

Welcome to the fourth and final Nurse News for 2019!



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.

It has been a very busy 3 months in the lymphoma world. Following from a successful September Lymphoma Awareness Month, there has been Blood 2019 in Perth, ALLG in Adelaide and the American Society of Hematology (ASH) has just been held in Orlando, USA. Lymphoma Australia has attended all of these important events, to receive the latest information from the Australian and international lymphoma & CLL experts, so that we can update patients, their carers and of course all of you working in the haematology area.

On behalf of the Lymphoma Australia team we would like to thank you for the wonderful work you all do caring for lymphoma and CLL patients and their loved ones. We would also like to thank you for your ongoing support for the work that we do and the great feedback we have received. We wish to continue improving and growing to meet your needs, so let us know what you want to see.



The Lymphoma Australia Team at Blood 2019

Merry Christmas everyone and we wish you all the best for the year to come! We look forward to an even bigger year in 2020!

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Rebekah Turner

Lymphoma Care Nurse - Queensland



Lymphoma Australia would like to introduce Rebekah Turner, our second Lymphoma Care Nurse who will be working as part of our Queensland (QLD) Team.

Rebekah has recently joined Sarah Williams, our other QLD Nurse, and together they have been off to a great start as they venture around Queensland, raising awareness and advocacy for lymphoma and CLL. They have already started educational support to nursing staff within the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane area.

Rebekah Completed her Bachelor of Nursing in 2014, in her final year of study she discovered her love and interest for haematology and specifically Bone Marrow Transplant. This led her to work within the Bone Marrow Transplant ward of the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. Bek completed her training there and also moved into a role in the outpatient department where she fostered an understanding and experience of both the high-

acuity inpatient and the outpatient settings.

After three years at the Royal Brisbane, Bek decided she wanted to further develop her haematology experience in the paediatric setting. Since then she has secured a position working at the Queensland Children's Hospital in South Brisbane and has been there 2 years now in the oncology and Bone Marrow Transplant Ward. She has since gone part time at the Children's Hospital to take on her role with Lymphoma Australia where she will be working 5 days per fortnight. Bek is passionate about education for nurses, so they can be fully equipped in their knowledge base to better serve their patients. She is also eager to contribute to patient education and facilitating support networks in order to ensure no one impacted by Lymphoma and CLL have to journey alone.

Bek recently got engaged to her best friend Aaron and they plan to marry on December 31st this year. Bek says she fully intends to have her two poodles walk down the aisle with her. Bek will then change her name to Rebekah Needer in the new year. Congratulations Bek and Aaron!

Featured Nurse: Katrina Debosz, Nurse Practitioner

Katrina Debosz is a Nurse Practitioner in Blood Cancer and Bone Marrow Transplant Long Term Follow Up at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPAH) in Camperdown, New South Wales (NSW).

Katrina has created a new lymphoma service comprising of two clinics per week to review long term follow up post allogeneic blood and marrow transplant patients. This recently appointed position was created as Katrina had an interest in the area and recognised that there was a great need for this role in the current lymphoma service being provided at RPAH.

The RPAH Haematology clinic reviews approximately 30-40 lymphoma patients weekly; this includes newly diagnosed patients, those undergoing treatment and patients in follow-up. These numbers are increasing, which puts pressure on the doctors in the outpatient clinics. This suggested that there was a gap in the current services being provided and Katrina worked towards bridging this gap. Katrina wanted to also support the Lymphoma outpatients that come from rural NSW. These rural and remote patients can feel isolated and may need extra support as they are forced to travel and stay in temporary accommodation near the hospital. Katrina can be a point of contact for these rural and remote patients, providing further education about their disease and offering help to coordinate treatment appointments.

Katrina has helped to facilitate a new Bone Marrow Transplant rehab program which involves patients utilising the Chris O' Brien Lifehouse



Katrina Debosz, Nurse Practitioner

exercise therapy equipment once a month. This is an excellent patient support group for patients to meet other BMT patients and create a support network for each other whilst also exercising.

Katrina's role will also involve coordinating patients receiving the new CAR T-cell therapy commercially at RPAH. This is a new service that is in the process of being accredited. This will involve creating protocols and guidelines for this new therapy to be administered safely. Katrina has also been asked to be a guest speaker at The University of Sydney to educate nursing students on Haematology cancer and long-term follow-up of patients post allogeneic stem cell transplantation.

Katrina has had a long career in haematology whilst also raising a family at home. She has demonstrated an outstanding ability to be able

Continued overleaf

Updates for the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC)

In November, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) met to discuss the submissions for two new indications for medications onto the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for the treatment of lymphoma and CLL. We are currently waiting for the outcomes of the meeting and will update you shortly.

Ibrutinib (Imbruvica[®] - BTK inhibitor) for previously untreated patients with chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL) or small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL) with evidence of one or more 17p chromosomal deletions. There has also been a submission for the recommendation that FISH (genetic) testing to be done as standard practice for all CLL/SLL patients prior to treatment. This is now standard

practice in the USA and UK, the outcome determines the treatment management required. Patients who are unmutated and hold chromosomal deletions do very poorly with chemotherapy treatment and fair better with targeted therapies, such as Ibrutinib.

Polatuzumab Vedotin for the treatment of patients with relapsed or refractory Diffuse Large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) who are ineligible for stem cell transplantation.

The Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) met in late November and they are still considering CAR T-cell therapy for relapsed or refractory Diffuse Large B-cell lymphoma for Australian patients.

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to maintain a work-life balance, whilst also continuing to further her postgraduate education. Katrina's carer timeline below can be used as a model to junior nurses in furthering their education for the future.

Timeline of Career Progression:

- 2008 - Clinical Nurse Specialist in haematology, inpatient ward (first daughter Ellie was born).
- 2010 - Graduate Diploma in Palliative Care.
- 2012 - Commenced Master of Cancer and Haematology Nursing (second daughter Caitlin was born).
- 2015 - Completed Masters, became BMT LTFU Clinical Nurse Consultant.

- 2016 - Commenced Masters of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner).
- 2017 - Completed NP, added lymphoma to the role.
- 2019 - Blood Cancer and BMT LTFU NP position accepted.

Katrina has shown an excellent knowledge in Lymphoma and has provided a service that was needed to support Haematology patients in long term follow-up post stem cell transplantation. Katrina has proven to be a highly skilled nurse in her field and has demonstrated that she is an advocate for her patients now and in the future. Congratulations Katrina on your wonderful achievements to date and well done on the work that you do to improve the patient experience.

Blood 2019

Congratulations to the Western Australian HSANZ nursing committee for organising a wonderful nurse symposium at Blood 2019 in Perth during October.

Congratulations to all of you who did oral and poster presentations during the conference. Thank you to everyone who came to the Lymphoma Australia stand to say hello and check out all of our new resources. I am sure all who attended the Gala dinner would agree that it was a fantastic night and check out the photo evidence below.

Welcome to the new members to the group who signed up during the conference. We are growing very quickly and will continue to support nurses do the wonderful work that you do. Some examples of this was presented during the conference by Lymphoma Nurse Group members - abstracts:

Oral presentations

Tejnei Vaishnav

Cancer Institute NSW, *eviQ* content author - haematology & BMT

eviQ and *eviQ* education – haematology and BMT updates

<https://bit.ly/38SdTZQ>

Ashley Whitechurch

Clinical Nurse Consultant, Indolent Lymphoma
Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre

Implementation of Venetoclax dose escalation in the public setting – a single site experience

<https://bit.ly/2ZaG0z2>



Nicole O'Leary, Clinical Nurse Consultant

Nicole O'Leary

Clinical Nurse Consultant, CAR T-cell therapy
Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre

Commercially preparing a centre for CAR T-cell therapy

<https://bit.ly/2Z53Mfs>

Donna Gairns

National Lymphoma Nurse Manager
Lymphoma Australia

Lymphoma: the patient experience

<https://bit.ly/38SdTZQ>

Poster presentations (link to abstracts)

<https://bit.ly/34A6xGU>

N003

The development of specialty haematology nurses: book smarts versus street smarts

Emma Cohen¹, Bernadette McCormack¹, Peter Shuttleworth¹, Patricia Wise¹, Andrea Cameron¹, Tammy Rowe¹, Joanne Wooster¹, Angela Mellerick¹

¹Austin Health, Heidelberg, Australia

N004

A NIFTY intervention: empowering nursing staff to initiated pre-prescribed antibiotic order for haematology patients that develop febrile neutropenia.

Emma Cohen¹, Steven Walker^{1,2}, Andrew Grigg¹, Jason Trubiano^{1,3}

¹Austin Health, Heidelberg, Australia,

²Monash University, Clayton, Australia,

³Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute, Parkville, Australia

N005

Clinician knowledge, acceptance and experience of using an algorithm developed to standardise the management of mucositis pain

Emma Cohen¹, Clare English¹, Megan Yeomans¹, Chong Tan¹, Ilonka Meyer¹

¹Austin Health, Heidelberg, Australia

N006

HALT; WHINE STOPR! Development, implementation and evaluation of an individual and nursing team wellness initiative in the inpatient haematology setting

Baccara Mahony¹, Elena Tarasenko¹, Jo Wooster¹, Emma Cohen¹

¹Austin Health, Heidelberg, Australia

N007

Empowering point-of-care nurses to better assess, document and escalate patient-reported antibiotic allergies: the implementation of a validated antibiotic allergy assessment tool (AAAT) in the inpatient haematology setting

Emma Cohen¹, Misha Devchand¹, Steven Walker^{1,2}, Prue Andrew¹, Andrea Cameron¹, Patricia Wise¹, Jason Trubiano^{1,3}

¹ONJ Centre, Austin Health, Heidelberg, Australia,

²Monash University, Clayton, Australia,

³Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Parkville, Australia

N011

Managing Hodgkin Lymphoma during a twin pregnancy; a case study

Tracey Dryden¹, Kylie Mason¹

¹Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre, Melbourne, Australia

N013

When malignant and non-malignant haematology collide in a complex case of primary refractory Hodgkin Lymphoma

Anita Edwards¹, Jenny Hempton¹, Olivia Darby¹

¹University Hospital Geelong, Geelong, Australia

N019

Take Care, the bottom Matters Too!

Eugenija Johnson¹

¹Alfred Health, Melbourne, Australia

N021

Collaborative communication is key to delivering better patient outcomes in acute bone marrow transplant and haematology patients

Amy Keating¹, Midori Nakagaki, David Williams, Peter Frederikson

¹RBWH, Ascot, Australia

N026

EMPOWER: existing onsite faint prevention strategies will work if routinely implemented

Justine O'Donovan¹, Rena Hirani¹, Barbara Bell¹

¹Australian Red Cross Blood Service, Alexandria, Sydney, Australia

N027

Integrating shared survivorship care into an Allogeneic BMT long term follow up clinic

Yvonne Panek-Hudson¹, David Ritchie¹, Sue Hookey¹, Tricia Wright², Kylie Mason¹, Sarah O'Leary³, Louise Chard¹

¹Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre & Royal Melbourne Hospital, Melbourne, Australia,

²Latrobe Regional Hospital, Traralgon, Australia,

³North Western Primary Health Network, Melbourne, Australia

Gala Dinner and social events



N028

Supporting nursing staff to care for people with a haematological malignancy who receive a lumbar puncture via development of an assessment tool

Veronica Percival¹, Nicole Gavin^{1,2} ¹Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Herston, Australia, ²Queensland University of Technology, Kelvin Grove, Australia



N036

Best dosage and route of topical lignocaine to improve patient comfort and tolerability during the insertion of an enteral tube: a systematic review

Allanah Watling¹, Nicole Gavin^{1,2}, Elise Button^{1,2} ¹Cancer Care Services, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Herston, Australia, ²Queensland University of Technology, Kelvin Grove, Australia



N037

Nurse Initiated Electrolyte Protocols for the Haematology inpatient

Trish Wise¹ ¹Austin Health, Heidelberg, Australia



Education Events

In case you missed them...

Lymphoma Australia Nurse Education Breakfast

Lymphoma Australia held our second nurse education breakfast in Perth, alongside the Blood 2019 conference, sponsored by MSD.

Thank you to all who came along to our fully registered event, with representation from all states around Australia and our New Zealand colleagues.

A/Prof Chan Cheah, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital & Hollywood Private Hospital, Perth WA, provided an excellent presentation that provided an overview of how novel therapies are used in the management of lymphoma. For those who were not able to attend, you can view this via the Lymphoma Australia, YouTube channel.

How I treat lymphoma using novel agents

A/Prof Chan Cheah



<https://bit.ly/2Si3GAb>



Associate Professor Chan Cheah



Associate Professor Chan Cheah

Education Events

In case you missed them...



American Society of Hematology (ASH) 2019, Orlando, USA

Lymphoma Australia received a grant from AbbVie to attend and conduct interviews during the recent ASH meeting of the lymphoma/CLL experts.

We conducted over 35 interviews with experts from around the world to share with patients, carers and healthcare professionals across Australia and the Lymphoma Coalition (worldwide).

It was an extremely productive 4 days at the meeting, where we will bring you the highlights and updates about the management of lymphoma/CLL.

See all of the interviews of the lymphoma experts through our Lymphoma Australia YouTube channel. We will also be sending out a separate special ASH edition newsletters with all the updates & interviews.

<https://bit.ly/2Z4RhAO>

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



Sharon Millman (CEO), Donna Gairns (National Nurse Manager & Deborah Sims (CLL Patient & Patient Advocacy



Professor Mathias Rummel and Donna Gairns

Lymphoma Australia Updates

Lymphoma Australia continue to add to our resource library. We have added further videos to our YouTube channel. I welcome you to watch these and many other topics in our YouTube library.

Dr Michael Dickinson, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre & Royal Melbourne Hospital has provided the following presentations. These are ideal for patients, their carers and healthcare professionals.

Diffuse Large B-cell Lymphoma – Overview of standard therapy

- Diagnosis and staging:
- What does it involve and why is it important?
- What kinds of lymphoma are there and why does it matter?
- Basics of treatment - Themes regarding emerging therapies

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

Treating relapsed lymphoma – General landscape

- Overview of how we treat relapsed lymphoma.

<https://bit.ly/34HcNgk>



We are currently revising new fact sheets for lymphoma subtypes, management of lymphoma & supportive care that will be released and uploaded soon. Please check out our fact sheet resource library. Please let us know of topics that you want to see and need to help patient care.

<https://bit.ly/2S8Ayv8>

Thank you again for all of your support for the work that we do.

Please do not hesitate to contact us 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**

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