



NURSE NEWS

Volume 3 • 2018

Welcome to the third volume of Nurse News for 2018!

Lymphoma Australia's Nurse News aims to keep nurses with a special interest in lymphoma up to date with all aspects of lymphoma care locally and from around the world.

Thank you again for your interest and support of our work. We look forward to continuing the sharing of lymphoma and CLL news with you.

Sharna and Donna, Lymphoma Care Nurses, have been visiting hospitals to meet with clinicians, patients and carers to promote and educate about Lymphoma Australia's available supports. We have also been present at a number of education events and conferences around the country over the last few months. It has been great to meet many of you during this time and hearing about all the wonderful work you do. We now have over 400 members in our Lymphoma Nurse Special Interest Group!

If you are attending Blood 2018 in Brisbane in October, please stop by the Lymphoma Australia stand in the Exhibition Hall and say hello. Lymphoma Australia is also hosting our first nurse education breakfast on Monday 22 October before the meeting sessions start for the day; 'The modern approaches for the treatment and management of lymphoma'.

All nurses can attend the event, even if you are not a delegate for the conference. Your invitation will be coming soon or please contact Donna, email: donna.g@lymphoma.org.au

If you have lymphoma information that you would like to share, if you would like to set up a meeting with Sharna and Donna, or wish to order resources for your team or hospital, please email us at enquiries@lymphoma.org.au or donna.g@lymphoma.org.au or phone 1800 953 081.

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September is *Lymphoma* month

September is Lymphoma Awareness Month and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have gone lime to put Lymphoma in the Limelight! We would also like to acknowledge and thank nurses, who have helped and supported Australian lymphoma patients on what can be a difficult journey.

Raising awareness is a key step to ensure that more Australians know the signs and symptoms of lymphoma, know where to turn for support, and to gain access to the best possible treatments.

Many people around Australia have hosted events around the country from morning teas, coffee campaigns, hospital events, sport events and head shaves to help raise awareness and funds to support Lymphoma Care Nurses. We

are helping Australian patients, carers and health professionals understand and navigate the lymphoma journey.

Lymphoma is the 6th most common cancer in Australia for both adult men and women, and the 3rd most common in children. There are over 80 different subtypes, and we often feel that we are the forgotten cancer. However, over the last decade, research, clinical trials, and the tireless work of our clinicians, nurses, patients and caregivers has resulted in Australian patients having access to many new medications.

Over the past 2 years, there have been 12 new treatments and 2 over the last 3 months, that have been approved for the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) by the government for Australian lymphoma patients. Lymphoma Australia will continue to advocate for clinical trials and access to new medicines for Australian patients, including for the rare subtypes.

Meet the *Lymphoma* Australia staff members

For those who are new to Lymphoma Australia, I would like to introduce you to our current team members:

Sharon Millman	CEO
Donna Gairns	Lymphoma Care Nurse Consultant
Sharna Moloney	Lymphoma Care Nurse Consultant
Carol Cahill	Community Support Manager
Josie Cole	Fundraising Manager



**PUT
Lymphoma
IN THE LIMELIGHT**
#Lime4Lymphoma



Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme Medicines Update

We have great news for lymphoma patients with two drugs recently approved for inclusion on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

There has been great collaboration from many parties including health professionals, patients and their loved ones to make this happen, who provided submissions about their experience.

New medicine on the PBS for Mantle Cell lymphoma

The Federal Minister for Health, Hon. Greg Hunt, recently announced that from 1st August 2018, IMBRUVICA (ibrutinib) will become the first medicine available through the PBS for Australians with Mantle Cell Lymphoma (MCL) whose condition progresses after initial chemotherapy-based treatment.

IMBRUVICA works by blocking a protein in the body that helps cancer cells live and grow. This protein is called Bruton's Tyrosine Kinase (BTK). Blocking this protein may help kill and reduce the number of cancer cells and also slow the spread of the disease.

Associate Professor Constantine Tam, Low grade lymphoma & CLL Clinical Haematologist, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and Director of Haematology at St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne. "Until now, there has been no standard of care for these patients. This PBS listing provides a new treatment option, which allows us to keep fighting the cancer when chemotherapy stops working".



Ninety-year old Dorothy has been on Imbruvica for 2 years for her mantle cell lymphoma after her diagnosis more than a decade ago

New medicine on the PBS for Follicular Lymphoma

The Federal Health Minister Hon. Greg Hunt announced recently that Gazyva (obintuzumab) will be placed on the PBS for patients with advanced Follicular Lymphoma (FL). Gazyva will now be available as front-line treatment for patients with advanced FL in combination with chemotherapy from October 1st, 2018.

Gazyva is a monoclonal antibody, that is similar to rituximab. Research has shown that Gazyva provides a prolonged progression free survival in previously untreated patients with FL, when compared to rituximab.

Gazyva recognises and attaches to a protein called CD20 which is found on the surface of B-cell lymphocytes. During the process of binding to the protein, the abnormal growth of the B lymphocytes is stopped.

Lymphoma Nurses Down Under Facebook Group

We recently launched the new Lymphoma Nurses Down Under private Facebook group. It is a special interest group for nurses and health professionals with an interest in lymphoma/CLL, in addition to receiving Nurse News and email updates.

- It provides a forum to connect with other nurses
- To learn from and provide peer support
- Share information
- To keep up to date on the latest information and news about lymphoma/CLL (both locally and internationally)
- Clinical trials and latest research
- Education events.

In response to feedback that I have received, not everyone uses Facebook and those who have been on Facebook have also requested a list of the publications I post, so they can read them later. So, in response, I will be sending out an additional newsletter via email once a month; "Lymphoma Nurses Down Under – News". It will list key lymphoma publications, news and podcasts that I have gathered from around the world to make it easier for you all to keep up to date.

These will also be filed in our private nurse portal that you can access via our website, once you have created an account. Please let me know what you think and what further information you would like to see. There is a lot of information out there! To create an account, visit:

 <https://bit.ly/2RwGDP7>



Cancer Nurses Society of Australia (CNSA) Annual Congress 2018 – Brisbane

Lymphoma Australia attended the recent CNSA Annual Congress, held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre June 21-23rd. The 21st Annual Congress explored Science, Symptoms and Service Delivery. Delegates to the conference experienced an interesting 3 days learning from cancer experts and about all the fantastic work that Australian cancer nurses have achieved.

It was also wonderful to meet so many of you throughout the CNSA conference from visiting our Lymphoma Australia exhibit and at the many events, meetings and sessions. Over 80



new members joined our Lymphoma Nurse Special Interest Group during CNSA. Welcome to you all! We now have members in every state and territory across Australia, to help promote awareness, support and educate lymphoma patients with reliable, up to date information.

CLL Horizons 2018

Lymphoma Australia was recently represented at CLL Horizons 2018, the 2nd International Conference for organisations representing people with CLL in Prague, Czech Republic, by Donna Gairns, Lymphoma Care Nurse Consultant. The conference was attended by most of the world's leading patient advocate groups. It was a great opportunity for groups to learn and share from each other, while listening to medical experts on CLL from Europe, on the best treatment and management for CLL patients.

The conference also provided a great opportunity to listen to what patients and carers needed to know. Thank you to the internet, patients and carers are often highly informed about current research for CLL and the best treatments available around the world. As health



professionals, we also need to know where to find reliable and the best information for our patients.

Lymphoma Australia is a member of the Lymphoma Coalition, that is made up of over 50 countries. We all work together to provide a stronger force to advocate for patients and their families and for the best treatments.

Upcoming Education and Conference Events:

Upcoming dates to keep on your calendar

Blood 2018

Date: 21-24 October 2018
Venue: Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC)
Registration: www.blood2018.com

Nurse Education Breakfast – Hosted by Lymphoma Australia

“The modern approaches for the treatment and management of lymphoma” Presented by Dr Jason Butler, Clinical Haematologist

Date: Monday 22 October 2018
Time: 6:45 am – 8:15 am
Venue: Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC)
RSVP: donna.g@lymphoma.org.au or phone 0404 749 884

*Held during the Blood 2018 meeting; not exclusive to conference delegates

Grace 2018 – Gilead

Date: Saturday 6 October 2018
Time: 7:30 am – 3:15 pm
Venue: Grand Hyatt Melbourne
Registration: www.grace2018.com.au

Gilead Nurse Education Event

“Improving Patient Outcomes: Novel Agents for Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia (CLL) and Follicular Lymphoma (FL)” Presented by Dr Michael Gilbertson, Clinical Haematologist

Date: Thursday 18 October
Time: 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm
Venue: Sir Stamford Circular Quay, Sydney
Information: For further details contact donna.g@lymphoma.org.au

*This interesting event was recently held in Melbourne and attended by 70 nurses, who were mostly members from our Lymphoma Nurse Special Interest Group!

Pre-conference workshop – Nursing AYAs with Cancer

Date: Monday 3 December 2018
Time: 11 am – 5 pm
Venue: Sheraton on the Park
Cost: \$220 early bird, \$290 standard registration (limited capacity)
Information: www.twitter.com/CNSA_ORG/status/1042979228168413184

The CNSA AYA SPN are hosting an interactive workshop @AYAGlobalCancer exploring lessons from international nursing practice, leadership, innovations and opportunities in AYA cancer nursing. Registrations are now open via: www.eiseverywhere.com/ereg/newreg.php?eventid=312967&

3rd Global Adolescent & Young Adult Cancer Congress

Date: 4-6 December 2018
Venue: Sheraton on the Park, Sydney
Registration: www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/312967

New eviQ online course: Immunotherapies

Gain a comprehensive overview of the principles of immunotherapy, classes of immunotherapy drugs and clinical management of patients receiving immunotherapy in the new three-part course.

Complete the free course online: www.education.eviq.org.au/courses/immunotherapies

We would like to hear from you!

In upcoming editions of "Nurse News" we would like to highlight the great work that lymphoma nurses are doing around Australia. We would like to hear from you by providing a short piece (200-300 words) about your nurse role, the cancer service you work within, projects, patient work, presentations, education days, achievements or clinical trials that you are working with. Contact Donna, donna.g@lymphoma.org.au or Sharna, Sharna.moloney@lymphoma.org.au



Resources & Fact Sheets

We continue to add to our range of resources and fact sheets that are available to download and print. We can also send you a supply of these books and fact sheets for your patients by emailing enquiries@lymphoma.org.au

These free resources are designed to better inform patients on a wide range of topics including detailed information about lymphoma subtypes, clinical trial, side effects and survivorship.

Thank you!

Thank you for supporting Lymphoma Australia and being a part of the Lymphoma Nurse Special Interest Group. We are striving to increase membership and grow our services for you. We would encourage you to invite your colleagues to join. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or suggestions.

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Join our dedicated closed Facebook group for patients and carers by searching **Lymphoma, DOWN UNDER**

For more information visit www.lymphoma.org.au

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