



e-News

September 2016

Highlights from recent PCRN Events

PCRN Forum – Wednesday 20th July 2016

A PCRN Forum entitled “So what have we learned?” Research updates from our two PCRNV PhD scholarship awardees was held on 20th July 2016. Two early career researchers and PCRNV PhD scholarship recipients – Ms Lucy Forrest (Senior Clinician Music Therapist, Monash Health) and Dr Natasha Smallwood (Consultant Respiratory Physician, Royal Melbourne Hospital) – presented the results from their respective PhD research projects to date and reflected upon both the triumphs and challenges that they had encountered along the way.

A video recording of the Forum presentation is now available for viewing. Please click on the image below to listen to Natasha’s presentation. Please note that we are unable to share Lucy’s presentation at this time as it contains data that are yet to be published.



Left: Ms Lucy Forrest
Right: Dr Natasha Smallwood

PCRN Concept Development Workshop 2016

The 2016 PCRN Concept Development Workshop was held on the 26th August 2016 and was a highly productive and interactive afternoon. The workshop provided participants with the opportunity to develop their palliative care - related research ideas into research proposals. A series of speed lectures were presented and included ‘Writing successful grant proposals’ (A/Prof Jennifer Philip), ‘Obtaining ethics approvals and writing a research protocol’ (Dr Sibilah Breen) and ‘Building a budget and identifying funding opportunities’ (Ms Soula Ganiatsas). Participants were also given the opportunity to present and discuss their ideas and participate in small group discussions. Input and guidance from mentors and other senior palliative care researchers on the day of the workshop enabled participants to develop their research concept, assess feasibility, discuss different research methods, identify potential ethical issues, and network with other researchers interested in palliative care research.

The four workshop participants were: Ms Karen Conte (Consortium Manager, Eastern Metropolitan Region Palliative Care Consortium, VIC), Dr Susan Fletcher (Bereavement Family Support Worker, Eastern Palliative Care, VIC), Ms Jennifer Lowe (PhD student, Monash University, VIC), and Ms Elizabeth Jarman (Registered Nurse, Austin Health, VIC). Mentors included: Prof Peter Hudson, A/Prof Jennifer Philip, A/Prof Clare O’Callaghan, Dr Rosalind Lau and Dr Sibilah Breen.

Upcoming PCRN Event

PCRN Workshop – Thursday 27th October 2016

'ANALYSE THIS!'

Have you ever been confounded by how you should collect, organise and analyse your qualitative or quantitative data?

The PCRN is hosting a Workshop entitled 'Analyse This!' at the [4th Australian Palliative Care Research Colloquium](#). This session will provide insights from experienced researchers on the best strategies for collecting, organising and analysing both quantitative and qualitative datasets. Three early career researchers will also present their research queries to a panel of experts for advice. There will also be an opportunity for audience participation. Please join us in order to 'Analyse This!'

Details:

Date: Thursday, 27th October 2016

Time: 9:00am – 10:45am

Venue: Rendezvous Hotel, 328 Flinders Street, Melbourne

Inclusions: Morning tea, presentations and discussion. All welcome.

Cost: \$20.00 including GST

Program: View the full program [online](#) or download a PDF copy of the PCRN Workshop program [here](#).

Registration: Registration is [online](#) and will close on Friday 7th October 2016.
Places are limited so please register early to avoid disappointment.

Website: Please visit the [4th Australian Palliative Care Research Colloquium website](#).

For additional information, please contact the event coordinator, Vanessa Donoghue on +61 (3) 9416 0000 or by email Vanessa.Donoghue@svha.org.au

Call for Expression of Interest to join the PCRN Research Advisory Group in 2017

The Palliative Care Research Network (PCRN) is calling for expressions of interest to join the PCRN Research Advisory Group (RAG). The primary function of the RAG is to assist the Network in its research endeavours, and may include, although not necessarily be limited to, involvement with the following activities:

- providing the Network with research advice and/or consultation as required;
- reviewing applications for scholarships, travel grants and small project grants;
- providing mentorship to early career researchers;
- involvement in PCRN Workshops and Forums;
- providing advice on key PCRN decisions and strategic direction;
- collaborating on grants with other PCRN members.

The Group is envisaged to comprise between 12-20 individuals from various disciplines, with varying skill sets and research experience. Being a member of the PCRN RAG would allow you to expand your research network and collaborative ties. Your involvement with the RAG would be called upon **only when required** based on your expertise. Members of the RAG will convene annually over networking drinks and will be provided with an official letter of membership for their CV. This call for expressions of interest is currently only open to PCRN members in the first instance (after which it will be made open to the wider community).

If you are interested in being considered as a future member of the PCRN RAG, please submit a brief CV, and a brief cover letter outlining how your skillset would benefit PCRN activities, to pcrnv@svha.org.au by **9 January 2017**.

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](#).

Congratulations to recipients of the 2016 PCRN Travel Grants

The PCRN awarded four Travel Grants in 2016. The award recipients and their respective funded conference travels and presentations are listed below:

2016 Travel Grant Recipients	Conference Travels & Presentations
<p>Ms Anna Collins (PhD Candidate, Department of Medicine, The University of Melbourne; Research Fellow, Centre for Palliative Care, St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne)</p>	<p>The 21st International Congress on Palliative Care, Montreal, Canada <i>Oral presentations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Perceptions of Palliative Care in Advanced Cancer: Do They Influence Receipt of Quality End-of-Life Care? - Language and Its Implications: How Do We Introduce Palliative Care to Patients with Advanced Cancer?
<p>Ms Fiona McLeod (Nurse Practitioner, Hospital Admissions Risk Program, Eastern Health)</p>	<p>11th Conference of the Australian College of Nurse Practitioners, Alice Springs, Australia <i>Oral Presentation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promoting advanced nursing practice to optimize the management of complex, chronic disease patients.
<p>Ms Sophie Anne Robinson (HDR Student, Department of Psychological Sciences and Psychiatry, Monash University)</p>	<p>European Association of Psychosomatic Medicine Conference 2016, Lulea, Sweden <i>Poster Presentation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refinement and Revalidation of the Demoralization Scale: The DS-II.
<p>Dr Aaron Wong (Advanced Trainee, Department of Palliative Care, Melbourne Health)</p>	<p>Royal Australasian College of Physicians Congress 2016, Adelaide, Australia <i>Poster Presentations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The extended care unit – a feasible economic solution for longer term palliative inpatients. - Referral patterns to palliative care? an inpatient snapshot study. - Addressing resource allocation for advance care planning discussion in hospital.

Upcoming Funding Opportunities 2016

PCRN Small Project Grant 2016

Further details to follow – please keep a lookout on the [PCRN website](#)

Coopers Brewery Foundation

For more information visit the [website](#)
Closing Date: quarterly applications accepted – contact funder for details

Ian Potter Foundation

(various grant opportunities)
For more information visit the [website](#)
Closing Date: 7 November 2016

James N Kirby Foundation

(various grant opportunities)
For more information visit the [website](#)
Closing Date: November 2016 – date TBC

Nurses Board of Victoria Legacy Limited

(various grant opportunities)

For more information visit the [website](#)
Closing Date: 18 September 2016

Pierce Armstrong Foundation

For more information visit the [website](#)
Closing Date: 15 October 2016

Western & Central Melbourne Integrated Cancer Service (WCMICS) Funding Program

For more information visit the [website](#)
Closing Date: 28 September 2016

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 with the subject 'PCRN Newsletter' and we will feature the publications in an upcoming edition.

Cahill PJ, Lobb EA, Sanderson C, Phillips JL (2016). What is the evidence for conducting palliative care family meetings? A systematic review. *Palliat Med*. DOI: 10.1177/0269216316658833. [Epub ahead of print]

Chapman M, Johnston N, Lovell C, Forbat L, Liu WM (2016). Avoiding costly hospitalization at the end of life: findings from a specialist palliative care pilot in residential care for older adults. *BMJ Support Palliat Care*. DOI: 10.1136/bmjspcare-2015-001071. [Epub ahead of print]

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Recent Publications Relevant to PCRN Members

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Jeter K, Blackwell S, Burke L, Joyce D, Moran C, Conway EV, Cremen I, O'Connor B, Ui Dhuibhir P, Walsh D (2016). Cancer symptom scale preferences: does one size fit all? *BMJ Support Palliat Care*. DOI: 10.1136/bmjspcare-2015-001018. [Epub ahead of print]

Larkin PJ, Murtagh F, Richardson H, Langner MB, Payne S (2016). Collaboration: securing a future for palliative care research. *Palliat Med* 30(8):709-10.

Martínez M, Arantzamendi M Belar A, Carrasco JM, Carvajal A, Rullán M, Centeno C (2016). 'Dignity therapy', a promising intervention in palliative care: a comprehensive systematic literature review. *Palliat Med*. DOI: 10.1177/0269216316665562. [Epub ahead of print]

Paul S, Cree VE, Murray SA (2016). Integrating palliative care into the community: the role of hospices and schools. *BMJ Support Palliat Care*. DOI: 10.1136/bmjspcare-2015-001092. [Epub ahead of print]

Sinclair S, Beamer K, Hack TF, McClement S, Raffin Bouchal S, Chochinov HM, Hagen NA (2016). Sympathy, empathy and compassion: A grounded theory study of palliative care patients' understandings, experiences and preferences. *Palliat Med*. DOI: 10.1177/0269216316663499. [Epub ahead of print]

Singer AE, Goebel JR, Kim YS, Dy SM, Ahluwalia SC, Clifford M, Dzung E, O'Hanlon CE, Motala A, Walling AM, Goldberg J, Meeker D, Ochotorena C, Shanman R, Cui M, Lorenz KA (2016). Populations and Interventions for Palliative and End-Of-Life Care: A systematic review. *J Palliat Med* 19(9):995-1008.

Sutradhar R, Barbera L, Seow HY (2016). Palliative homecare is associated with reduced high and low acuity emergency department visits at the end of life: A population-based cohort study of cancer decedents. *Palliat Med*. DOI: 10.1177/0269216316663508. [Epub ahead of print]

Trevino KM, Martin P, Progerson HG (2016). Evaluating quality metrics for the care of patients with blood cancer who are near death. *J Clin Onc*. DOI:10.1200/JCO.2016.68.8911. [Epub ahead of print]

Van der Meer DM, Weiland TJ, Philip J, Jelinek GA, Boughey M, Knott J, Marck CH, Weil JL, Lane HP, Dowling AJ, Kelly AM (2016). Presentation patterns and outcomes of patients with cancer accessing care in emergency departments in Victoria, Australia. *Support Care Cancer* 24(3):1251-60.

Upcoming Conferences

International

1st National Symposium on Academic Palliative Care Education & Research

Dates: September 30 - October 1, 2016

Location: California, USA

[\[Website\]](#)

18th International Psycho-Oncology Society (IPOS) World Congress of Psycho-Oncology

Dates: October 17-21, 2016

Location: Dublin, Ireland

[\[Website\]](#)

21st International Congress on Palliative Care

Dates: October 18-21, 2016

Location: Montreal, Canada

[\[Website\]](#)

2016 Marie Curie Annual Palliative Care Research Conference

Date: October 19, 2016

Location: London, UK

[\[Website\]](#)

The International Society for Quality of Life Research (ISOQOL) 23rd Annual Conference

Date: October 19-22, 2016

Location: Copenhagen, Denmark

[\[Website\]](#)

6th International Seminar of the European Palliative Care Research Centre (PRC) and European Palliative Care Research Network (EAPC RN)

Date: December 1-3, 2016

Location: Banff, Canada

[\[Website\]](#)

National

4th Australian Palliative Care Research Colloquium

Dates: October 27-28, 2016

Location: Melbourne, VIC

[\[Website\]](#)

43rd Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA) Annual Scientific Meeting

Dates: November 15-17, 2016

Location: Gold Coast, QLD

[\[Website\]](#)

State (VIC)

4th Victorian Psycho-Oncology Research Conference

Dates: October 14, 2016

Location: Melbourne, VIC

[\[Website\]](#)

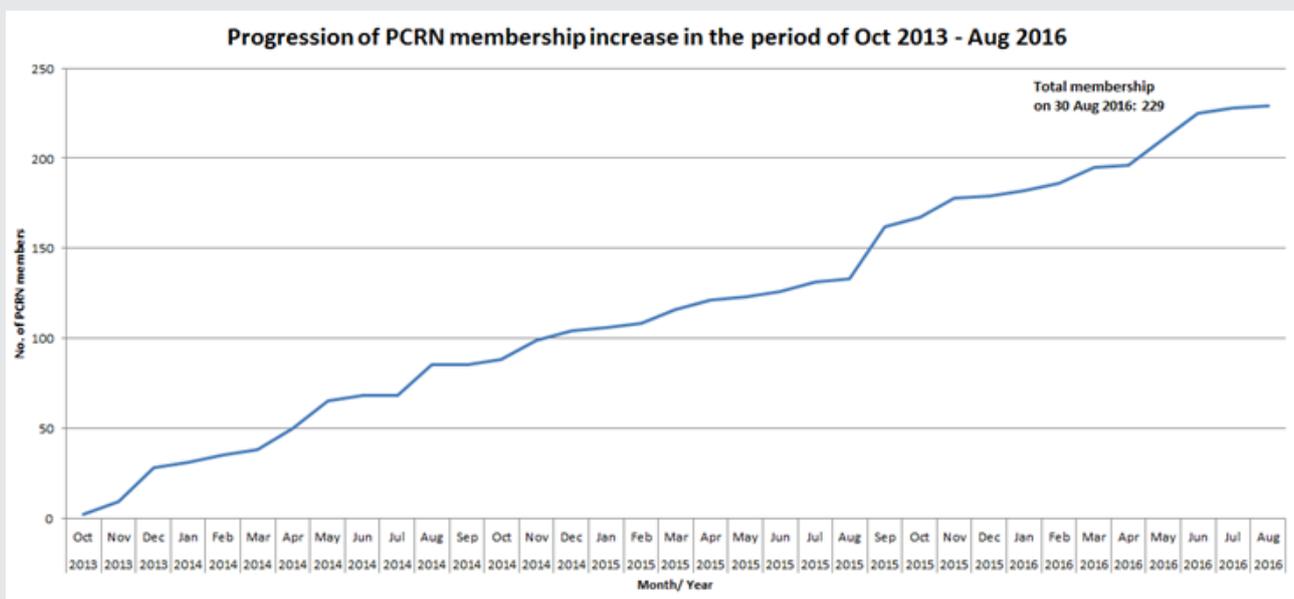
Membership

The PCRN now has 229 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 idea into a grant proposal via attendance at PCRN Concept Development Workshops;
- 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 with the subject 'PCRN e-News Submission' and we will feature your article or publication in an upcoming edition.

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