



COSA ASM Pre-conference Workshop

Difficult decisions and the challenging patient in cancer care – strategies for the cancer clinician

Monday 12 November 2018
Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre
Meeting Room 1 & 2

A small but significant group of patients can be challenging to engage in cancer care, sometimes due to co-morbid cognitive or mental health vulnerabilities, but often in the context of differing health belief systems. These scenarios can cause significant stress for the clinicians and services involved, particularly given the overlap with medico-legal issues.

This workshop will explore difficult issues in decision-making in the cancer setting for patients, families, staff and services including; the impact of early life trauma, co-morbid personality vulnerability, substance-dependence, challenging family dynamics and alternative health belief models. The neurobiology of decision-making will be discussed along with strategies for improving collaborative communication to improve outcomes for all.

Chairperson: Lisa Miller, Cancer Liaison Psychiatrist and Lead Clinician Psycho-oncology Collaborative WA Cancer and Palliative Care Network

Speakers: Dr Lisa Miller, Dr Paula Watt, Dr Alex Welborn, Dr Michael Verheggen, Dr Jane Turner, Dr Derek Eng, Ms Karen Proctor, Dr Fran Orr, Dr Cathy Mason,

Time	Title	Presenter
8:30am	Registration	
9:00am	Opening and introduction	Lisa Miller
	Introduction – group brainstorm – “What makes a challenging patient?” “What makes a challenging scenario?” – where do they overlap, where do they differ?	Dr Lisa Miller (Consultant Liaison Psychiatrist, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital)
	Theme - “Treatment Refusal in Early Cancer” – What do we know from the literature, which patient groups tend to be represented?	
	Impact of early life trauma and attachment vulnerability on engagement with cancer care eg. Non-verbal processing, responses to perceived threat, how do attachment vulnerabilities play out in dynamics with health staff and care systems etc. This will include some aspects about the impact of working	Dr Paula Watt (Clinical Psychologist – The Women’s Centre)

	<p>with vulnerable patients on health practitioners and end with some practice points around strategies for engaging the patient with trauma / attachment vulnerability.</p> <p>Medico-legal aspects of treatment refusal in patients with established mental health or cognitive vulnerability. The role of the Mental health and Guardianship acts. Definitions around informed consent and medico-legal responsibilities with respect to documentation etc.</p>	Dr Alexandra Welborn (Consultation Liaison Psychiatrist, Royal Perth Hospital)
10:30am	Morning tea	
	<p>Theme “Discharging Against Medical Advice” – What are the characteristics of patients who seek to DAMA, and what sort of systemic factors contribute to these scenarios? What strategies can we utilise to de-escalate a situation in which a medically unwell patient is threatening to leave? What do we do if we think they are unsafe to leave? How do we assess if someone’s decision-making is safe?</p> <p>The neurobiology of decision-making.</p> <p>Theme – The Difficult Patient / Family - “Hateful and Hated – providing professional care no matter what” - managing the patient with established personality vulnerability / challenging family dynamics during cancer care. What strategies can we draw upon to recognise and minimise the impact on team functioning.</p>	<p>Dr Michael Verheggen (Consultation Liaison Psychiatrist, Fiona Stanley Hospital)</p> <p>Dr Lisa Miller (Consultant Liaison Psychiatrist, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital)</p> <p>Dr Jane Turner (Consultation Liaison Psychiatrist, University of Queensland)</p>
12:30pm	Lunch	
1:30pm	<p>Theme – Responding to the expressed wish to hasten death – Exploring what lies behind expression of the wish to hasten death. The importance of physical symptom control. Differentiating between Distress, Depression, and Demoralisation</p> <p>Nursing the patient with expressed wish to hasten death / the distressed patient. Supporting family and carers.</p>	<p>Dr Derek Eng (Palliative Care Physician Royal Perth Hospital and St John of God Hospital, Subiaco)</p> <p>Ms Karen Proctor, Clinical Nurse Consultant, Palliative Care, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital</p>
3.30pm	Afternoon tea	
	<p>Case-based discussions - Self Care and the Challenging Patient – Identifying and managing “blurred boundaries”. What happens when teams disagree? Containing distress within the patient, family and team – how do we prevent burnout in ourselves?</p>	<p>Dr Cathy Mason (Liaison Psychiatrist – Nepean Cancer Care Centre) and Dr Fran Orr (Consultant Liaison Psychiatrist – Chris O’Brien LifeHouse)</p>
4:45pm	Closing remarks	Lisa Miller
5:00pm	Close	

Registration fee: \$50 for COSA ASM registered delegates
 \$150 for non-COSA ASM registered delegates

For delegates attending the conference you can select to attend a workshop as an add-on during the registration process or by logging back on to your registration profile as a returning delegate. It is \$50 to attend the workshops if you are a COSA delegate. [Click here](#) to register or log back in to your profile. Not going to the conference but wanting to attend this workshop? It is \$150 to attend the workshop only. [Click here](#) to arrange.

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