trust that they benefit, as well, from the ways that MASCC contributes to their clinical and research interests in supportive care in cancer.

In April, MASCC will have a booth at the meeting of the Danish Society of Clinical Oncology. Melissa will be there, and we hope that members will drop by and introduce themselves. In May, we will have a booth at the ONS Annual Congress in Washington, DC, as well as our usual booth at ASCO, and look forward to meeting many more of our members.

The publication of the second edition of the MASCC textbook has had some delays, but is now complete and in production, with an expected publication date in October.

We are excited about the upcoming Annual Meeting in Vienna. This year’s program has been planned to include a broad range of speakers in order to introduce many new faces and a variety of topics, balancing traditional supportive care subjects with emerging issues. The MASCC Presidential Dinner will be held in a spectacular venue, and further details will be unmasked closer to the event. With this meeting comes a change in the composition of MASCC’s Board of Directors. The past two-year term has encompassed significant changes in our society, which I will detail in a subsequent news item and which I hope lay a firm foundation for 21st-century MASCC. The Board election results will become available in the first half of April. We are very encouraged by the number of members who have voted in this election. In previous years, we have never received more than around 32% ballot return but this time around we have almost 50%. We appreciate this degree of member involvement and look forward to meeting the new Board members in Vienna!

~ Ian Olver
MASCC Ambassador Sandip Mukhopadhyay

At MASCC’s 2017 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, President Ian Olver announced that, as part of its strategic plan, MASCC would explore the development of an ambassador program to increase the organization’s visibility where it is currently not well known. Shortly afterward, Sandip Mukhopadhyay volunteered to work as a MASCC Ambassador and, with MASCC’s agreement, provided a detailed proposal for promoting supportive care and MASCC in India to pilot the ambassador program.

Since November, Sandip has conducted or attended several formal and informal meetings on supportive care, where he discussed supportive care issues, as well as MASCC guidelines and tools. This resulted in his recruiting 27 new MASCC members, of which 25 are two-year memberships. Sandip has also promoted MASCC at several large events and has recruited new members from every conference, meeting, and workshop he’s recently attended in India. For example, he represented MASCC at the International Conference of Palliative Care held by the Indian Association of Palliative Care, in Delhi in February. MASCC was accorded publicity through a joint MASCC-IAPC Award and Sandip’s efforts resulted in 10 new two-year memberships in MASCC immediately.

Sandip Mukhopadhyay, MBBS, NFPM, MD (Pharmacology) was a medical post-graduate from the prestigious Christian Medical College, Ludhiana, India. He is now a clinical pharmacologist, a passionate researcher, as well as a pain and palliative care physician. Presently, he works as an Assistant Professor of Pharmacology and Coordinator of the Pharmacovigilance Center at Burdwan Medical College in Burdwan, India. He is Vice President of the Indian Medical Pharmacologists Association and a National Fellow in Palliative Medicine at the Institute of Palliative Medicine, a WHO Collaborating Centre in Calicut, Kerala, India. Sandip has attended all five MASCC meetings since beginning his association with MASCC. He is the recipient of a 2017 Young Investigator Award, as well as seven other international awards for his research activities. He is a member of Study Groups on Antiemetics, Mucositis, and Palliative Care.

If you are interested in serving as a MASCC Ambassador, please contact Melissa Chin. Also, any MASCC member can obtain a set of slides to use in promoting MASCC whenever addressing other professional organizations that share our interest in supportive care. Contact Melissa for more information.

Cancer Nurses – Bridging the Care Gap for Cancer Survivors

"With the ever-rising incidence of cancer and number of cancer survivors, the cancer nursing community should take the lead in ensuring a sustainable healthcare system and own the implementation of integrated cancer survivorship care." – Ray Chan and Tai-Rae Downer

Cancer survival rates have improved dramatically over the past few years, but survivors continue to have many care needs. Cancer survivors continue to experience delayed effects of cancer and its treatment, including psychosocial effects and reduced quality of life, and may have other medical conditions as well.

MASCC members Raymond Chan and Tai-Rae Downer, in a recent editorial in Cancer Nursing,* point out that many long-term needs of cancer survivors remain unmet. These often require coordinated efforts of healthcare professionals, including oncologists, cancer nurses, and primary care providers (PCPs). Besides resource limitations, barriers to efficient and effective coordination include poor communication between all parties, PCPs’ lack of knowledge of treatments and complications, and specialists’ uncertainties about the role of PCPs in follow-up care.

Cancer nurses, who serve as a primary liaison between patients and other healthcare specialists, play a key role in educating patients, identifying problems, coordinating care, and promoting best practices. They are thus well placed to help overcome such barriers. As Chan and Downer observe, “All of these barriers could likely be overcome if a specialist cancer nurse can facilitate effective and timely care coordination and communication by acting as the conduit between the specialist cancer multidisciplinary team and the PCPs at key transition time points (such as completion of adjuvant and definitive primary treatment).” Continued.

**Continued… Cancer Nurses – Bridging the Care Gap for Cancer Survivors**

Chan and Downer note that a key element in facilitating well-integrated survivorship care is the implementation of survivorship care plans that includes communication between cancer specialists and PCPs to clarify roles and expectations. And specialist cancer nurses can help coordinate this process. The authors cite three recent survey studies documenting cancer nurses’ agreement that coordination of care, including the facilitation of integrated care with PCPs, falls within their sphere of responsibility. However, the nurses surveyed also acknowledged that optimal levels of coordination and communication are uncommon due to lack of time, lack of dedicated end-of-treatment consultation with patients, and many cancer centers’ failure to prioritize long-term care. Chan and Downer maintain that dedicated cancer nursing roles are needed to facilitate effective communication and coordination between the acute care and primary care settings. They advocate research to define and evaluate the role of cancer nurses in facilitating collaborative care planning to inform both practice and policy development. Chan and Downer also urge the cancer nursing community to take the lead in implementing integrated cancer survivorship care.

*Chan RJ and Downer T-R. Cancer Nurses Can Bridge the Gap Between the Specialist Cancer Care and Primary Care Settings to Facilitate Shared-Care Models. Cancer Nursing 2018:41(2):89-90.*

**Raymond Javan Chan, PhD, MAppSc [Research], BN, RN, Metro North Hospital and Health Service, Herston and Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia. Ray chairs the MASCC Study Group on Rehabilitation, Survivorship, and Quality of Life. He is also a member Study Groups on Fatigue and Palliative Care.**

**Tai-Rae Downer, MHSc, BBMS, Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia. Tai-Rae is a member of MASCC’s Geriatrics Study Group.**

---

**Recognizing Cancer Nurses**

**Oncology Nursing Day (Canada) — April 3, 2018**

In Canada, the [15th Annual Oncology Nursing Day](#) will be celebrated on April 3, 2018, and this year’s theme is “Excellence in Oncology: Our Patients, Our Passion.” This theme is intended to highlight excellence in oncology nursing across Canada while maintaining the focus on patients. It also recognizes the need to empower oncology nurses with education and leadership skills required to improve patients’ outcomes and experiences. For more information: [Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology](#) — #OND2018.

**European Cancer Nursing Day — May 18, 2018**

The European Oncology Nursing Society (EONS) has designated Friday May 18 as [European Cancer Nursing Day](#). Thousands of cancer nurses will mark this day and their work will be recognized and celebrated in cancer centers throughout Europe. The day is intended to focus attention on the contributions of cancer nurses and to focus on the importance of education and training. For more information: [European Cancer Nursing Day](#) - #ECND

**May is Oncology Nursing Month in the US**

In the US, May is [Oncology Nursing Month](#), a time to recognize the outstanding contributions of oncology nurses. This year’s official theme is “The Art of Caring. The Science of Care.” The ONS website offers numerous suggestions for recognizing and celebrating the work of oncology nurses.
Geriatric Oncology: Becoming Mainstream Cancer Care

International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG) Annual Conference

The 18th Annual Conference of the International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG) will be held in Amsterdam, Netherlands in November 2018, with a theme of “Geriatric Oncology — Becoming Mainstream Cancer Care.” This is the world’s leading conference for health professionals involved in the treatment of older adults with cancer. SIOG promotes a multidisciplinary approach to the practice of geriatric oncology and the meeting will feature speakers from diverse fields. The conference is attended by oncologists, researchers, clinical practitioners, geriatricians, radiologists, psychologists, nutritionists, nurses and other healthcare professionals, as well as senior cancer survivor advocates.

In this year’s scientific program, SIOG will emphasize the best ways for clinicians to apply available research and clinical information in assessing and treating older cancer patients. Abstract submission opens on April 5th and closes June 8th. The conference will feature five scientific program tracks. Track leaders include MASCC members Karis Cheng, Melissa (Kah Poh) Loh, Martine Puts, Carla Ripamonti, Armin Shahrokni, Petra Stolz-Baskett, and Ishwaria Subbiah.

Find information about appropriate topics for abstract submission at the conference website, under Scientific Programme.

Program Tracks

- Solid tumors in the elderly and basic science
- Hematological malignancies in the elderly and basic science
- Supportive and palliative care
- Modern diagnostics and therapeutic areas
- Geriatric assessment, nursing & allied health, and patient care

Key Dates

- Abstract submission and registration opens - April 5, 2018
- Abstract submission deadline - June 8, 2018
- Early registration deadline - June 19, 2018
- Late registration deadline - October 9, 2018
- SIOG 2018 Annual Conference - November 16-18, 2018 (Friday to Sunday)

Focus on Supportive Care in Cancer

Grandangolo in Oncologia: Focus Su Terapie Di Supporto

Grandangolo in Oncologia: Focus Su Terapie Di Supporto will take place May 7-8 in Bologna, Italy. The conference is sponsored by Italy’s National Academy of Medicine and the Italian Network of Supportive Care in Cancer (NICO), with MASCC patronage. Several MASCC members have been involved in organizing the conference and/or will be featured presenters and moderators. They include Domenico Agresta, Andrea Antonuzzo, Paolo Bossi, Stefano Cavalieri, Guglielmo Fumi, Raffaele Giusti, Mauro Guglielmo, Carla Ida Ripamonti, Fausto Roila, Andrea Sbrana, and Florian Scotté. Presentations will cover numerous topics related to the complications of cancer and side effects of treatment, among them pain, fatigue, depression, sleep disorders, financial toxicity, and late effects.

For more information and to register: Focus Su Terapie Di Supporto 2018
Take Advantage of Book Discounts!

Springer Healthcare
Springer Healthcare extends to all MASCC members a 30% discount on current titles. This discount will be in effect until March 31, 2019. Thereafter, MASCC members will receive a 20% discount.

Recent Titles
- Supportive Care Strategies. L. Finn (Ed), A. R. Roche Green (Ed), 2018.
- Psycho-Oncology (Recent Results in Cancer Research). U. Goerling (Ed), A. Mehnert (Ed), 2017.

Oncology Nursing Society
The Oncology Nursing Society offers MASCC members a 20% discount on all ONS titles.

Recent Titles
- Integrating Physical Activity into Cancer Care: An Evidence-Based Approach. L. M. Bernardo, B. J. Becker, 2017.

MD Anderson Cancer Center
The MD Anderson Cancer Center offers a 20% discount to MASCC members on its Supportive and Palliative Care Handbook, edited by Eduardo Bruera and Shalini Dalal.

For more titles and to access discounts (members only), see our Books Page on the MASCC website.

MASCC/ISOO Annual Meeting 2018
MASCC Late-Breaking Abstract Deadline: April 20, 2018
The MASCC Annual Meeting Program Committee recognizes that the results of some new and exciting research may not have been ready by the February abstract submission deadline. If this applies to you, there is still time to submit your research for this year’s meeting. See the guidelines and procedures.

MASCC/ISOO 2018 — Help Spread the Word!

Be a Voice for MASCC!
Say a few words about MASCC and our Annual Meeting at your next speaking engagement. Contact Melissa Chin at mchin@mascc.org for a few MASCC slides to add to your presentation. And join us in Vienna for an exciting program featuring supportive care research advances and clinical applications.

Future MASCC/ISOO Meetings
MASCC welcomes the new members who joined us in February!

- Francesco Agustoni, Italy
- Laocharoenkeat Apiron, Thailand
- Tasnim Arif, United Kingdom
- Natasa Bakic, Serbia
- Sitaram Balaji Subramanian, India
- Chainarong Baoraksa, Thailand
- Rina Barman, India
- Vanessa Buoro, Italy
- Stefano Cavaliere, Italy
- Jelena Dimitrijevic, Serbia
- Giulia Galli, Italy
- Mauro Guglielmo, Italy
- Marco Gunnellini, Italy
- Debkishore Gupta, India
- Bong-Jin Hahm, Republic of Korea
- Julia Inglis, United States
- Vera Jokic, Serbia
- Jennifer Le-Rademacher, United States
- Kwang-Min Lee, Republic of Korea
- Pauline Leroy, France
- Melanie Lovell, Australia
- Zhanni Lu, United States
- Regina Mackey, United States
- Suranjit Maity, India
- Daniela Mangioli, Italy
- Gianna Musettini, Italy
- Wendy Oldemmenger, Netherlands
- Federico Paolieri, Italy
- Bo Pettersson, Sweden
- Udomluck Rangslyaphornratana, Thailand
- Letícia Rodrigues de Oliveira, Brazil
- Hope S. Rugo, United States
- Ranjita Santra, India
- Andrea Sbrana, Italy
- Navneet Singh, India
- Sangeeta Singh, India
- Mehment Sonmez, France
- Diane A. van der Biessen, Netherlands
- U. Margaretha Wallon, United States
- Qi Wang, China
- June Zhang, China

Click here to proceed to the MASCC/ISOO 2018 Annual Meeting Official Website