



January Newsletter

2012

Message from APCRC-Q's Directors

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2012!

January and the holidays have been a busy and exciting time for APCRC—Q.

The Centre welcomes our newest Research Fellow Bioinformaticians, Dr Melanie Lehman and Dr Chenwei Wang to the Prostate Centre. Both women are accomplished, with strong track records in genomics-oriented computational analysis and will be invaluable to our research activities.

This year promises to be another busy one, with many upcoming events.

In late December, the Centre was pleased to host the Acting Prime Minister, the Hon. Wayne Swan MP, whom participated in a media interview on prostate cancer testing and we were able to showcase the clinical and translational activities of the APCRC - Q.

Recently, Colleen attended a Women in Leadership dinner, hosted by the Canadian Consul-General in Sydney, to promote women's roles in science, international networking and leadership positions.

We are pleased to announce that our 3rd international Prostate Cancer Research Alliance (Aus-Can PCRA) Symposium will be held in April 2012 on Daydream Island. See page 2 for more details.

The fortnightly APCRC—Q Seminar Series, held at the Princess Alexandra Hospital will once again inform you of the latest research in the field of prostate cancer, the first one being held on February 2nd.

Best wishes for the New Year!



**Professor
Colleen Nelson**



**Professor
Judith Clements**

Professor Colleen Nelson and Professor Judith Clements



OPEN DAY!!

Monday 30th January 2012, 10am - 3pm

Level 1, Building 1, Princess Alexandra Hospital, 199 Ipswich Road, Woolloongabba

Phone (07) 3176 1894 or email melissa.raassina@qut.edu.au to RSVP by Thursday 26th January 2012.



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Deputy PM appeals to public

APCRC - Q
news



On December 29th 2011, the Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Queensland (APCRC – Q) was fortunate to host Australia’s Acting Prime Minister and Federal Treasurer, the Hon. Wayne Swan MP.

Mr Swan toured the Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH), meeting with prostate cancer clinicians of the Multi-Disciplinary Team clinic for Advanced Prostate Cancer at the PAH, the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia and APCRC – Q Executive Director Professor Colleen Nelson.

After losing his father to prostate cancer and falling prey to the disease himself in 2001, the Acting Prime Minister spoke of his battle, stressing the importance of early detection.

The Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia chief executive, Anthony Lowe, said it was estimated that 20,000 Australian men would be diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2012 and 3300 of these would die of the disease.

Mr Swan urges men to have their prostate checked as part of their new year resolutions, as it could very well save their life.

Professor Colleen Nelson shared with Mr Swan the current clinical and translational research at the Centre as well as the benefits of collaborations between clinical and scientific communities, both nationally and internationally.

“The scientific and clinical communities that we have here at the PA Hospital, are integral to seeing prostate cancer therapies put into practise as quickly as possible,” she said.

The APCRC – Q welcomes Mr Swan’s continuing support of prostate cancer testing and research.



APCRC - Q
events

Australian-Canadian Prostate Cancer Research Alliance Symposium Announcement



The Australian-Canadian Prostate Cancer Research Alliance (Aus-Can PCRA) is pleased to announce it’s 3rd annual Symposium will be held in North Queensland’s Daydream Island, Friday 13th - Monday 16th April 2012.

This annual conference is a chance for researchers, clinicians, scientists, academics, and other professionals working in prostate cancer across Australia and Canada to share their expertise, specialized resources and cross disciplinary ideas.

Please register your interest in attending by emailing coordinator@aus-canprostatealliance.org and check the APCRC - Q website for the latest news.

Sessions will favour a collaborative approach, and may include workshops, roundtable discussions, and panel-style presentations, as well as ‘show-casing’ prostate cancer groups’ ongoing studies.



Seminar Series kicks off

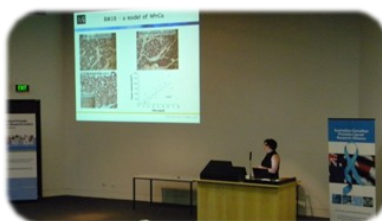
APCRC - Q will once again hold their informative Seminar Series in 2012. Hosting speakers from Queensland, throughout Australia and internationally, attendees will be exposed to a varying range of topics and specialties with leading edge research in prostate cancer.

The 2012 Seminar Series aims to be a significant focal point for the dissemination of ideas and progress in relation to prostate cancer research, treatment and care. To fully engage the prostate cancer community in South East Queensland the series will be held twice a month, at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, with the recommencement for 2012 beginning on Thursday 2nd February. Each seminar consists of two talks, usually from a clinician and a researcher/scientist. The seminars are formatted to ensure time for presentations, discussion and networking.

Beginning at 4:45pm, there will be a time of light refreshments before heading into the Russell Strong Auditorium at the PA Hospital for the Seminar. There will also be a time of networking after the presentations, thanks to our sponsor AstraZeneca.

Our regular Seminar Series is a chance for high calibre scientists, researchers, and clinicians from a cross-section of disciplines to come together, share discoveries, and discuss the significance of their work in the treatment of prostate cancer.

Visit our website at www.australianprostatecentre.org for updates.



New drug approved

JEVTANA® (cabazitaxel), used in the treatment of Metastatic Hormone Refractory Prostate Cancer (mHRPC) was recently approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).



Sanofi Australia were pleased to announce the approval, which will result in cabazitaxel being used in combination with prednisone or prednisolone for the treatment of patients with hormone refractory metastatic prostate cancer previously treated with a docetaxel containing regimen 1.

JEVTANA® is the first approved agent to significantly extend overall survival in mHRPC patients whose disease has progressed during or after docetaxel containing treatment.

The TGA approved the agent based upon results from the Phase III TROPIC clinical study involving 755 patients with mHRPC previously treated with a docetaxel containing regimen.

Dr Anthony Lowe is the Executive Director of the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia.

“While we welcome the registration of effective new therapies for prostate cancer patients, I must reiterate the need for better access, including Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme reimbursement to ensure that all patients are given the opportunity to take advantage of these options,” Dr Lowe said.

The full press release is available at www.prostate.org.au

United research discussion

APCRC - Q collaborations



On the 15th December 2011, APCRC - Q welcomed the Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre - Victoria to the Princess Alexandra Hospital for a collaborative workshop.

The workshop provided an opportunity for researchers from both Centres to explore collaborative opportunities and updates from the previous workshop held in Melbourne, 8th August 2011.

The Centres shared their research objectives and current projects, as well as discussing possible collaborations in clinical management and in new research directions.

IHBI Gala Success

A highly successful Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation (IHBI) Gala reception was held in December to showcase the Institute's research achievements on its' 5th Anniversary.

Professor Colleen Nelson spoke on her passionate thoughts on translational research and on the Centres' model objectives and aims of APCRC – Q as well as current research projects.



Movember update

Professor Colleen Nelson (Chair), and Professor Pamela Russell (Member), have been actively engaged with Movember's Global Scientific Committee in order to develop a Global Action Plan (GAP) for prostate cancer research in more than 15 countries, in a unified collaborative project.

They recently attended a Movember GAP meeting in Ireland, early December, to further discuss the advances of GAP1-launched in 2011 and the topic for GAP2 to be launched in 2012.

The key to this initiative is an agreement as ambitious as its goal: not just to fund collaborative global research, but also to share all data freely with the entire prostate cancer community and beyond, via the [Movember](#) website.

Wayne Swan MP opinion piece - Simple Test to Save a Bloke's Life Courier Mail



Nearly 23 years ago, my father Morrie Swan passed away from Prostate Cancer at the age of 67. It was a terribly sad time – especially because he suffered a lot of pain.

I was 35 when he passed away, and like most men around that age, I got on with things and concentrated a lot on my career and starting a family.

I didn't think much about my own vulnerabilities until some 12 years later, when I was diagnosed with prostate cancer.

I'm still alive today, and my children still have a dad, because I was diagnosed early by way of a Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) blood test.

Even though I'd watched my father die a really painful death from prostate cancer, I never thought I'd get the disease myself.

[Continued on next page](#)



Wayne Swan MP opinion piece - continued

And I didn't know what the symptoms were. I nearly paid the ultimate price for that ignorance – which is why it's vital we do everything we can to promote the importance of men getting tested for prostate cancer.

That's why I'll be heading along today to the Princess Alexandra Hospital to have a look at the great work that's being done there.

For many Aussie blokes, our aversion to doctors and looking after our health is often matched only by our love of footy and a few beers.

But it doesn't take much. The PSA test that I took allows men, particularly those with a family history of the cancer like myself, to get checked out and, importantly, find out early if they do have the cancer.

Sadly every year in Australia an average of over 3000 men lose their lives to Prostate Cancer, which works out to something like one death every 3 hours of every day.

Tragic figures which, less than a week after Christmas, should be pause for thought for any father reading this to contemplate.

The Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia have done a great job over the years promoting the PSA test and getting more Australian men tested.

Since establishing itself as a lifesaving method of early prostate cancer diagnosis in the 1990s, the PSA test has had its critics, usually a noisy minority at best.

Tragically, the vital importance of PSA testing has been undermined recently due largely to a widely criticised report released overseas this year.

PSA testing saved my life. So I have no doubt that we can't let dads and granddads avoid a potentially life-saving PSA blood test because of this report.

When there is so much practical evidence of the lives saved by the PSA test in every community across Australia, it's really worrying that all the progress over the last decade in educating Aussie blokes about getting themselves checked out could be at risk.

The message is simple: if you have a family history of prostate cancer or are over 50 years of age, speak to your doctor about getting tested for prostate cancer.

Make it a priority in 2012 – it's a new year's resolution that could save your life.

Wayne Swan
Acting Prime Minister
29 December 2011

Read online at www.australianprostatecentre.org.

events

APCRC - Q Seminar Series

Russell Strong Auditorium, Princess Alexandra Hospital
199 Ipswich Road, Woolloongabba
Contact: (07) 3176 7957

2nd February 4:45pm - 6:45pm
14th February 4:45pm - 6:45pm
www.australianprostatecentre.org

Princess Alexandra Research Foundation Community Health Forums

Russell Strong Auditorium, Princess Alexandra Hospital
Contact: (07) 3176 2359

Dates throughout the year
www.pafoundation.org.au

Active Surveillance for Low Risk Prostate Cancer

Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Contact: eso@eso.net

12th January - 13th January 2012
www.eso.net

59th Annual Kimbrough Seminar

Charleston, U.S.A
Contact: info@sgsu.org

15th January - 20th January 2012
www.sgsu.org

26th Congress of the Pan-Pacific Surgical Association

Honolulu, U.S.A
Contact: ppsinfo@panpacificsurgical.org

28th January - 30th January 2012
www.panpacificsurgical.org

European Urology Forum 2012

Davos, Switzerland
Contact: esudavos@congressconsultants.com

4th February - 7th February 2012
www.davos2012.uroweb.org

2012 Genitourinary Cancers Symposium

San Francisco, CA
Contact: membermail@asco.org

2nd February—4th February 2012
<http://www.gucasymposium.org/>

AACR: 2012 Advances in Prostate Cancer Research

Orlando, Florida, U.S.A
Contact: aacr@aacr.org

6th February - 9th February 2012
www.aacr.org

If you have an item that you think should be included in our next newsletter, let us know!
Contact Mel Raassina at prostatecentre@qut.edu.au

Australian Prostate
Cancer Research Centre
Queensland

A Brisbane-based multidisciplinary research centre dedicated to prostate cancer

www.australianprostatecentre.org

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