Welcome to the March Edition of the Society News

Message from Editors Anna Ugalde and Anna Boltong

We have now been in this editorial post for over two years, and the time has come to hand over our duties to a new editor. We have both thoroughly enjoyed the position as MASCC Society News Editors and engaging with the MASCC community. We will continue to be involved over the coming editions to support the new editor once announced.

We wish to extend thanks to several people who have assisted us with preparation of the newsletter each month: Fred Ashbury, Toni Clark, Åge Schultz, and Anne Young. Additionally, a big thank-you to Beth Hollen for her wonderful work of expertly and promptly formatting the newsletter and producing the final print-ready copy. Thank you to current and past MASCC presidents, David Warr and Dorothy Keefe, for their support and encouragement in gathering stories. It has been a pleasure to work with you all.

Thank you to all of you, the members, who have responded to our emails and helped develop the newsletter content. We will continue to read this newsletter with interest and will enjoy keeping up to date with all of the great work you are doing in supportive care. And of course, we will continue to be members of MASCC, so we look forward to meeting you all at Annual Meeting in the future.

We hope that all members will continue to send in news items to the address masccnews@mascc.org. These can include achievements by members, such as awards or prizes, upcoming events or conferences, grants, publications, and any media coverage relevant to supportive care in cancer.

From your editors, Anna & Anna

MASCC Distinguished Service Award: Call for Nominations

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes meritorious achievement and outstanding contributions to MASCC and its mission. This award is reserved for those with the highest levels of support to the MASCC Society.

Nominees should demonstrate exemplary leadership in supportive care in cancer in the fields of research, education, and/or clinical supportive care and cancer. All nominees must be current members of MASCC.

To nominate someone for this award, see the Awards, Grants & Scholarships page at the MASCC website, where you will find the award policy and nomination form. You will need to enclose a cover letter, information about the nominee and yourself, a detailed description of accomplishments, the nominee’s CV, and 3 to 6 letters of support. For more information or inquiries, please contact Åge Schultz, aschultz@mascc.org.

Applications close on 1 April 2015.
The award will be presented at the 2015 Annual Meeting in Copenhagen, 25-27 June, 2015.
Upcoming Conferences

World Congress in Psycho-Oncology. In August, the International Psycho-Oncology Society and the American Psychosocial Oncology Society are partnering to host a joint World Congress in Psycho-Oncology, with the theme, From National to Global: Implementing the Standard of Psychosocial Care in Oncology. This conference will be held in Washington, DC, USA from 28 July to 1 August, 2015. Although the abstract submission period has closed, late-breaking abstracts (for posters only) will be considered from 6 April – 20 April, 2015. More information is available at [www.ipos-society.org](http://www.ipos-society.org).

European Lung Cancer Conference. It’s still not too late to register for the European Lung Cancer Conference, to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, 15 April – 18 April, 2015. Hosted by the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) and the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC), the multidisciplinary program will feature such topics as “Local control after treatment of early stage lung cancer,” “Mesothelioma: the rare disease we need to know better,” and “How do we provide the best psychological care for patients with thoracic malignancies?” Registration is available online until 25 March and on site as of March 26. More information is available at [http://www.esmo.org/Conferences/ELCC-2015-Lung-Cancer](http://www.esmo.org/Conferences/ELCC-2015-Lung-Cancer).

World Congress on Gastrointestinal Cancer. Barcelona, Spain will be the site of the 17th World Congress on Gastrointestinal Cancer, 1 – 4 July, 2015. Abstract submission closes 9 March and discounted registration closes 18 June. Endorsed by leading professional societies and organisations, including the European Society for Medical Oncology, this conference features the latest on gastrointestinal screening, diagnosis, and management options. For more information, visit [http://worldgicancer.com/WCGI/WGIC2015/index.asp](http://worldgicancer.com/WCGI/WGIC2015/index.asp).

MASCC Annual Meeting, 2015. If you are thinking about conference attendance in 2015, make sure you consider the MASCC Annual Meeting held in Copenhagen, Denmark, 25-27 June. The program is filled with sessions on supportive care, including the management of nausea and vomiting in advanced cancer, the use of cannabinoids in cancer therapy, e-health and supportive care, supportive care of the elderly, and a discussion of euthanasia. We hope to see you there!

MASCC/ISOO Annual Meeting 2015 - Join us in Copenhagen!

Abstract submission deadline: February 15, 2015
Early registration deadline: April 24, 2015
Meet a New MASCC Member, Corina van den Hurk

I’m a researcher (PhD) at the Netherlands Comprehensive Cancer Organization in Eindhoven (IKNL). My research is about scalp cooling to prevent chemotherapy-induced alopecia. The use of this supportive care is increasing all over the world, but has had minimal research attention until now. The impact of hair loss varies hugely between cancer patients; some consider it “not bothering at all,” while others consider it “worse than losing a breast.” With an international group of researchers (MDs, oncology nurses, health scientists), I am developing a questionnaire on the impact of alopecia and a common registration of scalp cooling results. With other researchers, I am performing more basic research on hair loss and scalp cooling, including pharmacokinetics, biology, and pathology. I completed my PhD on the effectiveness and safety of scalp cooling in 2013. I decided to join MASCC/ISOO because of the opportunity to engage with enthusiastic and friendly people all over the world with an interest in alopecia and scalp cooling. MASCC/ISOO is THE place to gather such a group to share knowledge and collaborate in research!

Meet a New MASCC Member, Floortje Mols

I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of Medical and Clinical Psychology at Tilburg University, Tilburg, the Netherlands. My research has mainly focused on long-term cancer survivorship. More specifically, it is focused on signaling (and possibly preventing) problems caused by treatments that have a negative influence on patient-reported outcomes, such as quality of life, disease-specific complaints, anxiety, depression, and fatigue. The impact of chemotherapy-induced side effects is my special interest. Nowadays, my main focus is to gain insight into the prevalence and severity of chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy, and to determine who is at risk, by taking socio-demographic, clinical, and psychological characteristics into account. Furthermore, I will study its influence on patient-reported outcomes (health related quality of life, anxiety, depression, fatigue, sleep) and patients’ lives (health care utilization, physical activity, and employment). I have recently published several papers on this topic, among others, in the Journal of Clinical Oncology. The following review on quality of life in patients with neuropathy gives a nice overview of this research field: Mols F, Beijers T, Vreugdenhil G, van de Poll-Franse L. Chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy and its association with quality of life: a systematic review. Support Care Cancer. 2014 Aug;22(8):2261-9.

I decided to join MASCC/ISOO because it is, to my knowledge, the only association that hosts an international workgroup on neurological symptoms. I hope that we can work together to study chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy and its impact on patients’ lives.
Meet a New MASCC Member, Lauren Levi

I am a dental oncologist, and I treat the oral and dental manifestations of cancer therapy. I recently completed my fellowship in dental oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. I am now working in private practice in Manhattan, New York. Prior to my fellowship, I completed a general dental practice residency at New York-Presbyterian Weill Cornell Medical Center. Treating the oral and dental manifestations of cancer therapy does not involve treating cancer, but rather some of its side effects, thereby providing dental and oral supportive care. This includes caring for patients before, during, and after they receive a stem cell transplant, chemotherapy, or radiation treatment. I treat oral mucositis, oral graft vs host disease, osteonecrosis of the jaw, and osteoradionecrosis of the jaw, treating patients throughout their radiation therapy. I am extremely interested in supportive care in cancer, for I believe in its multidisciplinary approach. I am currently writing a case series on osteonecrosis of the jaw not related to bisphosphonates. Additionally, I am involved in the MASCC/ISOO Oral Care Study Group. I decided to join MASCC/ISOO for its excellent reputation, and I was looking for a network of colleagues where I could discuss dental oncology-related issues. MASCC seemed like the perfect organization!

Publications from MASCC members

1: Ekström M, Bornefalk-Hermansson A, Abernethy A, Currow D. Low-dose opioids should be considered for symptom relief also in advanced chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Evid Based Med. 2015 Jan 6.


4: Ekström MP, Abernethy AP, Currow DC. The management of chronic breathlessness in patients with advanced and terminal illness. BMJ. 2015 Jan 2;349:g7617.


Publications from MASCC members


Have any news items to share?

Please send contributions for the MASCC News to MASCCnews@mascc.org or the co-editors:

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