



# e-News

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## March 2018

### 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:

Hudson P, Girgis A, Mitchell G, Philip J, Parker D, Currow D, Liew D, Thomas K, et al. (2015). Benefits and resource implications of family meetings for hospitalized palliative care patients: research protocol. *BMC Palliative Care* 14(1):73.

## Upcoming PCRN Event

### Writing Workshop – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 (AIHPC)** – 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

### International

#### 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Palliative and End of Life Care

Dates: May 4, 2018

Location: Ontario, Canada

[\[Website\]](#)

#### 10<sup>th</sup> World Research Congress of the European Association for Palliative Care (EAPC)

Dates: May 24-26, 2018

Location: Bern, Switzerland

[\[Website\]](#)

#### International Death, Grief & Bereavement Conference 2018

Dates: June 4-6, 2018

Location: Chicago, USA

[\[Website\]](#)

#### Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer (MASCC)/ International Society of Oral Oncology (ISOO) Annual Meeting on Supportive Care in Cancer 2018

Dates: June 28-30, 2018

Location: Vienna, Austria

[\[Website\]](#)

#### 22<sup>nd</sup> International Congress on Palliative Care

Dates: October 2-5, 2018

Location: Montreal, Canada

[\[Website\]](#)

#### 20<sup>th</sup> IPOS World Congress of Psycho-Oncology

Dates: October 31-November 2, 2018

Location: Hong Kong

[\[Website\]](#)

### National

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#### SAVE THE DATES

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Australian Palliative Care Research Colloquium

Dates: October 25-26, 2018

Location: Melbourne, VIC

Further details to follow – please keep a look-out on the Centre for Palliative Care [website](#)

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](#)

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#### Palliative Care Nurses Australia (PCNA) Conference 2018

Dates: May 20-21, 2018

Location: Brisbane QLD, Australia

[\[Website\]](#)

#### Primary Care Collaborative Cancer Clinical Trials Group (PC4) Scientific Symposium 2018

Dates: May 25, 2018

Location: Sydney NSW, Australia

[\[Website\]](#)

#### 21<sup>st</sup> Cancer Nurses Society of Australia (CNSA) Annual Congress

Dates: June 21-23, 2018

Location: Brisbane, Australia

[\[Website\]](#)

#### Australian and New Zealand Society of Palliative Medicine (ANZSPM) Annual Conference 2018

Dates: September 6-9 2018

Location: Sydney NSW, Australia

[\[Website\]](#)

## 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 [pcrnv@svha.org.au](mailto:pcrnv@svha.org.au) with the subject 'PCRN Newsletter' and we will feature the publications in an upcoming edition.

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Campbell ML, Kiernan JM, Strandmark J, Yarandi HN. (2018). Trajectory of Dyspnea and Respiratory Distress among Patients in the Last Month of Life. *J Palliat Med.* 21(2): 194-199.

Chapman M, Johnston N, Lovell C, et al. (2018). Avoiding costly hospitalisation at end of life: findings from a specialist palliative care pilot in residential care for older adults. *BMJ Support Palliat Care* 8(1):102-109.

Clark J, Gardiner C, Barnes A. (2018). International palliative care research in the context of global development: a systematic mapping review. *BMJ Support Palliat Care* 8(1):7-18.

Delgado-Guay MO, Ferrer J, Ochoa J, et al. (2018). Characteristics and Outcomes of Advanced Cancer Patients Who Received Palliative Care at a Public Hospital Compared with Those at a Comprehensive Cancer Center. *J Palliat Med.* doi: 10.1089/jpm.2017.0236. [Epub ahead of print]

Faes K, Cohen J, Annemans L. (2018). Resource Use During the Last 6 Months of Life of Individuals Dying with and of Alzheimer's Disease. *J Am Geriatr Soc.* doi: 10.1111/jgs.15287. [Epub ahead of print]

Gunasekaran B, Weil J, Whelan T, Santamaria J, Boughey M. (2018). Assessment of potential opioid toxicity and response to naloxone by rapid response teams at an urban Melbourne hospital. *Int Med J.* 48(2):198-200.

Haines ER, Frost AC, Kane HL, Rokoske FS. (2018). Barriers to accessing palliative care for pediatric patients with cancer: A review of the literature. *Cancer.* doi: 10.1002/cncr.31265. [Epub ahead of print]

Hunt LJ, Lee SJ, Harrison KL, Smith AK. (2018). Secondary Analysis of Existing Datasets for Dementia and Palliative Care Research: High-Value Applications and Key Considerations. *J Palliat Med.* 21(2): 130-142.

Mc Veigh C, Reid J, Larkin P, Porter S, Hudson P. (2018). The experience of palliative care service provision for people with non-malignant respiratory disease and their family carers: An all-Ireland qualitative study. *J Adv Nurs.* 74(2):383-94.

Smallwood N, Thompson M, Warrender-Sparkes M, et al. (2018). Integrated respiratory and palliative care may improve outcomes in advanced lung disease. *ERJ Open Res.* 4(1):00102-2017.

Tanuseputro P, Beach S, Chalifoux M, Wodchis WP, Hsu AT, Seow H, Manuel DG. (2018). Associations between physician home visits for the dying and place of death: A population-based retrospective cohort study. *PLoS One.* 13(2):e0191322.

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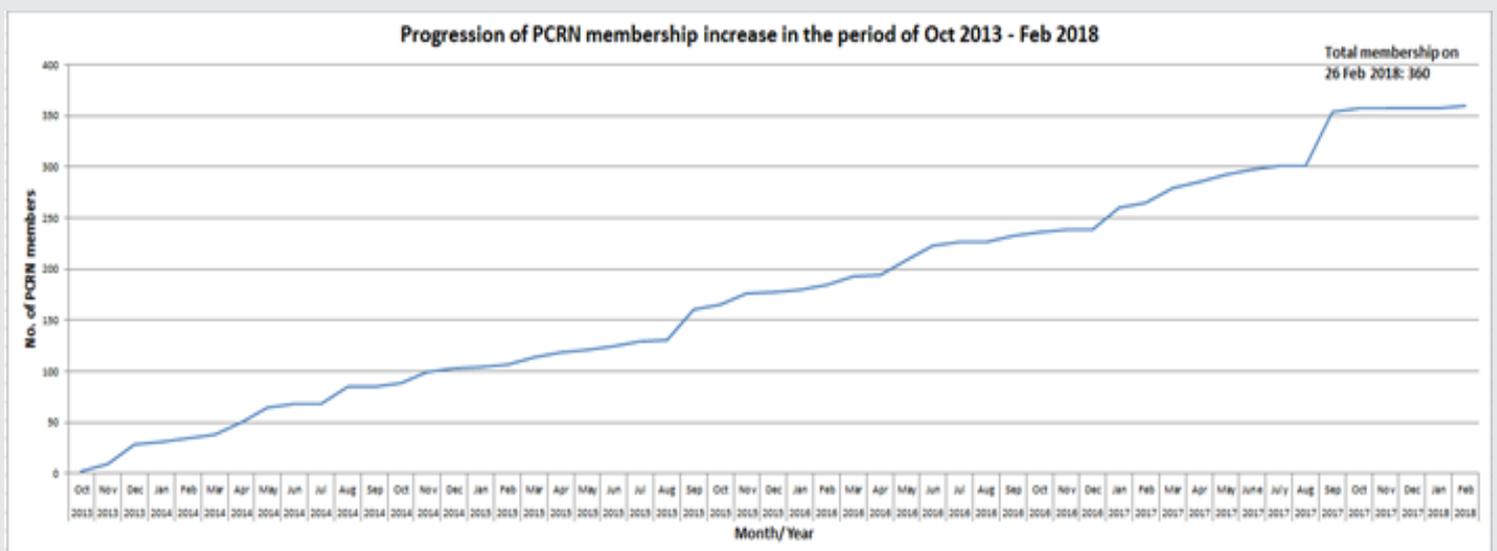
## Membership

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.



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:pcrnv@svha.org.au)*