

Cancer Information and Support Service

Cancer News 29 November 2010

Lets talk about Sex: Illness should not stop the fun!

A free workshop for Victorian women-their partners are also welcome.
Friday, 10th December, 2010 from 10am-2pm

Join the teams from the Psychosexual Service of the Women's Hospital and the Cancer Information and Support Service at the Cancer Council Victoria.

Learn how to build sexual confidence after a chronic illness diagnosis, particularly cancer.

Discover how to cope with and enhance your relationship within a safe environment.

Workshop will include: **Communication;**

Building confidence and increasing intimacy after an illness.

Venue: The Women's Hospital, Cnr Grattan Street and Flemington Road, Parkville, Victoria

Registration is essential (no cost) and lunch is provided.

To register for this free workshop or for further information please contact the Cancer Council Helpline **13 11 20**

NCI Cancer News:

News Note: Scientists identify molecular link between BRCA1 protein levels and obesity

(Posted: 11/21/2010) - NCI researchers have defined a possible molecular link between breast cancer risk and obesity. New study results show that a protein called C-terminal binding protein (CtBP) acts to control a gene linked to breast cancer risk in rapidly growing cells by monitoring and responding to how the cells use and store energy (metabolic state).

Researchers discover key mutation in acute myeloid leukemia

NIH-supported discovery may lead to treatment changes; demonstrates power of The Cancer Genome Atlas strategy

(Posted: 11/10/2010) - Researchers have discovered mutations in a particular gene that affects the treatment prognosis for some patients with acute myeloid leukemia (AML), an aggressive blood cancer that kills 9,000 Americans annually.

Passive smoking 'kills 600,000' worldwide 26 November 2010 -

The first global study into the effects of passive smoking has found it causes 600,000 deaths every year. One-third of those killed are

children, often exposed to smoke at home, the World Health Organization (WHO) found. The study, in 192 countries, found that passive smoking is particularly dangerous for children, said to be at higher risk of sudden infant death syndrome, pneumonia and asthma. Passive smoking causes heart disease, respiratory illness and lung cancer. The study was published in *The Lancet*, Early Online Publication, 26 November 2010

New Cervical Cancer Screening Test Set To Save The Lives Of Women All Over The UK

24 Nov 2010 - The largest ever registrational study for a diagnostic product, involving more than 47,000 women shows that the cobas(R) 4800 Human Papillomavirus (HPV) test from Roche, is able to improve the detection of pre-cancerous cells in women whose cervical smears tested normal. The ATHENA (Addressing THE Need for Advanced) HPV Diagnostics trial demonstrated that more than 1 in 10 women in the trial aged 30 years and older who tested positive for HPV genotypes 16 and/or 18 by the cobas 4800 HPV test had cervical pre-cancer although their Pap1 smear was normal. The conclusion is that genotypes 16 and 18 if tested positive are high-risk indicators of cervical cancer.

Bleeding Risk With Dual Antiplatelet Therapy Needs More Vigilance

November 26, 2010 (Atlanta, Georgia) — New research showing a "substantial" risk of bleeding with dual antiplatelet therapy--aspirin plus clopidogrel--in the real-world setting suggests that such treatment needs to be approached with more vigilance. The new data, from a study led by **Dr Nadine Shehab** (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA), is published in the November 22, 2010, issue of the *Archives of Internal Medicine*

Government fights battle of the bulge

The federal government is about to launch an ambitious public health advertising campaign, aimed at helping overweight Australians. With more than half the population overweight or obese, the government will spend \$41 million on a social-change campaign by extending its Measure Up social-marketing campaign until 2013. In total, \$120m will be spent over four years on social marketing to tackle obesity, including an additional \$18m from state governments over the next three years. The campaign, expected to begin by February, aims to educate Australians about small steps they can take to reduce their calorie intake, eat healthier food and incorporate more physical activity into their day.
The Australian 29/11/10 pg 38

Human gene patent law 'outdated'

A decade old law on patenting human genes must be updated to ensure vital research into diseases such as cancer and epilepsy can proceed unhindered, a Senate report has found.

Patents of human genes - considered the blueprints of human life - are held by research institutions, biotechnology companies and universities. A Senate report released late yesterday criticised the way gene patents are currently issued and recommended a raft of legal changes, including lifting the standard for awarding gene patents.

The report, two years in the making, made 16 recommendations including that the government set up a "transparency register" to outline who owns what biological material and the establishment of an independent patent audit committee. It did not call for a total ban on gene patents.

The Age 27/11/10 pg 12; The Weekend Australian (Inquirer) 27/11/10 pg 7

Passive smoking kills 600,000 per year: study

Passive smoking claims more than 600,000 lives each year around the world - an estimated one per cent of all deaths, a global World Health Organisation study has found.

Children are the group most heavily exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke, and about 165,000 of them die as a result, said researchers.

Based on 2004 data from 192 countries, the figures show smoking in that year killed almost six million people, either actively or passively by claiming the lives of non-smokers.

They showed that chest infections in children younger than five, heart disease in adults and asthma in both adults and children represented the biggest health impacts from passive smoking.

Sydney Morning Herald 27/11/10 pg 20; Canberra Times 27/11/10 pg 25; Adelaide Advertiser 27/11/10 pg 69

New hope for mesothelioma treatment November 22, 2010 Researchers in Sydney say they've made a discovery that could lead to better treatment for people with the deadly asbestos-related disease mesothelioma. The researchers at the Asbestos Diseases Research Institute say they've found a "tumour marker" which could allow doctors to offer more appropriate treatment options.

Preop MRI Helpful for Distinguishing Benign From Malignant Ovarian Tumors NEW YORK (Reuters Health) Nov 22 - Magnetic resonance imaging of ovarian tumors is useful in predicting whether the lesion is malignant or benign, thereby helping to guide the therapeutic approach. That finding comes from a systematic quantitative review of studies on the topic performed by Dr. Maria I. Rosa, with the University of Extremo Sul Catarinense in Criciuma,

Brazil, and colleagues, and published online November 8th in the *American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology*

How Some Melanoma Tumors Evade Drug Treatment: Critical Gene Involved in Melanoma Growth *ScienceDaily* (Nov. 25, 2010) — The past year has brought to light both the promise and the frustration of developing new drugs to treat melanoma, the most deadly form of skin cancer. Early clinical tests of a candidate drug aimed at a crucial cancer-causing gene revealed impressive results in patients whose cancers resisted all currently available treatments. Unfortunately, those effects proved short-lived, as the tumors invariably returned a few months later, able to withstand the same drug to which they first succumbed. Adding to the disappointment, the reasons behind these relapses were unclear. The study was published in the Nov. 25 issue of the journal *Nature*.

NICE Guidance Recommends A New Treatment For Certain Patients With Metastatic Gastric Cancer 25 Nov 2010 NICE has recommended trastuzumab (Herceptin, Roche Products) in combination with cisplatin and either capecitabine or 5-fluorouracil as an option for certain patients with metastatic adenocarcinoma of the stomach and gastro-oesophageal junction who have high levels of human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2). The full guidance [PDF format](#)

Saving their skins: tanning bed ban for under-30s

People under 30 or with skin classed as burning easily and tanning minimally will be banned from using solariums in NSW under plans to tighten regulation of the cancer-causing sun beds. But the state government stopped short of following the lead of Brazil, which banned all sun beds last year. The Assistant Health Minister, Frank Sartor, yesterday released a consultation document, which calls for a toughening of the legislation that would make NSW's solarium regulations the strongest in Australia. Under the proposed changes, people with skin photo type 2, or skin that burns easily and tans minimally, and anyone aged under 25 will be banned from solariums from April 1. The age restriction will increase to 30 from August 1. *Sydney Morning Herald* 26/11/10 pg 3; *Daily Telegraph* pg 7

International Cancer Information Service Group:

Language, language

After being approached by people in countries that don't have adequate support materials for young adults, Chasing Rainbows' founder Pat Taylor has had the documentary film *Chasing Rainbows: Young Adults Living With Cancer* translated into French and Spanish. (Jimmyteens.tv hosts the English and French versions.) Pat has sent the film and the English transcript to a doctor in India and to one in Egypt, and will send the same to

anyone who wants to translate the film into their own language. Other organizations are attending to language as well. Willow Breast Cancer Support Canada recently issued a second edition of its booklet *Be Breast Aware*, translated into nine languages, including Arabic, Bengali, Farsi, and Portuguese.
<<http://chasingrainbowsproduction.com>; <http://www.willow.org>>

If you or someone you love is affected by cancer, call the Cancer Helpline at 13 11 20 or view our website www.cancervic.org.au
If you wish to include an item in the Cancer News contact Doreen.Akkerman@cancervic.org.au

This newsletter does not reflect the views of the Cancer Council Victoria. It is put together from items in various medical journals and newsletters. If you are interested in an item, we suggest that you Google the resource and find the article on their website.