About the PCRN

The purpose of the Palliative Care Research Network (PCRN) is to develop a platform for sustainable research collaboration. The PCRN is currently funded by the Victorian Cancer Agency and the Department of Health and Human Services, Victoria, Australia. The Centre for Palliative Care (a Collaborative Centre of St Vincent’s Hospital and The University of Melbourne) is the administering organisation.

PCRN Project Update

**Family meetings for hospitalized palliative care patients: Benefits and resource implications**

Family meetings are recommended as standard practice, as a means whereby health professionals, together with family carers and patients (where able) discuss goals of care, site of care options, psychosocial issues, and plans for the future. These encounters are not usually provided consistently or systematically, nor are they conducted according to best available evidence. The primary aim of the study is to assess the effect of a structured family meeting (SFM) on patient and family outcomes. In particular we are examining the effect of an SFM on the family carer’s level of psychological distress and quality of life and on the patient’s care at the end of life and hospital usage at the end of life. The study also aims to determine when the most appropriate time is to provide a SFM and the resource implications of implementing SFM meetings into routine practice.

This is a multi-site project, conducted over three clinical sites, including St Vincent’s Hospital, the Royal Melbourne Hospital and the Austin Hospital. Patients and their primary family carer are being recruited to the study. In total, 297 family carers were recruited to the study and completed time 1 data. The control group received standard care (n=153) and the intervention group received standard care plus a SFM (n=144). Of these, 211 completed time 2 (71%) and 151 completed time 3 data (51%). We have now completed data collection and are currently analysing the dataset.

In addition to quantitative data, 16 family carers who self-selected from the intervention group participated in a semi-structured interview to comment on their experience of the SFM and any possible outcomes. The health professionals who were involved in delivering the intervention also attended a focus group (conducted at each site) to obtain their feedback on their involvement in the SFMs.

Data analyses and a final report will be completed by the end of June 2018. For further information please refer to the study protocol which has been published:

Upcoming PCRN Event

Writing Workshop – Wednesday 20th June 2018

Further details on the workshop and how to apply will be made available soon. Keep a lookout on the PCRN website.

SAVE THE DATE

WRITING WORKSHOP

Wednesday 20th June 2018
10am – 2pm

This workshop will help you to understand:

- Why publish?
- Why it’s hard to get started
- Things to do before you start writing
- Structuring and writing a paper
- Submitting a paper
- Reasons why journals accept or reject your papers
- Responding to your reviewers comments

Who is it for?

Students, clinical, research/academic staff wishing to increase their writing output

Duration

4 hours
Useful Resources in Palliative Care Research

Please find below a sample list of useful resources which you can subscribe to in order to keep up with the latest palliative care news and publications on evidence-based palliative care research.

Media Watch, created and distributed by Barry R. Ashpole – to subscribe email: barryashpole@bell.net

E-Hospice – to subscribe to e-newsletter go to the website.

Briefings in Palliative, Hospice, and Pain Medicine & Management – to subscribe to table of contents go to the website.

CareSearch palliative care knowledge network – to subscribe to e-newsletter go to the website.

All Ireland Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care (AllHPC) – to subscribe to mailing list go to the website.

Upcoming Funding Opportunities 2018

Better Care Victoria (BCV) Innovation Fund
For more information visit the website
Closing Date: 13 April 2018

Cancer Council Victoria (CCV) Biomedical Grants (various grant opportunities)
For more information visit the website
Closing Date: various

Ian Potter Foundation (various grant opportunities)
For more information visit the website
Closing Date: 20 April 2018

Jack Brockhoff Foundation – Early Career Research Grants
For more information visit the website
Closing date: 31 July 2018

MS Research Australia (various grant opportunities)
For more information visit the website
Closing date: various

National Breast Cancer Foundation (various grant opportunities)
For more information visit the website
Closing Date: various

NIB Foundation
For more information visit the website
Closing Date: 30 April 2018
(applications open 2 April 2018)

Ramaciotti Health Investment Grants
For more information visit the website
Closing Date: 31 May 2018

Viertel Charitable Foundation – Senior Medical Research Fellowships & Clinical Investigator Awards
For more information visit the website
Closing Date: 30 April 2018
### Upcoming Conferences

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<th><strong>International</strong></th>
<th><strong>National</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>International</strong></td>
<td><strong>20</strong>th Australian Palliative Care Research Colloquium</td>
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<tr>
<td>13th Annual Conference on Palliative and End of Life Care</td>
<td>Dates: October 25-26, 2018</td>
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<td>Dates: May 4, 2018</td>
<td>Location: Melbourne, VIC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location: Ontario, Canada</td>
<td>Further details to follow – please keep a look-out on the Centre for Palliative Care [website]</td>
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<td></td>
<td>An exciting PCRN Forum is also planned at the Colloquium – more details to follow in the next PCRN e-news and please keep a look-out on the PCRN [website]</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th World Research Congress of the European Association for Palliative Care (EAPC)</td>
<td>Dates: May 24-26, 2018</td>
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<td>Dates: May 24-26, 2018</td>
<td>Location: Bern, Switzerland</td>
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<td>[website]</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Death, Grief &amp; Bereavement Conference 2018</td>
<td>Dates: June 4-6, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dates: June 4-6, 2018</td>
<td>Location: Chicago, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer (MASCC)/ International Society of Oral Oncology (ISOO) Annual Meeting on Supportive Care in Cancer 2018</td>
<td>Dates: June 28-30, 2018</td>
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<td>Dates: June 28-30, 2018</td>
<td>Location: Vienna, Austria</td>
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<tr>
<td>22nd International Congress on Palliative Care</td>
<td>Dates: October 2-5, 2018</td>
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<td>Dates: October 2-5, 2018</td>
<td>Location: Montreal, Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>20th IPPOS World Congress of Psycho-Oncology</td>
<td>Dates: October 31-November 2, 2018</td>
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<td>Dates: October 31-November 2, 2018</td>
<td>Location: Hong Kong</td>
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### National

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<tr>
<td>6th Australian Palliative Care Research Colloquium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dates: October 25-26, 2018</td>
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<td>Location: Melbourne, VIC</td>
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Recent Publications Relevant to PCRN Members

In each edition we will feature some recently published articles relevant to PCRN members. If you have published in a peer reviewed journal recently and the subject matter is relevant to the PCRN community, or if you come across key publications that foster evidence based palliative care, please email pcrn@svha.org.au with the subject ‘PCRN Newsletter’ and we will feature the publications in an upcoming edition.


Membership

The PCRN now has 360 registered members from around Australia and other countries such as Hong Kong, India, Malawi, Norway, the UK and USA. Individuals with a genuine interest in palliative care research may become individual members of the PCRN. Membership is free and some of the *key benefits* of membership include:

- An opportunity to network and collaborate with other palliative care researchers through PCRN seminars and forums;
- Apply for a range of PCRN funding including: PhD scholarship, project and travel grants;
- Assistance in developing your research;
- Opportunities to provide mentorship to junior researchers.

*Please note that even though membership is open to everyone, some resources and funding may be restricted to Victorian residents only.*

To formalise your membership, please complete the online form on the PCRN website.

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**Forward e-news to a friend!**

Please forward this newsletter to friends or colleagues interested in palliative care research. They can also sign up for **free membership**

**Contribute to the PCRN e-News**

If your work is relevant to the PCRN community, please email pcrnv@svha.org.au with the subject ‘PCRN e-News submission’ and we will feature your article or publication in an upcoming edition.

**Unsubscribe**

*If you are no longer interested in receiving correspondence from us,*

please unsubscribe by emailing: pcrnv@svha.org.au

**pcrnv.com.au**