



Editors' note

Kia ora kotou and welcome to the February edition of the Cancernet.

As I'm sure you're aware the International Conference on Cancer Care is being held in Auckland in September. Hopefully many of you are planning on submitting an abstract for a poster or presentation. The deadline for abstract submission is the 19th of February and with that in mind, the focus of this edition will be on tips for abstract writing and presenting.

We are fortunate to have contributions from Professor Alexandra McCarthy, Head of the School of Nursing at the University of Auckland, Professor Patsy Yates, president elect of the International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care and Stella Bialous, current president of the ISNCC.

If you are feeling daunted at the thought of writing an abstract, it may not be as hard as you think! We have a number of nursing academics who have offered to provide feedback on abstracts prior to submission. If you would like this assistance, please email cancernursesnz@gmail.com.

Even if you are not planning to present at the conference, hopefully you will be planning to attend. There is information on funding options later in the newsletter. It is worth noting the Genesis Oncology Trust Professional Development Awards Round 1 (Max \$3,000 – for travel after May 1st 2018) deadline is Tuesday the 16th March 2018. For further information go to 'www.genesoncology.org.nz'.

Finally it is with great sadness we farewell the co-editor of the *cancernet* Melissa Warren who has resigned from the CNC committee to focus on her PHD study.

Ngā mihi

Kirstin Unahi

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS OPEN!

The International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care (ISNCC) is pleased to invite you to submit an abstract for consideration to be presented at the 2018 International Conference on Cancer Nursing from Sunday 23 September to Wednesday 26 September 2018 at the SKYCITY Auckland Convention Centre.

ICCN is the world's premiere meeting for global leaders, and future leaders, in cancer nursing research and practice. Take this opportunity to present your work to delegates from around the globe and participate in the conversations that will shape cancer nursing research and translate evidence-based nursing education, practice and research into patient-centered care.

View the guidelines and submit your abstract. Further details can be found on the conference website: www.iccn2018.nz

How to write a killer abstract for ISNCC

A conference abstract is a sales pitch, designed to capture the interest of the organisers of the conference. Your abstract therefore needs to convince your abstract reviewers of the importance of your topic, while demonstrating your own credibility in the field.

Abstract writing can seem daunting if you haven't done it before, given that the word limit is usually no more than 250 words! However, a good abstract conforms to a pretty standard formula. You can maximise your chances of acceptance by following this formula and adhering to a few vital rules

Rule 1: Know your audience

Study the ISNCC conference guidelines carefully. Your abstract must fit clearly with one of the conference themes to

enable allocation to a suitable reviewer for a conference session. Understand the flavour of the conference, which embraces both quantitative and qualitative work. ISNCC publishes previously successful abstracts and programs. If you haven't attended an ISNCC conference, or haven't presented at one, these are worth checking out. Abstract books demonstrate what your abstract reviewers expect to see.



[Click here to view some successful ISNCC abstracts:](#)

Rule 2: Be kind to your audience

Understanding the abstract selection procedure for ISNCC and the role of abstract managers and reviewers is also worthwhile. They voluntarily review anywhere up to 150 abstracts each, in their own time, and appreciate anyone who makes their job easier. The process begins when the abstract

continued on the next page...

In this issue:

Report from the Chair	3
ISNCC Conference details	3
Professional development funding	4

How to write a killer abstract for ISNCC

CONTINUED...

manager at ISNCC assigns two or three reviewers to appraise each abstract submitted to the conference. The scores for each abstract are then collated and averaged, with the average score for that abstract then ranked against the average scores of all other abstracts. These rankings determine whether an abstract is accepted for oral or poster presentation, or if it is not suitable. The abstract managers and reviewers adhere to strict guidelines. Apart from rating the scientific and methodological content of the abstract, they must ensure that:

1. There is evidence that the author who submits the abstract has notified all other co-authors. Co-authors should provide their consent to publish their names in association with that abstract. Ensure you have obtained that permission before submission.
2. Word and character limits are adhered to. Please note that spaces and punctuation marks are counted as characters.
3. The title is fully capitalised.
4. The results of your project are included in the abstract. ISNCC is a data-driven conference; therefore, work-in-progress and literature reviews are not prioritised for oral presentation. Preference is given to abstracts that present 'hard data'; that is, the results from completed research and quality projects.

The reviewers' job is much, much easier if you conform to these four points before submission. The less work a reviewer or review manager has to do on your submission, the more likely

you are to receive a favourable review.

Rule 3: Engage your audience

There are two sure-fire ways to engage your reviewers' attention: attract them with a concise but informative title and capture them with a declarative, active voice in the body of the abstract.

FIRST, the title. Short titles of no more than 10 to 12 words are preferred. Ensure the title always mentions the population of interest, the study design, and the variables studied. For example: *"A survey of quality of life and spiritual distress in multiple myeloma patients in New Zealand"* has the study design (survey), the population of interest (multiple myeloma patients) and the variables studied (quality of life and spiritual distress).

Note that it contains no fancy adjectives or compelling phrases, which is a common temptation. An abstract title is a statement of fact that conveys the content of your abstract accurately and concisely. Leave 'fancy' for the actual presentation, where you have more leisure to argue your point in a compelling way.

SECOND, every single word counts in an abstract. Poorly structured, badly expressed abstracts with surplus words turn reviewers right off. Most reviewers are busy people, and reviewing for the conference adds to their workload.

Understandably, after the first few abstracts the attention of most reviewers wanders, and is further distracted by poor sentence grammar and spelling. Reviewers are always relieved when they come

across an abstract written with obvious care that conveys a clear message. They tend to view these favourably. Conform to the standard abstract writing formula outlined below; writing in good plain English, and you are half-way there.

THIRD, write the abstract in active, declarative voice rather than passive voice. Word limits are tight, and active voice uses fewer words. Active voice is also energetic, giving the impression that you are committed to your findings and can present with authority. Instead of writing that *"there has been considerable research that shows that..."* write *"considerable research indicates that..."* Four words have replaced eight words in that example. There are also no empty filler words in that example, and you have simultaneously conveyed that you are all over the topic. Be declarative – there is no room for tentative, passive voice in an abstract.

Related tips for reviewer engagement include:

- Don't lard your abstract with references, which are counted in your word limit. Five references is enough, but try for less (or even none). The reviewers rate the message in your abstract, not your use of source material.
- Keep sentences short. Long sentences tend to cram in too many ideas, making it difficult for the reader to follow.
- Ensure someone with experience proofreads your abstract before submission. This will pick up any errors of content, spelling or expression.

Rule 4: Inform your audience

Six to ten sentences is usually sufficient, within a specified limit of 250 words, to convey your message. It is best not to waste words with an introductory statement in the abstract – go straight for the meat of your project.

The 6-point formula for writing an abstract, which fits the traditional abstract format of background, aim, method, results and conclusion, goes like this:

The abstract formula	Abstract component
What problem did your project address?	Background
Why should people care about this problem?	
What was the aim of your project?	Aim
What method did you use to study the problem?	Study design
What results did you produce?	Results
How might these results inform cancer practice or policy?	Conclusion

The best of luck with your submissions to ISNCC in Auckland. I look forward to meeting cancer nurses from all over New Zealand at the conference, and to seeing you present your outstanding work.



The theme is: Global Actions: Working Towards Unity and Excellence in Cancer Care

TENA KOUTOU, TENA KOUTOU, TENA KOUTOU KATO

The International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care (ISNCC) is pleased to announce the 2018 International Conference on Cancer Nursing (ICCN 2018) from Sunday 23 September to Wednesday 26 September 2018 at the SKYCITY Auckland Convention Centre, Auckland, NZ.

ICCN is the world's premiere meeting for leaders, and future leaders, in cancer nursing research and practice. Our conference provides you with the opportunity to engage with leaders in cancer nursing from around the globe and to participate in the conversations that will shape cancer nursing research and translate evidence-based cancer nursing education, practice and research into patient-centered care.

All of this will be offered in style in Auckland, New Zealand, where you will share lively, innovative discussions with new and existing friends and colleagues.

We look forward to seeing you here!

The learning objectives are:

1. Discuss innovative ways for merging evidence and practice.
2. Engage practitioners and oncology nursing leaders in discourse around the global challenges in cancer care.
3. Provide and facilitate opportunities for nurses to network and collaborate to support innovative cancer nursing education, practice and research.



DEADLINES

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS OPENS:

1 January 2018

REGISTRATION OPENS:

29 January 2018

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS CLOSES:

19 February 2018

ABSTRACT NOTIFICATION:

2 April 2018

CLOSE OF EARLY REGISTRATION:

23 July 2018

CALL FOR
ABSTRACTS
OPEN!

For more details visit
www.iccn2018.nz.

Report from the chair



Welcome to this edition of Cancernet.

Gosh, February already! I hope you have all had a wonderful holiday season and summer so far.

We decided to publish this smaller and focused edition of the Cancernet early due to the call for abstracts for the ICCN conference which is being held in September in Auckland. We hope many of you will submit an abstract or a poster. Please be assured that assistance in abstract writing is available. Contact myself or one of the other committee members for details.

Sadly Melissa Warren has resigned from the committee. Melissa has been a wonderful asset to the committee and has done an outstanding job as co-editor of the Cancernet for which we thank her very much. We wish her every success with her current studies.

We have numerous current projects as outlined in my previous report and a few in planning. We are requesting a meeting with the Hon Dr David Clark to discuss cancer care and cancer nursing in NZ.

The Cancer Nurses College is your national voice for cancer nursing and we would like to know if you have any successes to share or issues to raise.

I am looking forward to your abstracts and posters!

Judy Warren
Chairperson, NZNO CNC

What you should know about submitting an abstract

The International Conference on Cancer Nursing (ICCN) is the world's premiere meeting for nurses interested in cancer care. ICCN is organised by the International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care (ISNCC), the peak international membership organisation of oncology nurse leaders dedicated to improving the health and well-being of people at risk for or living with cancer, promoting the nurse's role in improving cancer care, and developing nursing leadership in cancer care delivery.

ISNCC was established in 1984 with a vision to lead the global nursing community in cancer control and a mission to maximise the influence of nursing to reduce the global burden of cancer. ISNCC has recently released its new strategic plan, which includes a renewed emphasis on building cancer nurse leaders and facilitating knowledge exchange amongst cancer nurses across the world. It is a great time to join colleagues from many different countries to learn more about how nurses can lead advances in cancer care at the global level.

Our conference provides the opportunity to engage with leaders in cancer nursing from around the globe and participate in conversations that will shape cancer nursing research and translate evidence-based cancer nursing education, practice and research into patient-centered care.

In 2018, we are very excited to be bringing the conference to beautiful New Zealand for the first time. It will be a unique opportunity for NZ nurses to participate in a large international conference hosted and organised by a local team. We are very keen for NZ nurses

to have a big presence at the conference. We have included a few tips below for those who want to consider submitting an abstract for consideration by the scientific committee.

Who should submit an abstract?

Conferences are held to promote knowledge exchange and networking. For these reasons, the Conference Scientific Committee is seeking nurses who are prepared to present original work that is relevant to the conference aims. For ICCN, all abstracts should be original research. Research in this context is considered broadly, and includes audits, case reports, or descriptions of a new innovation in health services delivery or education. The important thing to consider is whether you have something that is significant and of interest to fellow cancer nurses. Ideally, an abstract should report on work that has been completed, rather than work in progress although it is sometimes relevant to report work in progress where there are significant learnings to share. You should also be presenting work that has not previously been presented to an international audience.

What is an abstract?

An abstract is a concise description of all elements of the project or activity. The abstract usually has a word limit, and includes similar elements no matter what the focus. These elements include:

- Statement of the problem/area of focus
- Description of design and methods/scope of the work
- Outcomes, interpretation, implications of the work

Wherever possible, avoid using the abstract

as a table of contents and avoid using words such as "The presentation will cover....". Instead, the Scientific Committee will want to know what you did, the outcome of your work, and why it is significant to others.

What is the purpose of an abstract?

The Scientific Committee will use the abstract to select presentations or posters by assessing originality, relevance to the conference theme, and quality of the work. The Scientific Committee also uses this information to structure and organise the program into sessions.

An abstract has other important uses. Because the abstract is a written record of your work that is published as part of the conference program, it also enables attendees to decide which sessions they wish to attend. The abstract remains as an ongoing record and is a great way to disseminate information to others even if they can't attend the conference.

How are abstracts selected?

All abstracts will be reviewed by the committee for inclusion in the oral presentations and poster sessions at the conference. The Scientific Committee appoints a panel of experienced cancer nurses from a variety of backgrounds to score all abstracts submitted. The panel members will score each abstract using criteria which relate to issues including: originality of the work; rigour of the work; relevance to the conference. There are limited spaces available in the program, so the Committee will be looking for those abstracts which are of the highest quality. Abstract selection is a competitive process as not all work can be presented at the conference.

What types of presentations should be made at the conference?

The 2018 ICCN is seeking abstracts for four different types of sessions:

- 1. Oral Presentations:** A 12-minute oral presentation plus three minutes for discussion/Q & A at the end of your presentation.
- 2. Instructional Presentation:** An 80-minute session with 2-3 presenters on a unified topic meant to instruct others. This may include a co-ordinator/monitor who can also be a speaker.
- 3. Rapid Fire:** An 8-minute oral presentation using no more than 5 powerpoint slides in total. Questions will be answered during the question time at the end of the session.
- 4. Poster Presentations:** Posters are a visual display of your work, which can include text, diagrams, figures and pictures to summarise your work. The poster is usually displayed for a period of time during the conference for attendees to peruse. You will also be required to stand by their posters during a specified time so that attendees can ask questions.

How do I submit my abstract?

Abstracts are submitted electronically.



[Click here](https://www.eiseverywhere.com/eSites/287374/Login)

<https://www.eiseverywhere.com/eSites/287374/Login>

It is very important that you follow all instructions to ensure your abstract is eligible for consideration.

A few final tip for success:

- Be clear and concise – word limits are strict so you need to ensure every word counts!
- Use words carefully to ensure you include information about key aspects of your work,
- Use an active voice when writing – this shows you know your work and are confident in your findings
- Avoid jargon – remember the audience for your abstract comes from diverse practice settings.

Patsy Yates, President Elect, ISNCC
Stella Bialous, President, ISNCC

Funding options to attend conferences or courses

Funding to attend conferences or courses is becoming increasingly hard to source. Apart from your local DHB, here are some funding options that you may not have thought of. To apply for funding you need to be organised with many groups having funding rounds and deadlines throughout the year.

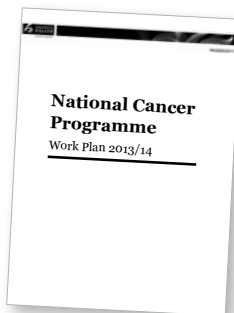
- For members, the NZNO offers several funding streams. These include NERF, Florence Nightingale, Thomas Tippet award, just to name a few. For further information including criteria and closing dates:
- Visit the **Scholarships section on the NZNO website**
- Roche provides individual "Roche Education Grants" to nurses working in the fields of Oncology and/or Haematology to support their attendance at appropriate medical education events paid for in 2018. The key goal for these grants is to support nurses in accessing continuing education opportunities in their field of expertise and to share the information gained with their colleagues.
- Visit the **Grants & Awards section on the NZNO website**
- The Genesis Oncology Trust has various award rounds throughout the year to support health professionals working within cancer care to attend courses or conferences. For further information on criteria and closing dates go to:
- Visit the **Grant Application section on Genesis Oncology website**
- The Blood Cancer NZ and the Cancer Society offer grants for health professionals to attend conferences or courses. They usually have funding rounds. For further information contact the Cancer Society or Leukaemia and Blood Cancer NZ.

If you are aware of other funding streams that are available and you want to publicise them, please contact us on

cancernursesnz@gmail.com

National Cancer Programme update

The Ministry leads a national work programme which provides a strategic focus for cancer control and for system-wide improvements across the spectrum of cancer services.



Keep up to date on the **National Cancer Programme**

Online cancer learning

- www.cancernursing.org
- www.cancerlearning.gov.au/build/edcan_learning_resources.php
- www.ons.org
- www.isncc.org
- www.eviq.org.au
- www.nccn.org

The Cancer Nurses College committee **INVITES ALL MEMBERS** to join us on the new 'Cancer Nurses College NZNO' Facebook Group.

Ask questions, share thoughts, ideas, research, innovative practice, or concerns.










Click here to visit the page...

Click the 'Join Group' button and one of our lovely Admins will add you. Easy as that! Hope to see you there!

**A Google search for
cancer brings up over
570 million results.**

For patients with specific cancers - where's
a good place to start?

cancerinfo.co.nz

 **Blood Cancer**  **Breast Cancer**  **Ovarian Cancer**
 **Bowel Cancer**  **Cervical Cancer**  **Skin Cancer**
 **Brain Cancer**  **Lung Cancer**  **Stomach Cancer**



GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTING TO CANCERNET...

Why contribute? Why publish?

- To share knowledge
- To advance your field of practice
- To disseminate key findings or opinions
- To contribute to policy debates

Introduction

Cancernet is a newsletter that is published three times a year by the New Zealand Nurses Organisation Cancer Nurses College. Cancernet aims to inform and encourage nurses managing people with cancer to share opinion, resources, clinical practice and continuing professional development.

Types of articles

All types of articles are welcomed and can include;

- **Opinion**
- **Clinical practice**
- **Case studies**
- **Continuing practice development**
- **Literature review**
- **Advanced study (e.g. BSc or MSc) write-ups**

Submitting your work

- Articles should be submitted in Microsoft Word via email to cancernursesnz@gmail.com
- Acknowledgement of receipt of your submission will then
- Acknowledgement of receipt of your submission will be sent by email.

Word count

Opinion articles should be between 700-1000 words long. However, clinical-based articles and literature reviews and advanced study articles, these can range from between 1,500 and 3,500 words, including references.

Illustrative and images

Authors must obtain permission for the use of illustrative material or images and ensure that this material is labeled and captioned.

Referencing

A recognised referencing system to be used. If the reference list is long, the reference list is available on request from the author.



Important diary dates

19th-20th February 2018, Wellington

**Indigenous people and cancer:
a shared agenda for Aotearoa,
Australia and Pacific nations**

 [Find out more information](#)

4th-6th April 2018, Wellington

**UV Radiation: Effects on Human Health
and the Environment**

 [Find out more information](#)

23rd-25th May 2018, Utrecht, Netherlands

**18th International Conference on
Integrated Care**

 [Find out more information](#)

15th-18th August 2018, Sydney

World Congress on Cancer of the Skin

 [Find out more information](#)

23rd-26th September 2018, Auckland

**International Society of Nurses
in Cancer Care ICCN Conference**

 [Find out more information](#)

2nd-3rd November 2018, Auckland

Melanoma Summit 2018

 [Find out more information](#)

The 2017-18 Cancer Nurses College COMMITTEE



Back row left to right: Melissa Warren (resigned Jan 2018),
Felicity Drumm, Joseph Mundava, Sarah Ellery, Moira Gillespie
Front row left to right: Fiona Sayer, Judy Warren, Kirstin Unahi

Cancer Nurses College badges



are now available
for purchase for \$8 each.

They can be purchased from CNC
committee members or by emailing the
committee on cancernursesnz@gmail.com
and using internet banking.

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We welcome contributions to Cancernet.
Interesting stories, notices and photos relevant
to our nursing community are always
appreciated. Email us at

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