

Melanoma Education in NSW

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This report was prepared by

Michael Frommer

Director

With assistance from staff of the Sydney Health Projects Group.

Sydney Health Projects Group

School of Public Health

The University of Sydney

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List of abbreviations

ACD	Australasian College of Dermatologists
ACRRM	Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine
ACSCM	The Australasian College of Skin Cancer Medicine
ANMC	The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council Incorporated
AMC	The Australian Medical Council
CNSA	The Cancer Nurses Society of Australia
CIPHER	The Centre for Innovation in Professional Health Education and Research
CMO	Chief Medical Officers
COSA	Clinical Oncology Society of Australia
CPMEC	The Confederation of Postgraduate Medical Education Councils
DOHA	Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing
FRCPA	Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia
GCertSurgAnat	Graduate Certificate in Surgical Anatomy
GS	General Surgery
HSP	Hospital Skills Program
MMedSurg	Masters of Medicine/Surgery
MMO	Multiskilled Medical Officers
MSOAP	Medical Specialist Outreach Assistance Program
NSW IMET	The NSW Institute of Medical Education and Training
OPME	Office of Postgraduate Medical Education,
PSA	Pharmaceutical Society of Australia
RDAQ	Rural Doctors Association Queensland
PRS	Plastic and Reconstructive
RACGP	Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
RACS	Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
RNCA	The Royal College of Nursing Australia
RHEF	Rural Health Education Foundation
RRMEO	Rural and Remote Medical Education Online
SCCA	Skin Cancer College of Australia
SRMO	Senior Resident Medical Officers
TROG	Trans-Tasman Radiation Oncology Group.

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose and status of this report

The NSW Melanoma Network commissioned the Sydney Health Projects Group (SHPG) to compile data on existing professional education and training programs on melanoma in NSW and/or available to NSW-based health practitioners. The Network sought these data as the first component of a review of the extent, coverage and quality of education and training for the detection, diagnosis and management of melanoma.

1.2 Scope

The NSW Melanoma Network specified criteria for the inclusion of education and training programs in this review. Based on these criteria, we included programs that:

- Are directed at clinicians, who may be medical practitioners, nurses or allied health professionals.
- Focus on melanoma of the skin (mucosal melanoma and melanoma of the eye were not covered).
- Deal exclusively with melanoma; programs in which melanoma diagnosis and management is a major (but not the only) topic and broad programs that cover the management of melanoma, such as undergraduate and graduate medical programs.
- Are confined to graduate and undergraduate programs based in NSW, and continuing education programs within or outside NSW but accessible to NSW-based practitioners.

Education is a broad concept which refers to learning opportunities in wide and diverse situations, whereas, training refers to learning specific knowledge, skills, or abilities that can be applied upon completion. This review focuses on education and training which either prepares students for qualifications that lead to professional registration or provides practitioners with additional skills and/or qualifications. In this context, vocational education is synonymous with vocational training.

The review is confined to courses that are currently being run (as of September 2008) or confirmed to be conducted in the future. The review had not included proposed courses or those currently under discussion.

The information in the review has been collected from publicly available information, such as websites, from templates sent to organisations and through direct communication with representatives of relevant organisation. The review refers to information resources available from major providers of courses. It was outside the scope of the review to describe non course-related information resources.

1.3 Methods

Education and training programs on melanoma detection, diagnosis and management were identified through systematic Internet searches. Information was recorded on a pro forma that listed the variables of interest for each program (Appendix A).

In addition to the systematic searching of known health professional organisations and education programs, searching was done using the following search terms:

- melanoma + professional education
- melanoma + training
- skin cancer + training
- skin cancer professional development
- skin cancer education.

Information was also collected through direct contact with staff of the relevant institutions. This was a two-stage process. Offices of the various institutions were contacted and requests made for the names of the most appropriate individuals from whom the required data could be obtained. The NSW Melanoma Network then wrote to these individuals seeking information that was not available on websites. The letters from the Network enclosed a copy of the data collection pro-forma. SHPG followed up these letters by phone or email. An electronic copy of the pro-forma was forwarded to designated contact officers where appropriate. Specific information in relation to melanoma was unavailable in a number of cases and additional sources of training information were contacted in the course of the preparation of this report. The list of organisations that responded to our requests for information and the names of the individuals who provided advice are given in Appendix B.

1.4 Structure of this report

Almost all of the information obtained on education and training relating to melanoma referred to programs designed primarily for medical practitioners; some information on nursing is described, but very little information was available on allied health. The structure of the report reflects these findings.

Part 1 of the report (this part) covers purpose, scope and methods.

Part 2 of the report describes findings of our enquiries as follows:

Section 2.1 describes undergraduate and graduate programs in medicine.

Section 2.2 addresses university-based postgraduate medical education.

Section 2.3 examines the roles of the clinical colleges.

Section 2.4 reports on continuing medical education opportunities for doctors.

Section 2.5 briefly describes nursing education in this area.

Part 3 presents a brief commentary on the implications of the findings.

2 Education and Training

2.1 Undergraduate and graduate medical education

Six undergraduate or graduate medical programs in NSW are accredited with the Australian Medical Council:

- University of Newcastle,
- University of New South Wales,
- University of Notre Dame Australia,
- University of Sydney,
- University of Wollongong, and
- University of Western Sydney.

Three of these six universities – the Universities of Wollongong, Western Sydney and Notre Dame – had their first intakes of students in 2007–2008.

The amount of publicly-available information on the content and structure of curricula varied among the universities as detailed in Table 2.1 below.

Table 2:1: Melanoma coverage in graduate medical programs in NSW

University	Faculty and program	Annual Intake (students)	Melanoma coverage
University of Newcastle	School of Medicine and Public Health. A five-year undergraduate medical program	80–90	<p>Melanoma is covered primarily in the fourth year of the course, as part of an integrated clinical surgery unit, to which 25 percent of the academic year is devoted. The unit encompasses the spectrum of epidemiology, aetiology and pathology, accurate history-taking, physical examination and investigations, interpretation of findings, differential diagnosis, communication and formulation of a management plan.</p> <p>Other curriculum content relevant to melanoma comprises teaching on cancer in general (year 2), dermatology (year 3), oncology (year 5) and palliative care (years 3 and 5).</p>
University of New South Wales (UNSW)	School of Medical Sciences within the Faculty of Medicine. A six-year undergraduate medical program	200	No specific information provided. Survey response indicated melanoma training is embedded within the program, in particular within the pathology and clinical medicine training; the topic is also raised in the context of histology.
University of Notre Dame, Australia (NDSMS)	School of Medicine. A four-year graduate medical program. The first annual intake was in 2008 [1]	112	<p>Detailed information on the melanoma content of the curriculum was not available at the time of writing. Melanoma may be included in the first year, which focuses on problem-based learning and covers surgery and public health. It is also likely to be covered in the second year, which deals with clinical examination of all major organ systems; the third year, which includes rotations through core clinical specialties encompassing a large number of clinical topics; and the fourth year, in which clinical topics of increasing complexity are covered.</p> <p>Melanoma is planned to be covered in the second year curriculum which encompasses clinical examination of all major organ systems; third year rotations through core clinical specialties which encompass a large number of clinical topics; and fourth year clinical topics of increasing complexity.</p>

University	Faculty and program	Annual Intake (students)	Melanoma coverage
University of Sydney (USYD)	Faculty of Medicine. A four-year graduate medical program.	250–275	<p>In their second year, students are introduced to oncology and the basic sciences relating to cancer. In their third year, they receive further teaching on the pathology, diagnosis and management of suspicious skin lesions, and communication with patients about these lesions. They also receive dermatology teaching that covers the clinical diagnosis and management of common skin conditions including the differential diagnosis of melanoma.</p> <p>In their third and fourth years, students undertake four-week clinical attachments in main medicine and surgery in urban and rural hospitals and may encounter melanoma patients at diagnosis, assessment and treatment stages</p> <p>. Each year, approximately seven graduate medical students in the Royal Prince Alfred Clinical School are allocated to the melanoma service conducted by the Sydney Melanoma Unit. The aims of the attachment are to expose students to the general principles of cancer management and surgery as seen in the treatment of people with melanoma or other tumours.</p>
University of Wollongong	Graduate School of Medicine. A four year program. The first intake of students was in January 2007.	80	Specific information on melanoma content not provided.
University of Western Sydney	School of Medicine. A five-year undergraduate medical program. The first intake of students was in 2007.	100	Specific information on melanoma content not provided. Survey response stated that 'teaching on melanoma is integral to the entire program and options relating to the diagnosis and management of melanoma are available'.

2.2 University-based postgraduate medical education

A few of universities offer or plan to offer postgraduate courses in medicine and surgery for NSW clinicians and other parts of the health workforce. Details of available and planned programs are given in Table 2.2 below.

Table 2:2: Melanoma coverage in postgraduate medical programs available to the NSW health workforce

University	Course	Melanoma coverage
Australian School of Advanced Medicine, Macquarie University	The Australian School of Advanced Medicine at Macquarie University opened early in 2007 and offers postgraduate surgical training.	The present curricula focus on orthopaedics and neurosurgery and do not as yet include training in the diagnosis and management of melanoma.
University of Notre Dame Australia	The NDSMS had its first intake in 2008 and will offer three postgraduate programs: the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), the Master of Medicine/Surgery (MMedSurg) and the Graduate Certificate in Surgical Anatomy (GCertSurgAnat). To date, these programs have not been offered.	The surgical programs have the potential to train students in the management of melanoma.
University of Queensland	The University of Queensland offers a Master of Medicine (Primary Skin Cancer Medicine) program.	<p>A one year full-time program, which is also available part time, (maximum 4.5 years part time). This program is accredited by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) and has a yearly intake. A bi-annual intake is being trialled.</p> <p>The purpose of the Master of Medicine (Primary Skin Cancer Medicine) program is to improve primary care management of skin cancer. The program is targeted at doctors working in primary care including general practitioners (GPs) with an interest in skin cancer medicine, rural doctors and doctors working in skin cancer clinics. To enrol, students must have a medical degree and a minimum of two years' post-graduate clinical practice.</p> <p>The Master's degree is a stand-alone program taught face-to-face and on-line.</p> <p>Assessment comprises examinations, assignments and case studies, including on-line assessments and discussions.</p>

University	Course	Melanoma coverage
		Program details are provided in Appendix C.
University of Sydney	Master of Medicine, Master of Surgery and Doctoral degree programs	<p>The Master of Surgery by coursework is a one-year full-time or two-year part-time program. Available options include plastic and reconstructive surgery and surgical oncology. There is no option specifically for melanoma.</p> <p>Sydney Melanoma Unit staff, within their fields of expertise, supervise students undertaking research for the Master of Medicine and Doctor of Medicine research degrees. Five PhD theses on aspects of melanoma have been completed in recent years, four of these in 2006 and 2007. [2]</p>

2.3 Education and training provided by medical colleges

2.3.1 Fellowship programs

Medical colleges set standards for specialist medical training in Australia and conduct examinations for specialist qualifications. Training usually takes place in the course of employment in hospital positions accredited by the relevant college. [3] Some colleges also conduct training. Successful candidates who complete the requirements are awarded a fellowship of the relevant college.

The Australian Medical Council (AMC) is the national accrediting body for colleges wishing to award postgraduate medical qualifications. Bodies seeking accreditation to oversee postgraduate training and conduct examinations must apply to the AMC and undergo a rigorous review process. Accredited colleges must also undergo repeated reviews on a regular basis. [4]

Several fellowship programs relevant to melanoma can be undertaken in NSW. Some of these programs have been accredited by the AMC. [5] Fellowships relevant to melanoma are outlined in Table 2.3.

Table 2:3: Melanoma coverage within Fellowship programs

College	Melanoma coverage	Fellowship program AMC accredited?
Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD)	Melanoma diagnosis and treatment are integral parts of the ACD training program, which includes all skin tumours, benign and malignant.	Yes
Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP)	Dermoscopy, the ability to assess symptoms and signs associated with melanoma and to describe the usual presentations of melanoma and other skin cancers, together with a module on practical procedures in dermatology (removing lesions) are included in the RACGP curriculum.	Yes
Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM)	Dermatology curriculum includes competence in the diagnosis and management of skin tumours, and the cause, essential features and treatment of melanocytic tumours including melanocytic naevi and malignant melanoma.	Yes
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS)	Curriculum modules in general and plastic and reconstructive surgery touch on melanoma, in the skin cancer and soft tissues modules. The "skin cancer" component of the General Surgery (GS) and Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (PRS) modules represent approximately 5% of the overall curricula, with melanomas about one third of the overall teaching on skin cancer teaching	Yes
The Skin Cancer College of Australia (SCCA)	The SCCA Fellowship program had its first intake in 2008. Criteria for Fellowship comprise postgraduate skin cancer training, the equivalent of three years full-time skin cancer practice and procedure log books. They must also pass an exam. The SCCA has been working with the RACGP to attain accreditation and develop education programs with the aim of becoming a special interest group within the RACGP.	No
The Australasian College of Skin Cancer Medicine (ACSCM)	ACSCM Fellowship is open to medical practitioners who pass written and clinical examinations and demonstrate suitable experience in skin cancer diagnosis and techniques, equivalent to three years' full-time skin cancer surgery experience.	No

Details of these fellowship programs are as follows:

Australasian College of Dermatologists

The Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD) runs a training program in dermatological departments of teaching hospitals and Skin and Cancer Foundations throughout Australia. In 2008, the ACD supported a total of 22 training positions. Of these, 20 were located in major teaching hospitals, and two were based in private practices. [6]

The minimum qualification for entry into the training program is a medical degree plus two years' postgraduate experience. Entry is highly competitive. Trainees are required to complete four or five years of defined clinical training and obtain a defined range of educational experience. They must undergo several assessments, meet publication and presentation requirements, complete assessments of competency in certain clinical procedures and pass the Fellowship examination. Currently 75 trainees are enrolled in the program. The annual intake ranged from 13 in 2005 to 23 in 2007.

Melanoma diagnosis and treatment are integral parts of the ACD training program, which includes all skin tumours, benign and malignant. The program uses many educational formats, including face-to-face lectures, clinical training with patients, problem-based learning and private study. There is a continual assessment process including half-yearly summative and formative in-training assessments and pharmacology and basic sciences examinations in the first two years of training. The Fellowship examination consists of multiple choice and essay questions, oral presentations and objective structured clinical examinations.

Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine

The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) received AMC accreditation in 2007. Fellowship of the ACRRM signifies achievement of advanced clinical and professional competency in rural and remote medicine. The ACRRM has an extensive dermatology curriculum. Learning objectives include the following:

- To develop the knowledge, practical skills and attitudes to provide appropriate dermatological care in rural/remote practice. [7]
- To understand the importance of appropriate decision-making on how skin conditions should be managed in rural and remote settings, by the Fellow, in consultation with an appropriate specialist.
- To be committed to self-directed learning, continuing education and the conduct of quality assurance activities in the field of dermatology.
- To develop competence in the diagnosis and management of skin tumours, covering the cause of, essential features of, and specific treatment for melanocytic tumours including melanocytic naevi and malignant melanoma.

Once admitted as Fellows, the ACRRM requires members to accrue 'points' that are derived from accredited continuing education courses in a number of areas. Dermatology is one of the curriculum areas in further education and the ACCRM offers a course on skin cancer medicine, described in section 2.4.

Australasian College of Skin Cancer Medicine

The Australasian College of Skin Cancer Medicine (ACSCM) is a professional body of skin cancer doctors in Australia and New Zealand. The College offers several levels of membership and runs courses in skin cancer medicine. Affiliate membership of the ACSCM is offered to medical practitioners who have completed Certificate and Diploma courses through the ACSCM (described below). Honorary Affiliate Membership of the ACSCM is offered to suitably qualified medical practitioners who give guest lectures to members or contribute in other ways. ACSCM Fellowship is open to medical practitioners who pass written and clinical examinations and demonstrate suitable experience in skin cancer diagnosis and management techniques, equivalent to three years' full-time skin cancer surgery experience. ACSM Fellows should also hold a fellowship (or equivalent qualification) from another College, but exceptions are made for applicants with substantial demonstrated experience. The emphasis of the ACSCM is surgical and all content of the Fellowship program is considered relevant to melanoma.

At present, the ACSCM is not accredited by the AMC and is currently not scheduled for review by the ACM before 2010. [8]

Royal Australasian College of Surgeons

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) admits Fellows to nine surgical specialties, including general surgery and plastic and reconstructive surgery. The Fellowship is a five year full-time training program.

According to the RACS, only modules on skin cancer and soft tissues touch on melanoma, and these represent a small part of the curriculum in general and plastic and reconstructive surgery. The "skin cancer" component of the General Surgery (GS) and Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (PRS) modules represent approximately 5% of the overall curricula, with teaching relating to melanoma making up about one third of the teaching in skin cancer. The RACS does not keep track of the actual experience of trainees and is unable to provide an estimate of how many trainees gain practical experience in melanoma surgery.

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

Fellowship in the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) is an optional postgraduate qualification for general practitioners (GPs). Fellowships are awarded to doctors who meet training and experience requirements and successfully complete the RACGP assessment process. The assessment is based on the RACGP Curriculum for Australian General Practice ('the curriculum'), which details the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for competent general practice. [9] The RACGP requires members to take part in further education to maintain their membership.

Melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer represent a substantial area of general practice. Skills included in the RACGP curriculum relevant to melanoma detection and treatment include dermoscopy and the ability to assess symptoms and signs associated with melanoma and to describe the usual presentations of melanoma and other skin cancers. [9]

The RACGP is currently working with the Skin Cancer Society of Australia to pilot-test a new set of standards for skin cancer services. These standards are being applied and evaluated in a small number of representative practices across Australia. The aim is to assess whether the new standards are appropriate and feasible for use in primary care clinics that provide skin cancer services.

Skin Cancer College of Australia

The Skin Cancer College of Australia is the education arm of the Skin Cancer Society of Australia (SCSA). The SCCA has developed a Fellowship program and held an initial examination with six candidates in May 2008. A second examination will be held in November 2008. The Fellowship program is opened to registered medical practitioners who have:

- postgraduate training – Skin Cancer Society Certificate Exam Parts 1 and 2 (details in Section 2.5) and dermoscopy and dermatologic surgery courses or successful completion of the University of Queensland Master of Medicine (Skin Cancer) program;
- three years full time or six years part time accredited time in skin cancer;
- photographic and surgical log books.

Further details of these requirements and the fellowship curriculum are available (in Appendix D). The SCCA draft fellowship curriculum is provided in detail in Appendix E.

The SCCA has been working with the RACGP to attain accreditation and develop education programs with the aim of becoming a special interest group within the RACGP. Accreditation would have an academic benefit and would provide a method of demonstrating knowledge and experience in skin cancer medicine.

The SCCA is in the process of becoming the Skin Cancer College of Australia and New Zealand, SCCANZ.

2.3.2 Other (non-fellowship) programs run by colleges

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists

The Faculty of Radiation Oncology is the specialist medical college responsible for training and assessment of radiation oncologists. The Radiation Oncology Training Program is currently being revised. Of five tumour sites set as teaching competency areas, skin is one, with an emphasis on melanoma, (see Appendix F). The College publishes Medical Expert Supplements, one of which is titled 'Melanoma'. The Trans-Tasman Radiation Oncology Group (TROG), a clinical trials group associated with the Faculty coordinates clinical trials of the management of melanoma among other tumors.

The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia

The College approves supervised training undertaken in an accredited laboratory and conducts examinations leading to certification as a qualified pathologist and Fellow of the College (FRCPA). Candidates for Fellowship must be registered medical practitioners employed in an accredited laboratory with a minimum of one year's post graduate experience. Pathology

training takes a minimum of five years. The College has produced a guide entitled “Fact File: Malignant Melanoma”; covering the diagnosis and assessment of melanoma.

2.4 Continuing education and training opportunities for doctors

Most of the continuing–education programs relevant to melanoma are courses on skin cancer medicine rather than being specific to melanoma. All are offered at postgraduate level to qualified medical practitioners. Some professional colleges also offer short courses which may have different eligibility criteria. Table 2.4 provides a summary of continuing education courses relevant to melanoma.

Table 2.4: Continuing education courses relevant to melanoma

Provider	Course Name	Duration	Accreditation	Current enrolments	Fees	Times offered per year	Yearly Intake
Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) & the Australasian College of Dermatologists	Certificate in Primary Skin Cancer Management (6 modules)	Approximately 100 hours	ACRRM	20 in pilot program	\$4,500 + GST	Once	Piloted in 2008
	Certificate in Primary Skin Cancer Medicine (25 modules)	25 modules in total	ACRRM	Information not collected/ available	Information not collected	Information not collected	Information not collected/ available
Australasian College of Skin Cancer Medicine (ACSCM)	Certificate course in skin cancer medicine	2 days + exam	RACGP, ACRRM	150	\$1,400 + exam fee \$250	14	Information not collected/ available
	Diploma course in skin cancer medicine	5 days + exam(can be taken after 5 day course or after completing 5 day and 2 day advanced course)	RACGP, ACRRM	60	\$3,080 + exam fee \$500	4	Information not collected/ available
	Advanced skin cancer workshop for diploma	2 days + exam (can be taken after 5 day course or after completing 5 day and 2 day advanced course)	RACGP, ACRRM	30	\$1,200 + exam fee \$500	2	Information not collected/ available

Provider	Course Name	Duration	Accreditation	Current enrolments	Fees	Times offered per year	Yearly Intake
Health Workforce Queensland	Dermatology Workshop	1 day	ACRRM	20	\$660	Once every two years	20 when offered
Rural Health Education Foundation	Skin Cancer: Spot decisions	90 minutes	Accredited for continuing professional development by RACGP, ACRRM and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.	Information not collected/ available	\$95 for DVD, free of charge to download	Information not collected/ available	Information not collected/ available
Skin Cancer Society of Australia /Skin Cancer College of Australia	Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine	40 hours total	RACGP	20	\$1 540 or \$2290 with texts	5	About 50
	Diploma of Dermoscopy	6 month online course + 2 weekends workshops	None	30	\$3,300	Yearly, first offered in 2008	30
University of Queensland	Certificate in Primary Skin Cancer Medicine	2 days plus further online activities	RACGP, ACCRM, RNZCGP	Information not collected/ available	\$2,640, early bird discount	Four times in 2007	Information not collected /available

Provider	Course Name	Duration	Accreditation	Current enrolments	Fees	Times offered per year	Yearly Intake
	Certificate in Primary Skin Cancer Surgery	2 days plus online activities	RACGP, ACCRM, RNZCGP	Information not collected/ available	\$2,670 + GST	Information not collected/ available	Information not collected/ available
	Certificate in Advanced Dermoscopy and Dermal Imaging	2 days plus online activities	RACGP ACRRM RNZCGP	Information not collected/ available	\$2,640, early bird discount	Twice in 2008, Sydney & Gold Coast	Information not collected/ available
	Skin Cancer Surgery Workshop Program	2 days plus online activities	Pending: RACGP ACRRM RNZCGP	Information not collected/ available	\$2,640, early bird discount	Three times in 2008	Information not collected/ available
	Dermoscopy Master Class	2.5 days	Information not collected	Information not collected/ available	Information not collected /available	Once in 2008	Information not collected/ available

2.4.1 Details of continuing education programs

The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) and the Australasian College of Dermatologists

ACRRM offers a self-paced course leading to a Certificate in Primary Skin Cancer Management. This is part of a larger set of 25 modules that comprise the Certificate in Primary Skin Care Medicine. The Primary Skin Cancer Management course is taught face-to-face and on-line. In addition to the 12-session clinical attachment, it includes all teaching relevant to melanoma in the Primary Skin Cancer Medicine course and consists of six modules that cover:

- Pre-malignant and malignant non-melanoma skin cancer.
- Melanoma and melanocytic lesions.
- Benign skin tumours.
- Practical procedures.
- Dermatological surgery and procedures.
- Clinical attachment with a dermatologist (at least 12 sessions in clinical practice).

The ACRRM course is taught with the cooperation of the Australian College of Dermatologists. Fellows of the College supervise the clinical attachment and practical procedure workshops. A description of the course contents is provided in Appendix G.

Assessment is completed on-line, supplemented by submission of a case study.

ACRRM also hosts the Rural and Remote Medical Education Online (RRMEO) platform that combines online resources and education with telemedicine services. RRMEO is a multi-faceted resource that allows members to pursue continuing education, clinical training and online learning. [10] The modules detailed above (and in Appendix G) are available through RRMEO.

In addition to these courses, an online dermatology resource Tele-Derm is available through RRMEO. Tele-Derm is available to all rural and remote doctors through the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing (DOHA) under the Medical Specialist Outreach Assistance Program (MSOAP).

Tele-Derm is an online resource designed primarily for rural doctors interested in obtaining practical advice on the diagnosis and management of skin disease in general practice. General Practitioners can access online case studies, links and discussion forms and a specialist dermatologist (provides advice on the diagnosis and management of cases submitted to the forums).

Australasian College of Skin Cancer Medicine

The Australasian College of Skin Cancer Medicine (ACSCM) is the professional body of skin cancer doctors in Australia and New Zealand. Members come from general practice, rural practice, general surgery, plastic surgery, pathology and dermatology backgrounds.

The College has three levels of qualification from certificate, diploma to fellowship.

The College is involved in educating doctors throughout Australia and New Zealand in the management of skin cancer. The College runs annual educational events in each state and territory each year.

Health Workforce Queensland

Health Workforce Queensland offers several courses primarily utilised by Queensland medical practitioners but available to NSW rural doctors. In 2008, it ran an Advanced Skin Cancer Surgery Workshop in Brisbane, a Skin Cancer Surgery Workshop in Palm Cove, and a dermatology workshop in Cairns. The objective of the dermatology workshop was to enable doctors to assess, investigate and treat common and important skin conditions in the rural setting and be aware of local care coordination resources. The workshop's content included:

- Case studies of skin disorders;
- Case studies of non scarring cancer treatment for review and discussion; and
- Procedural session including simple flaps and punch biopsies.

Specific skills covered include:

- Navigation through Tele-Derm (on-line dermatology);
- Managing skin cancer treatments to ensure non scarring;
- Updating knowledge in commonly presented dermatology conditions; and
- Simple flaps and biopsies.

The Certificate Course in Skin Cancer Medicine, taught by the Australasian College of Skin Cancer Medicine, is also offered through Health Workforce Queensland.

Rural Health Education Foundation

The Rural Health Education Foundation (RHEF) is a non-profit charitable organisation providing independent, accredited education services to GPs and other health professionals working in rural and remote Australia via broadcasts from its own satellite network. Programs are presented through panel discussions with expert participants and feature clinical examples. Programs are presented live and in pre-recorded formats.

One program – the Skin Cancer: 'Spot' Decisions – is relevant to melanoma. It was originally broadcast in November 2004. The program is accredited by the RACGP and ACRRM and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) and is available at no cost via podcast and download or for purchase on DVD. A more detailed listing of its content is given in Appendix H [11]. The RHEF does not collect statistics relating to the number of users of its programs.

Skin Cancer Society of Australia/ Skin Cancer College of Australia

The Skin Cancer College of Australia (SCCA), as noted above (section 2.3), is the teaching arm of the Skin Cancer Society of Australia (SCSA) and distinct from the Australasian College of Skin Cancer Medicine (ACSCM). The SCCA offers a Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine and a Diploma of Dermoscopy.

Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine

The aim of the Certificate is to allow primary-care practitioners to demonstrate expertise in skin cancer medicine and is a requirement for accreditation and SCCA Fellowship Training. The course is designed to provide a basic level of competency in skin cancer diagnosis and management, and as such all content is relevant to melanoma, particularly the dermoscopy component.

The course is taught through a variety of methods including a face-to-face workshop, online, using textbooks and via CD ROM. Program details are provided (in Appendix I).

Assessment is based on multiple-choice questions, questions on dermoscopic and clinical images, and photo-documentation of five excisions from the candidate's own practice.

Evaluation is under development, there are no formal benchmarks and standards for this course.

Diploma of Dermoscopy

The Diploma program is intended for GPs without dermoscopy experience or knowledge and for those using dermoscopy to enhance their skills. Graduates are expected to be competent in the diagnosis of pigmented skin lesions at near-expert level. All program content is relevant to melanoma.

The program is taught annually over a 24-week period through face-to-face workshops, on-line learning, an interactive blog, a practice audit and case reports. There is also regular interaction with a personal tutor.

Assessment comprises a surgical audit of all lesions excised, a series of dermoscopic case reports from the student's practice and two examinations (one at a workshop and one on-line).

The program is evaluated by participants and tutors on a regular basis. It emphasises early diagnosis in the Australian context, particularly early diagnosis of melanoma.

Skin Cancer Practice Accreditation course

The SCCA, together with RACGP, is piloting a Skin Cancer Practice Accreditation program. It comprises weekend workshops to be conducted in small groups for GPs and skin cancer doctors at all levels to further develop their skills in this area. The topics reflect the program content for the SCCA *Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine* examination. Program details are provided in Appendix I.

University of Queensland

A new integrated training package aims to provide GPs with the skills to improve the management of skin cancer in Australia. The programs equip GPs to diagnose common skin cancers and associated conditions; perform skin checks and identify suspicious skin lesions; and understand, select and apply appropriate treatment options for common skin cancers.

The package comprises three certificate programs, the Certificate in Primary Skin Cancer Medicine, the Certificate in Primary Skin Cancer Surgery, and the Certificate in Advanced Dermoscopy and Dermal Imaging. These are the first university-based certificate programs in diagnosing and managing skin cancer for GPs. Program details are provided in Appendix C. Each certificate is equivalent to two units of the University of Queensland Master of Medicine (Primary Care Skin Cancer Medicine) program.

The Certificate program is designed to meet the needs of clinicians interested in skin cancer medicine, including primary care physicians, mainstream GPs, dermatology nurses and rural doctors.

Teaching is via a face-to-face workshop and on-line training and assessment which involves open-book testing with multiple-choice questions and interpretation of images. Assessments must be completed within six months of course completion.

Certificate in Primary Skin Cancer Surgery

The Certificate in Primary Skin Cancer Surgery is aimed at generalist GPs with minor procedural experience who wish to enhance their ability to manage most common skin cancers within their practices. It is offered as a stand-alone program or as a component of the master's degree.

The course is taught in a two-day face-to-face workshop. Assessment comprises an evaluation of competency during the workshop and an on-line theory examination. Program details are provided in Appendix C.

Certificate in Advanced Dermoscopy and Dermal Imaging

The Certificate in Advanced Dermoscopy and Dermal Imaging encompasses the more complex skin cancers and their diagnosis, common dermatological conditions, digital photography and the use of digital dermoscopy computers. It is taught through a two-day face-to-face workshop and online activities. Assessment is on-line and must be undertaken within six months of the workshop.

Skin Cancer Surgery Workshop Program

Skin cancer surgery workshops are designed for GPs, including those with more procedural experience. Teaching is on-line and face-to-face in a two-day workshop.

Dermoscopy Master Class

This program, an extension of the Certificate in Advanced Dermoscopy, is only available to students who have completed the certificate course or who are previous or current students in the University of Queensland Master of Medicine (Primary Skin Cancer Medicine) course. Teaching is face-to-face in a two-and-a-half day workshop.

2.4.2 Other information and resources

A number of institutes and organisations offer information and resources to support clinicians in the diagnosis and management of cancer.

University of Sydney – Skin cancer on-line

The Centre for Innovation in Professional Health Education and Research (CIPHER) (Now the Office of Postgraduate Medical Education, OPME) in collaboration with the Melanoma Foundation and the Sydney Melanoma Unit have developed an interactive skin cancer workshop titled 'Skin cancer on-line'. The program, designed to support third and fourth year students in the University of Sydney Medical Program and GPs, uses case challenges to help participants:

- understand the aetiology of skin cancer, be able to identify patients at risk and formulate follow-up strategies;
- diagnose all common pigmented skin tumours and understand their management options; and
- diagnose all common pre-malignant and malignant non-melanocytic skin tumours and understand their management options.

The Cancer Council NSW

The Council provides resources on melanoma, for example, a GP reference card with information about melanoma, and the 'General Practitioner Screening Guide: A Desktop Decision Support Tool', which includes screening guidelines for melanoma.

Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA)

COSA is the peak national body representing health professionals whose main work is cancer control. One of its 21 different cancer professional groups is the Melanoma and Skin Cancer Group.

The Group has about 50 members from different clinical, epidemiological and laboratory based backgrounds who meet to develop education and research opportunities in the clinical practice and care of melanoma patients, and foster both laboratory based and clinical research.

Learn Dermatology

The Learn Dermatology group of websites, (<http://www.learn dermatology.com/index.cfm>) are run mainly from Australia by Dr Ian McColl, consultant dermatologist at John Flynn Hospital, Tugun, Queensland. This free resource provides world wide on-line education in skin diseases for medical students, GPs and other medical specialists and trainees. Dermatology education is offered at different levels and moderated by specialist dermatologists, mainly in Australia. The websites present cases and information on various aspects of dermatology.

- Student Skin Consult (www.studentskinconsult.com) includes melanoma as a module. Medical students from Griffith and Bond Universities in Queensland have access to this website through their universities but it is also available to NSW students, who have subscribed on an individual basis. It is presented by Fellows of the Australasian College of Dermatologists and Dermatologists Overseas, and is based on guidelines of both the Australasian College of Dermatologists and the British Association of Dermatologists.

-
- Skin Consult Education (<http://www.skinconsult.com.au/vcm/index.cfm>) provides education intended for GPs who primarily practice skin cancer surgery. Some of the content is shared with other on-line programs including the University of Queensland and the Australasian College of Dermatologists via the RACGP and the ACRRM.

General dermoscopy websites

Other websites provide different information and learning opportunities in dermatology, which may include some melanoma content. These include:

- Dermoscopyatlas (<http://www.dermoscopyatlas.com>) is an online atlas of dermoscopy images, submitted by members of the Skin Cancer Society of Australia, to aid in the education of doctors in the management of pigmented skin lesions.
- Dermoscopy Consult (<http://www.dermoscopyconsult.com>) is the educational web site for the Australian Dermoscopy Diploma, an initiative of the Skin Cancer College of Australia. The site provides the continuing education of Specialist Dermatologists and their Trainees and discusses highly specialised and rarer material.
- Global Skin Atlas (<http://www.globalskinatlas.com>) is an online atlas of skin diseases, which encourages doctors in various countries to submit images of interesting cases that they have seen.
- Global Skin Path Atlas (<http://www.globalskinpathatlas.com>) is an online atlas of skin histopathology. Members of the [Australasian Dermatopathology Society](#) submit interesting cases studies.

The NSW Institute of Medical Education and Training (NSW IMET)

The NSW Institute of Medical Education and Training (NSW IMET), formed from the merger of the Postgraduate Medical Council of NSW and the Medical Training and Education Council of NSW, is a member of the Confederation of Postgraduate Medical Education Councils (CPMEC).

NSW IMET works with doctors-in-training, clinician teachers, health services, colleges and universities to advise on, instigate new methods in, and support and coordinate the delivery of postgraduate medical training in the NSW Health system. IMET offers pre-vocational training to further the personal and professional development of medical graduates in post graduate years 1 and 2. IMET also runs a skills program for Career Medical Officers (CMO), Multiskilled Medical Officers (MMO), Senior Resident Medical Officers (SRMO), Hospitalists and General Practitioner Visiting Medical Officers. There is no specific melanoma component in any of the current programs. The CPMEC Hospital Skills Program Training Council is in the process of developing a core curriculum for the Hospital Skills Program.

2.5 Nursing education

2.5.1 Undergraduate nursing programs

Several universities or colleges offer programs in nursing that are recognised by the Nurses and Midwives Board of New South Wales. The following institutions and programs include training for the care of oncology patients. [12] These are listed in Table 2.5. The content of the programs is quite broad and is not specific for melanoma. [13]

Table 2:5: Undergraduate Nursing Programs in NSW

Institution	Program Offered
Australian Catholic University (North Sydney)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Bachelor of Nursing.▪ Bridging program for enrolled nurses to receive credit in Bachelor of Nursing.▪ HSC Board of Studies endorsed Nursing Course for credit in Bachelor of Nursing.
Avondale College (Wahroonga)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Bachelor of Nursing.
Charles Sturt University (Albury, Bathurst, Dubbo, Orange, Wagga Wagga)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Bachelor of Nursing.▪ Bachelor of Nursing by distance education for specified applicants.▪ Bachelor of Early Childhood Teaching (Birth to 5 Years)/Bachelor of Nursing.
Southern Cross University (Lismore, Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Bachelor of Nursing.
University of Notre Dame Australia (Sydney Campus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Bachelor of Nursing.
University of Technology, Sydney	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Bachelor of Nursing.▪ Bachelor of Nursing accelerated stream for enrolled nurses.▪ Bachelor of Nursing accelerated stream (graduate entry).▪ Bachelor of Nursing / Bachelor of Arts (International Studies).
University of Western Sydney (Penrith)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Bachelor of Nursing.▪ HSC Board of Studies endorsed Nursing Course for credit in Bachelor of Nursing.
University of Wollongong (Wollongong, Bega)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Bachelor of Nursing.

2.5.2 Postgraduate nursing programs

Postgraduate nursing programs are offered by the University of Sydney, The College of Nursing and the University of Technology, Sydney. These are detailed in Table 2.6 below.

Table 2:6: Postgraduate Nursing Programs in NSW

Institution	Program	Content
The College of Nursing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Graduate Certificate in Cancer Nursing 	The graduate certificate incorporates one lecture on melanoma, but also gives students flexible options for self-directed learning. The lecture covers melanoma, cutaneous melanoma and other skin cancers and is included as part of a three-week on-campus block of interactive lectures and is delivered by the Sydney Melanoma Unit. Melanoma content can also be covered by students in a number of course options:
University of Sydney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Graduate certificate in Cancer Nursing ▪ Graduate diploma in Cancer Nursing ▪ Master of Cancer Nursing ▪ Short course – Cancer Nursing Practice 	Master’s degree program students must complete prescribed units of study including Cancer Nursing Practice. This unit includes a one-hour session on 'The role of the cancer nurse in the management of melanoma'.
University of Technology, Sydney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Master of Nursing, Graduate diploma; and Graduate certificates in various specialties 	Melanoma is not specifically addressed in any of these courses, but reference is made to prevention and oncology in general.

Nursing Colleges and Associations

A significant number of industry bodies provide information, training and resources to the nursing profession although none currently provide any of these services specific to melanoma.

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council Incorporated (ANMC)

ANMC sets national competency standards for registered nurses. The core areas of competency are:

- Professional Practice;
- Critical Thinking and Analysis;
- Provision and Coordination of Care; and
- Collaborative and Therapeutic Practice.

There are no national competency standards directly addressing melanoma issues.

The Cancer Nurses Society of Australia (CNSA)

CNSA functions as the peak nursing group for cancer nurses in Australia and is a member group of the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA). CNSA hosts an annual conference with a range of pre-conference workshop opportunities. There have been no workshops specifically addressing melanoma to date.

The College of Nursing

The College of Nursing is a peak professional body representing nurses across Australia. It incorporates the NSW College of Nursing [14], which offers education and professional development for all nurses through various courses and flexible learning programs including distance education.

Certificate programs can be converted to master's degrees at a number of higher education institutions, with which the College is affiliated. Program evaluations are completed through the University of Sydney.

A number of College courses include content chosen by the students. Typically, this content must be from the student's area of practice. For example;

- Clinical issues in cancer nursing – this course is part of the graduate certificate and is not offered on a stand-alone basis. It incorporates a clinical skill development agreement and a literature review. Students must be working in cancer nursing to attend.
- Pain assessment – students can choose to do a case study on a melanoma patient.
- Communication – students can choose to do a case study on a melanoma patient.

The Royal College of Nursing Australia (RCNA)

The RCNA is to be distinguished from the College of Nursing. The RCNA is a national organisation with a primary interest in the professional development of nurses. The College has until recently offered workshops on topics that members have requested. These have not included courses on melanoma to date. [15]

The EdCan Project

The EdCan Project has been established to develop and implement a nationally recognised cancer nursing curriculum. [16] It is hosted at the Melbourne based Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and funded by Cancer Australia. It is due to be completed in 2009. One component of this project is a review of existing programs. The specific aims of the EdCan program are:

- To develop a national framework for cancer nursing development that will establish role definitions and role scope, set educational preparation standards and consider strategies to implement the framework;
- To support the development of the skills of the cancer nursing workforce including developing curriculum documents for all levels and resource materials to support the development of core competencies;

-
- To disseminate the framework through the development of on-line resources and test these with a pilot project undertaken in a range of settings, including rural and remote areas; and,
 - To address the sustainability issues associated with long-term workforce preparation and development in cancer nursing.

The second stage of this project has been completed and “A National Professional Development Framework for Cancer Nursing” was launched in June 2008. The competencies described in the Framework are broad and do not refer to specific tumour types.

3 Implications

This review of education and training in the detection, diagnosis and management of melanoma of the skin leads to the following broad conclusions.

- All medical schools in NSW provide some teaching on the nature of melanoma, its epidemiology, risk factors and prevention, diagnosis, management and prognosis. In most medical programs, the low level of detail of curriculum mapping makes it impossible to determine exactly what is taught about melanoma, when and by whom. The teaching is done in three contexts: in coursework on the general principles of cancer biology and medicine; in dermatology; and during surgical rotations. With regard to the last, students' clinical allocations determine the extent to which they encounter clinical teams that manage melanoma and patients with melanoma. Only a small minority of students are attached to a surgical unit specialising in melanoma management.
- Corresponding information on the education and training of nurses in the detection, diagnosis and management of melanoma was difficult to obtain. Nurses undertaking specialisation in oncology nursing do have substantial opportunities to learn about melanoma. However, no programs relating specifically to melanoma appear to exist for nurses. Information on the education and training of allied health professionals with regard to melanoma was also difficult to obtain. Our general impression is that allied health professionals do not receive specific education on melanoma.
- Some postgraduate academic programs such as Master of Medicine or Master of Surgery programs provide opportunities for medical graduates to learn about melanoma at an advanced level.
- Preparation for college fellowships in fields ranging from general practice to radiography equips trainee GPs and medical specialists to detect melanoma, and trainee medical specialists to diagnose and manage melanoma.
- Numerous continuing education programs are available in the differential diagnosis and the management of skin lesions, emphasising the detection, diagnosis and management of melanoma. Most of these programs are designed for GPs.
- In Australia, general practice is the first point of contact for the majority of people seeking health care, and often a point of referral to other doctors, health care professionals and community services. Accordingly, the RACGP includes relevant competencies in its Fellowship curriculum. However, if a GP in NSW wishes to develop skills in the diagnosis and management of melanoma, further training is required. The options for acquiring this training depend on various factors, including whether the doctor is based in a rural area and whether he or she is willing to travel interstate. These options are outlined in Appendix J.

It was beyond the scope of this report to assess the quality of various programs with respect to curriculum coverage and the competencies gained by participants.

Information on the quality of programs would require the following steps to be undertaken:

- Identification and selection of potential indicators of quality and standards and benchmarks relevant to professional education and training for melanoma.
- Use of these indicators, standards and benchmarks to evaluate existing professional education and training programs.

Appendices

Appendix A: Data collection pro forma

Review of professional education on the pathology detection, diagnosis and management of melanoma in NSW

Sydney Health Projects Group (SHPG) for the NSW Melanoma Network

Please include details of all professional education on the pathology detection, diagnosis and management of melanoma offered in your institution. If you have more than one course on offer, please complete a separate form for each course. If you have any queries or need any assistance in completing this form, please contact Mary Ellen Harrod on (02) 9096-3453 or mharrod@usyd.edu.au.

Note: This template is designed to assist you to respond to our request for information. If you prefer, please provide the information in your own format.

Please return to mharrod@med.usyd.edu.au by <dd mm yyyy>. Thank you for your assistance.

Name of institution:
Name of the department or unit that delivers the program:
Name of the program:
What learning objectives does the program address?
What is the level of the program? (e.g. undergraduate, postgraduate)
Is the melanoma education program (<i>please tick correct option</i>):	<input type="checkbox"/> A stand-alone program? <input type="checkbox"/> A stand-alone component of a program? <input type="checkbox"/> Education and training embedded in broader program?

<p>What is the duration of the program? If the program can be completed by full or part-time study, what are the minimum and maximum completion times?</p>	<p>..... </p>
<p>How frequently is the program offered?</p>	
<p>How many students are currently enrolled in the program?</p>	<p>.....</p>
<p>How many students have completed the program, for each of the last three years? Please estimate if exact figures are difficult to obtain.</p>	<p>2007:..... 2006:..... 2005:.....</p>
<p>What program options are relevant to melanoma?</p>	<p>..... </p>
<p>What is the mode of delivery? (e.g. face-to-face, distance learning)</p>	<p>.....</p>
<p>What are the eligibility criteria for entry?</p>	<p>..... </p>
<p>What program content is relevant to melanoma?</p>	<p>..... </p>
<p>What is the form and nature of the assessment of course participants' performance?</p>	<p>..... </p>

Is the course/ program accredited by an external professional body? If yes, what is the name of the accrediting body?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
How is the program evaluated by accrediting bodies and by participants? (i.e. mode, content and scope).
Could you provide details of any other evaluations that have been conducted since 2003?
Are there formal standards or benchmarks with which the program complies or aspires to?
What were the fees charged in 2008?

Please return to, or contact if you have any queries:

Dr Mary Ellen Harrod
 Sydney Health Projects Group
 School of Public Health, The University of Sydney
 Medical Foundation Building K25
 The University of Sydney NSW 2006
 mharrod@med.usyd.edu.au
 Tel. (02) 9036-3453
 Fax (02) 9036-3455

Appendix B: List of contacts for this review

Name of Provider (in alphabetical order)	Name of Contact
Australasian College of Dermatologists	Dr. Stephen Shumack, Honorary Secretary
Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine	Ms Marnie Durietz, Education Resource Officer
Australasian College of Skin Cancer Medicine	Dr Anthony Dixon (Fellow) Skincanceronly
Australian National University, Medical School	Dr Andrew Miller, Dermatology Clinical Senior Lecturer
Health Workforce Queensland	Sarah Constantine Mgr, Medical Education
Learn Dermatology	Dr Ian McColl, Consultant Dermatologist
Newcastle University, The School of Medicine and Public Health.	Prof Michael Hensley, Head of School, School of Medicine and Public Health Faculty of Health
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons	Mr Gregory Wilson, Manager Fellowship Services
Royal Australian College of General Practitioners	Ms Kathryn Breakwell
Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists	Ms Joan Burns, Director of Education and Research
Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia	Mr Colin Underwood, Education and Training Manager
Rural Health Education Foundation	Ms Amanda Little, Deputy CEO
Skin Cancer College Australia	Ms Kerry Emery, Practice Manager
Skin Cancer Online, University of Sydney,	Associate Professor Tim Shaw, Centre for Innovation in Professional Health Education and Research (CIPHER), Faculty of Medicine Ms Katrina Chemello, Project Manager, Office of Postgraduate Medical Education
Skin Cancer Society of Australia	Dr Peter Bourne, past President and founder; Dr Martin Baker, President

Name of Provider (in alphabetical order)	Name of Contact
University of New South Wales, School of Medical Sciences within the Faculty of Medicine	Associate Professor Phil Jones, Associate Dean (Education)
University of Notre Dame, Australia, School of Medicine.	Professor Rodney Peterson, Director of Medical Education, School of Medicine
University of Queensland	Ms Caroline Irle, Master's Course coordinator, School of Medicine Mr Mark Hickie, Certificate coordinator
University of Sydney, The Faculty of Medicine	Associate Professor Scott Menzies Director, Sydney Melanoma Diagnostic Centre & Associate Professor of Medicine, Melanoma and Skin Oncology Dermatology, Central Clinical School Sydney Melanoma Unit
University of Sydney, Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery	Moira Stephens, Research Academic, Centre for Values, Ethics and Law in Medicine
University of Technology, Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery and Health	Dr Jacqueline Baker, Director of Nursing Studies, Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Dr Lois Hamlin and Mr Stephen Van Vorst, both Senior Lecturers, Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery and Health
University of Western Sydney, School of Medicine	Professor Ian Wilson, Professor of Medical Education
University of Wollongong, The Graduate School of Medicine.	Professor Lyndal Parker Newlyn, Head of School

Appendix C: University of Queensland: Master of Medicine & Certificate in Primary Skin Cancer Medicine

Master of Medicine: content relevant to melanoma:

Diagnosis and management of skin cancer in the primary care setting, specifically:

- Have a detailed understanding of the structure and function of the skin;
- Understand the epidemiology of skin cancer, including major preventive strategies;
- Be able to undertake a consultation (history and examination) for a skin check;
- Use a dermoscope and make a confident diagnosis of pigmented and non-pigmented skin lesions;
- Understand the roles of total body photography and digital monitoring for diagnosis of melanoma;
- Differentiate between major skin lesions and make confident decisions about further management;
- Biopsy lesions by shave, punch and excision and confidently interpret pathology results and understand their impact on therapeutic decision-making;
- Understand the different options available for treating the major skin cancers and pre-cancers, and how to make choices in partnership with the patient about which is the most appropriate;
- Be able to safely and appropriately use 5FU, imiquimod and PDT and other registered therapies;
- Safely do an elliptical excision and direct repair, undertake cryotherapy, curettage and shave excision;
- Have a detailed understanding of the anatomy of the head and neck and lower limb as relevant to skin cancer surgery;
- Understand the principles behind flap and graft surgery, and make appropriate choices of which to use and when;
- Be able to do a narrow range of flaps that allows the primary care physician to safely manage most skin cancers in most sites; and
- Know when to refer a patient for a further opinion or more advanced treatment.

Certificate in Primary Skin Cancer Medicine

The Certificate course will provide clinicians with a range of skills at an introductory level including the ability to:

- diagnose common skin cancers and associated conditions;
- perform skin checks and identify suspicious skin lesions;
- use a dermoscope and the 3-point checklist to differentiate between benign and suspicious skin lesions;
- understand, select and apply appropriate treatment options for common skin cancers;
- safely excise and close small and low risk skin cancers with direct suture;
- understand limitations in training and experience, and consequently know when to refer patients to the appropriate specialist: dermatologist, plastic surgeon and/or other medical practitioners.

Appendix D: Skin Cancer College of Australia: Fellowship Requirements

Fellowship Pathway for Skin Cancer Doctors

Fellowship of the college will be open to all registered medical practitioners who can satisfy the following requirements in relation to education and training:

- *Pass in the Skin Cancer Society of Australia Certificate Exam (Part I) Or University of Queensland Masters Medicine (Skin cancer)*
- *Accredited time (3 years full-time skin cancer, 6 years part-time skin cancer)*
- *Photographic Log Book (Web based)*
- *Surgical Log Book*
- *Completion of Postgraduate Courses in:*
 - Either:*
 - University of Queensland Masters Medicine (Skin Cancer)*
 - Or: the combination of:*
 - *Diploma of Practical Dermatology (Cardiff) (or significant dermatology research or other dermatology related activity at the discretion of the board of censors) and*
 - *Advanced Dermoscopy Course and*
 - *Dermatologic Surgery Course*
- *Pass in Skin Cancer College of Australia Exam (Part II) (OSCE style)*

In addition to fellowship training, the Skin Cancer College of Australia aims to provide quality teaching and learning for all medical practitioners and promote research, ethics and excellence in skin cancer medicine and surgery.

FELLOWSHIP REQUIREMENTS

1. Registered medical practitioner – proof with certified copy current registration.
2. Completion of undergraduate and post-graduate hospital training- name of university and hospital as well as certified copy of degree.
3. Pass in SCSA Certificate exam – proof with certified copy **or**
Pass in UQ Masters Medicine – proof with certified copy
4. Accredited time

Three years full-time skin cancer **or** six years part-time skin cancer work experience.

Full-time defined as 8 sessions per week for 46 weeks per year, where one session equates to 3.5 hours consulting and or operating time.

Part-time skin cancer work defined as incorporation of skin cancer work experience within a full-time work load of general practice.

Applicants will need to supply details of their practice for the past 3–6 years with an indication of their sessions worked and casemix. It is proposed that an affidavit as well as a nominated referee will be used to confirm details of practice – this may be another doctor, pathologist, nurse or practice manager who may be contacted by telephone.

5. Completion of Courses – proof with certified copies.

Either

University of Queensland Master Medicine (Skin Cancer)

Or, the combination of General Dermatology, Dermoscopy, Surgery:

General Dermatology

Completion of Diploma of Practical Dermatology (Cardiff)

Or

Significant dermatology related research or other dermatology related activity may be submitted as an **alternative** to completion of the general dermatology course. Those applicants wishing to submit an alternative are requested to seek prior assessment from the college censor to determine suitability, which will be based on the degree of dermatological background knowledge required for the nominated activity.

Dermoscopy

Completion of **one** advanced dermoscopy course:

University Graz Diploma Dermoscopy

University Graz Diploma Dermoscopy (online)

Skin Cancer College Australia Dermoscopy Masterclass

Dermatologic Surgery

Completion of **one** advanced dermatologic surgery course:

Skin Cancer College of Australia Advanced Surgery Certificate

6. Photographic Log

Applicants will need to submit photographs, with dermoscopy for BCC's and melanomas, of lesions excised and provide a short case summary and de-identified histopathology reports. Each case requires a site of lesion shot, macro shot with surgical markings, and post-op shot at time of suture removal. The cases will be submitted via a secure internet web site.

The requirement will be to submit 3 cases from each of the following body sites:

Scalp, forehead, temple, upper nose, lower nose, upper cheek, ear, lip, upper arm, lower arm, hand, chest, upper back, lower back, lower leg. There is no stipulation as to types of closure required for sites, however applicants should demonstrate skills with a range of techniques including curettage and cryotherapy, fusiform excision with simple closure, flaps and grafts. Satisfactory assessment of the photographic log will be based on demonstration of good surgical technique as determined by a college appointed assessor.

7. Surgical Log

Applicants will be required to maintain a traditional surgical log and submit a minimum of 200 consecutive cases for fellowship. This will be in a computerised spreadsheet format and comprise date, patient demographics, type and location of lesion, operation, complications, histopathology, adequacy of margins etc. This can be downloaded from the SCSA website.

8. Participation in ongoing education

Fellows will be required to attend the annual conference at least every second year and participate in ongoing education as determined by the education committee.

Fellows should achieve 60 CME points per triennium in dermatology related activities. It is acceptable to submit RACGP, ACRRM or other college points for this requirement.

Fellows should submit a 2-month period of their surgical log each year.

Teaching will be an important requirement of fellowship. All fellows will be required to participate in teaching other doctors.

9. OSCE style Exam (Part II)

Applicants will need to pass an Objective Structured Clinical Exam. This will comprise 11 short stations of 11 minutes, inclusive of 3 minutes reading time, and one long station of 22 minutes. The first exam is planned for 25/11/2007 at a cost of \$1500 +GST.

Appendix E: Skin Cancer College of Australia: Draft Fellowship Curriculum

Training Program topics (draft):

History Taking
Examination of the skin
Clinical diagnosis
Non-pigmented benign lesion
Non-pigmented malignant lesions
Pigmented benign lesion
Pigmented malignant lesions
Dermoscopy
Histopathology
Cutaneous signs of systemic disease
Systemic disease associated with skin cancer
Skin diseases mimicking skin cancer
Medications / therapies / toxins related to skin cancer
Biopsy of non-pigmented lesions
Biopsy of pigmented lesions
Surgical techniques
Treatment of benign lesions
Treatment of non-melanoma malignant lesions
Management of cutaneous melanoma
Management of metastatic melanoma
Patient follow-up
Practice management issues
Billing and expenses
Medico-legal issues.

Appendix F: Curriculum for Melanoma Radiation Oncology Training Program – Consultation Draft

Melanoma

1 Oncology Sciences [D]

The trainee is able to describe the:

1.1 Pathology

1.1.1 Growth patterns and histological subtypes

1.1.2 Natural history of non-cutaneous sites of melanoma e.g. ocular, mucosal

1.2 Anatomy

1.2.1 Lymphatic drainage of regions of the skin

2 Clinical Assessment [D and I]

The trainee is able to:

2.1 *History*

2.2 *Physical Examination*

2.3 *Investigation and Evaluation*

2.3.1 Discuss relative benefits of PET, MRI and CT in staging assessment

3 Management

The trainee is able to:

3.1 *Radiation Therapy [D and I]*

3.1.1 Discuss the use of post-operative radiation therapy to the primary site and nodal regions

3.1.2 Discuss the use of radiation therapy in the management of locally recurrent, in-transit and metastatic disease

3.2 *Surgery [G]*

3.2.1 Describe the importance of excision margins

3.2.2 Describe the role of surgery in the management of nodal disease, including the place of sentinel node excision

3.2.3 Describe the role of surgery in the management of locally recurrent, in-transit and metastatic disease

3.3 *Systemic Therapy [G]*

3.3.1 Describe the indications and possible benefits of regional chemotherapy

3.4 *Other therapy [G]*

3.4.1 Discuss the indications and possible benefits of immunotherapy (e.g. interferon) and emerging biological therapies

4 Outcomes [D]

4.1 *Tumour*

4.2 *Toxicity*

5 Screening and Prevention [G]

The trainee is able to:

5.1 *Advise regarding effective skin protection from UV radiation.*

Appendix G: Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM): Certificate in Primary Skin Cancer Medicine

Learning Objectives are detailed as follows:

Module 1: Pre Malignant and Malignant Non Melanoma Skin Cancer (this is an online module)

Participants will be able to:

- Identify Basal Cell Carcinoma; Actinic Keratoses and Actinic Porokeratose; Bowens Disease; Actinic Cheilitis and Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the lip; Squamous Cell Carcinoma; Keratoacanthoma; Paget's Diseases of Breast and Extramammary Paget's Diseases; Cutaneous T Cell Lymphoma; Other Cutaneous Lymphomas and Lymphoma Like Diseases; and Cutaneous Metastasis.
- List treatment options for Basal Cell Carcinoma; Actinic Keratoses and Actinic Porokeratose; Bowens Disease; Actinic Cheilitis and Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the lip; Squamous Cell Carcinoma; Keratoacanthoma; Paget's Diseases of Breast and Extramammary Paget's Diseases; Cutaneous T Cell Lymphoma; Other Cutaneous Lymphomas and Lymphoma Like Diseases; and Cutaneous Metastasis.
- Discuss advantages/disadvantages of various treatment options for Basal Cell Carcinoma; Actinic Keratoses and Actinic Porokeratose; Bowens Disease; Actinic Cheilitis and Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the lip; Squamous Cell Carcinoma; Keratoacanthoma; Paget's Diseases of Breast and Extramammary Paget's Diseases; Cutaneous T Cell Lymphoma; Other Cutaneous Lymphomas and Lymphoma Like Diseases; and Cutaneous Metastasis.
- Identify the circumstances in which premalignant and malignant non-melanoma should be referred to another medical specialist.

Module 2: Melanoma and Melanocytic Lesions (online)

Participants will be able to:

- List the risk factors for melanoma.
- Discuss how to manage patients at high risk for melanoma.
- Describe how to use dermoscopy to assist the in diagnosis of naevi.
- Identify naevi and malignant melanoma.
- List treatment options for naevi and malignant melanoma.
- Discuss advantages/disadvantages of various management options for the treatment of naevi and malignant melanoma.
- Identify the circumstances in which naevi and malignant melanoma should be referred to another medical specialist.

Module 3: Benign skin tumours (online on RRMEO)

Participants will be able to:

- Identify seborrhoeic keratoses; skin tags; dermatofibromas; keloids and hypertrophic scars; naevus sebaceous; chondrodermatitis nodularis helioides; epidermoid cysts; pilar cysts; sebaceous hyperplasia; and syringoma.
- List treatment options for seborrhoeic keratoses; skin tags; dermatofibromas; keloids and hypertrophic scars; naevus sebaceous; chondrodermatitis nodularis helioides; epidermoid cysts; pilar cysts; sebaceous hyperplasia; and syringoma.
- Discuss advantages and disadvantages of various treatment options for seborrhoeic keratoses; skin tags; dermatofibromas; keloids and hypertrophic scars; naevus sebaceous; chondrodermatitis nodularis helioides; epidermoid cysts; pilar cysts; sebaceous hyperplasia; and syringoma.
- Identify the circumstances in which benign tumours should be referred to another medical specialist.

Module 4: Practical procedures

Participants will be able to:

- Discuss the indication for cryotherapy; intralesional cortisone; local anaesthesia; biopsy techniques; curettage and cautery; surgical anatomy and danger zones; sutures and suturing; elliptical excisions; full thickness skin grafts; split thickness skin grafts; principles of flap repairs; regional closures; surgical dressings; surgical complications and treatments; and non surgical treatments of skin cancer.
- Describe the techniques for cryotherapy; intralesional cortisone; local anaesthesia; biopsy techniques; curettage and cautery; surgical anatomy and danger zones; sutures and suturing; elliptical excisions; full thickness skin grafts; split thickness skin grafts; principles of flap repairs; regional closures; surgical dressings; surgical complications and treatments; and non surgical treatments of skin cancer.
- List the advantages and disadvantages of cryotherapy; intralesional cortisone; local anaesthesia; biopsy techniques; curettage and cautery; surgical anatomy and danger zones; sutures and suturing; elliptical excisions; full thickness skin grafts; split thickness skin grafts; principles of flap repairs; regional closures; surgical dressings; surgical complications and treatments; and non surgical treatments of skin cancer.
- List the risks of cryotherapy; intralesional cortisone; local anaesthesia; biopsy techniques; curettage and cautery; surgical anatomy and danger zones; sutures and suturing; elliptical excisions; full thickness skin grafts; split thickness skin grafts; principles of flap repairs; regional closures; surgical dressings; surgical complications and treatments; and non surgical treatments of skin cancer.

Module 5: Dermatological Surgery and Procedures Workshop (face to face 'hands on' workshop)

The objective of the Workshop is to consolidate the learning from Modules 1–4 of the Certificate in Primary Care Dermatology.

Module 6: Clinical Attachment with a Dermatologist Module (at least 12 sessions in clinical practice)

The objective of the Clinical Attachment in Dermatology is to consolidate the learning from Modules 1–4 of the Certificate in Primary Care Dermatology.

Appendix H: Rural Health Education Foundation: Skin Cancer. ‘Spot’ Decisions

Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

Program summary

Skin cancer represents the greatest burden of disease of all cancers in Australia, with approximately 382,000 new cases diagnosed each year. Although these figures are high, successful health promotion campaigns and changes in community attitudes and behaviours in relation to sun exposure have impacted positively on these numbers and the related mortality.

Patients presenting with skin lesions pose a number of issues for health practitioners. While surgical excision is the current standard treatment for some skin cancers, what to treat, how to treat and when to refer for specialist treatment can be a challenge.

This program provides information for primary care providers on the prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of skin cancer for people living in rural areas.

Program objectives

At the completion of the program, participants will:

1. Increase their knowledge of issues and opportunities regarding the prevention of skin cancer with a specific focus on protection from the sun;
2. Enhance their diagnostic skill for early detection of skin cancers;
3. Improve their knowledge about appropriate biopsy techniques and the identification of cases for immediate referral;
4. Understand treatment options for skin cancer (including their potential risks and benefits); and
5. Improve knowledge of issues relating to the follow-up of the patients with melanoma, including length of review periods and necessary imaging.

Duration 90 minutes.

This program is accredited for CPD/CPE by RACGP, ACRRM and the PSA.

Appendix I: Skin Cancer College of Australia (SCCA): Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine and Pilot of Skin Cancer Practice Accreditation Training

Note. The program content is almost identical for both of these.

Program

Day 1

1 hour 15 minutes: The 2 step procedure in dermoscopy for the diagnosis of pigmented skin lesions using the Menzies method.

1 hour 15 minutes: The Menzies method: Case presentations illustrating the use of the 2 step process and Men-Oies method.

1 hour: Quiz on pigmented lesion diagnosis using the Menzies method.

1 hour 30 minutes: Skin cancer histopathology: specimen processing, excision/biopsy margin issues, dermoscopy/histology correlations, basic histology of common skin cancers.

1 hour 30 minutes: Skin cancer surgery – accreditation requirements: 5 case studies, practice setup & equipment; essential surgical anatomy; biopsy techniques for different lesions; wound orientation & RSTLs; the epidermal suture; the interrupted buried suture.

1 hour 15 minutes: Skin cancer surgery (cont.) – practice suturing on pig cheeks: biopsies, epidermal and buried suture technique – small groups.

Day 2

1 hour: Non melanoma skin cancer (NMSC) – Basal cell carcinoma, actinic keratosis, intraepidermal carcinoma & squamous cell carcinoma, relevant less common NMSC, diagnostic pearls, pitfalls, treatment modalities.

1 hour: Skin cancer surgery – the pulley suture, mattress sutures, dog ear repairs, subcuticular suturing, tips and tricks.

1 hour: Skin cancer surgery (cont.) – practice suturing techniques on pig cheeks; taking digital photographs of surgical procedures for Certificate exam Part C.

1 hour 30 minutes: Surgical audit requirements for accreditation – step-by-step guide to using the SCSA Surgical Audit.

Appendix J: Options for NSW general practitioners gaining skills and knowledge in the diagnosis and management of melanoma

1. The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) runs a Primary Skin Cancer Management course that very rarely include participants from rural NSW, but on-line online resources are open to rural NSW doctors. For example, Rural and Remote Medical Education Online (RRMEO) platform offers a dermatology resource 'Tele-Derm' primarily for rural doctors interested in obtaining practical advice on the diagnosis and management of skin disease, which included melanoma.
2. The Australasian College of Skin Cancer Medicine (ACSCM) runs a 2 day weekend workshop 'Certificate in Skin Cancer Medicine'. This is an introduction to skin cancer medicine for doctors working in general practice and skin cancer clinics. These workshops take place across Australia and in 2008 two were programmed fro Sydney (February and October) and one for Canberra. The cost is \$1,400 plus an exam fee of \$250.

ACSCM offers a diploma for doctors having gained the certificate that certifies that a medical practitioner can manage most skin cancers that present to his / her practice. The Diploma level has been designed with rural Australia in mind, in giving holders the skills to manage most of their patient's skin cancers in their own location. ACSM does not run workshops specifically for prospective diploma holders, but runs the examination. However, Skincanceronly, a Melbourne based medical practice dedicated to managing patients with skin cancer on the head and neck as well as melanomas, runs intensive 5-day events workshops in Geelong, designed to meet the curriculum requirements of the Australasian College of Skin Cancer Medicine (ACSCM) diploma certification.

A Fellow of ACSCM meets the requirements of the Diploma, but at a more substantial level of knowledge and skills and is designed for doctors working extensively in skin cancer management, often on a referral basis. It is expected that a fellow will have been working for equivalent of 3 years in full time skin cancer medicine.

3. Health Workforce Queensland run workshops which are primarily utilised by Queensland medical practitioners but are accessible to NSW rural doctors providing there is availability. In 2008 these workshops have included an Advanced Skin Cancer Surgery Workshop in Brisbane, a Skin Cancer Surgery Workshop in Palm Cove and a pre-Rural Doctors Association Queensland conference dermatology workshop in Cairns.
4. The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) offers a Certificate in Primary Care – Skin Cancer Management in partnership with the Australasian College of Dermatologists, and is the prerequisite to the planned Certificate in Primary Care – Dermatology course. The next course is set for Sydney, March 2009 and costs \$5,960 for members and \$6,850 for non-members.
5. The Rural Health Education Foundation (RHEF) offers a Skin Cancer: 'Spot' Decisions' workshop for medical practitioners available at no cost via podcast and download or for purchase via DVD.
6. The Skin Cancer College of Australia (the teaching arm of the Skin Cancer the Skin Cancer Society of Australia) offers a Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine and a Diploma of Dermoscopy. The Certificate course used textbooks, CDs and on-line teaching to cover the basics of modern dermoscopy and skin cancer management for GPs costs \$1,540 or \$2,290 with texts. The Certificate fulfils requirements

for the first part of Skin Cancer Practice Accreditation as well as Part 1 of the Fellowship of the “Skin Cancer College of Australia”.

The diploma is a six month online course with two weekend workshops (the next two planned for Brisbane) and costs \$3,300.

7. The University of Queensland, in partnership with HealthCert (an Australian owned and operated company), offers three Certificates in Primary Skin Cancer Medicine, Primary Skin Cancer Surgery, and in Advanced Dermoscopy and Dermal Imaging. All three are available to registered medical practitioners and are 2 days plus further online activities and cost in the region of \$2,640. For the latter half of 2008, the Certificate in Primary Skin Cancer Medicine is being run in Sydney and Brisbane; the Skin Cancer Surgery Program on the Gold Coast and Brisbane; and the Certificate in Advanced Dermoscopy and Dermal Imaging in Sydney.

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