



## FROM THE WEBSITE

### GP and Patients-Family page review

We have been working on redeveloping the GP and the Patients-Family sections of the website. Following user feedback and discussions with the National Advisory Group we are looking at reorganising the content and updating the information to reflect how users want to access information and resources. The new pages will be released on 26 May during National Palliative Care Week. We will replace existing pages so that the web addresses of the pages will not change.

We are looking for people who may be interested in helping us with user testing of the revised GP and Patients-Family pages. If you can spare us 30-40 minutes of your time to look at one set of pages in the new structure and layout online we can make more useful pages. Volunteers would be provided with a password to the new set of pages in the website and would then provide us with comments on how the pages look and fit together. We are particularly interested in receiving feedback on the following sets of pages:

#### *Patients-Family*

- > Living with illness
- > Practical Caring Information

#### *GP*

- > Palliative care in your practice
- > Practical Management
- > Resources for GPs

If you are interested in helping please email [Jennifer.Tieman@flinders.edu.au](mailto:Jennifer.Tieman@flinders.edu.au) or ring on (08) 8275 2816.

### CareSearch Review Collection

Twenty systematic reviews have been added to the CareSearch Review Collection in March. These include:

- > Lowey, Susan E [Communication Between the Nurse and Family Caregiver in End-of-Life Care: A Review of the Literature](#) Journal of Hospice & Palliative Nursing 2008 10(1): 35-45

Research describing communication among patient, care and nurses at the end of life is limited. Four areas associated with nurse-patient relationship, family caregiver needs, communication and the experience of dying in hospice care were explored.

- > Spiess JL. [Can I stop the warfarin? A review of the risks and benefits of discontinuing anticoagulation.](#) J Palliat Med. 2009 Jan;12(1):83-7.

Oral warfarin is commonly used in the management and prevention of thromboembolic disease and risk. Patients on warfarin are commonly seen in palliative care. This review looks at the benefits and burdens associated with continuing or discontinuing warfarin and a decision making model proposed.

- > Murray MA, Fiset V, Young S, Kryworuchko J. [Where the dying live: a systematic review of determinants of place of end-of-life cancer care.](#) Oncol Nurs Forum. 2009 Jan;36(1):69-77

Most patients with terminal cancer prefer home palliation; however, most die in an institution. Factors relating to the disease, the individual, and the care and social environment may influence the place of end of life care.

- > Kaldjian LC, Curtis AE, Shinkunas LA, Cannon KT. [Goals of care toward the end of life: a structured literature review.](#) Am J Hosp Palliat Care. 2008 Dec-2009 Jan;25(6):501-11.

End of life discussions often look to explore and clarify goals of care. This review identified 6 themes relating to goals of care: be cured, live longer, improve or maintain function/quality of life/ independence, be comfortable, achieve life goals, and provide support for family/caregiver.

- > Robinson CA, Pesut B, Bottorff JL, Mowry A, Broughton S, Fyles G. [Rural Palliative Care: A Comprehensive Review.](#) J Palliat Med. 2009 12(3): 253- 258

As yet there is little strong evidence to inform palliative policy and service development in rural settings. Research is needed to develop a body of knowledge that is adequate to support effective service and policy development.

Information on all the systematic reviews in this collection can be found at

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/FindingEvidence/CareSearchReviewCollection/tabid/501/Default.aspx>

#### CNIN

The [CareSearch Nurses Information Newsletter](#) for March 2009 is now available. The March issue includes:

- > Clinical Uses: Advance care planning and advance directives
- > Evidence Based Practice: Should we be doing research in palliative care?
- > CareSearch Page Profile: State Resources

## CARESEARCH GREY LITERATURE

We are currently seeking grey literature, relevant to palliative care, held by organisations, associations and government agencies. Examples of potentially relevant grey literature include palliative care reports, review or analysis documents and policy statements that deal with palliative care specifically, or dying and end-of-life related issues. Requests have been sent to various organisations and agencies throughout Australia. If you have grey literature that would be useful to add to the collection we invite you to send us details at [caresearch@flinders.edu.au](mailto:caresearch@flinders.edu.au)

You can find out more about the CareSearch Grey Literature at <http://www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/FindingEvidence/CareSearchGreyLiterature/tabid/82/Default.aspx>

## WHAT'S NEW IN THE PALLIATIVE CARE COMMUNITY?

### ANZSPM Trainee Day

The next [ANZSPM trainee day](#) will be held on Friday 1 May 2009 at Clare Holland House in Canberra. All trainees in Australia and New Zealand are welcome.

### National Standards Assessment Program National Rollout

The national rollout of the [National Standards Assessment Program](#) (NSAP) was launched on Wednesday 11 March 2009. NSAP is a national framework for continuous quality improvement built on the Standards for providing quality palliative care for all Australians.

### Canadian Virtual Hospice

The [Canadian Virtual Hospice](#) has relaunched its website. Still at the same web address ([www.virtualhospice.ca](http://www.virtualhospice.ca)) it has new features and expanded content.

### Advanced breast cancer: diagnosis and treatment

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has issued a [new guideline on best practice](#) for the diagnosis and treatment of advanced breast cancer.

### Aged Care Nurse Scholarships

The Australian Government has made available more than \$1.6 million in [scholarships](#) – as part of the Australian Government's plan to support and retain aged care nurses. The programs are:

- > [The Aged Care Nursing Scholarship Scheme](#)
- > [The Postgraduate Community Aged Care Nursing Scholarship Scheme](#)

Applications close 17 April 2009. Details are available from the RCNA website.

You can find out more about what is happening in the palliative care community by checking "What's New" at <http://www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/AboutCareSearch/News/WhatsNewintheCommunity/tabid/167/Default.aspx>

## RESEARCH NEWS

### Training (Postdoctoral) Fellowships

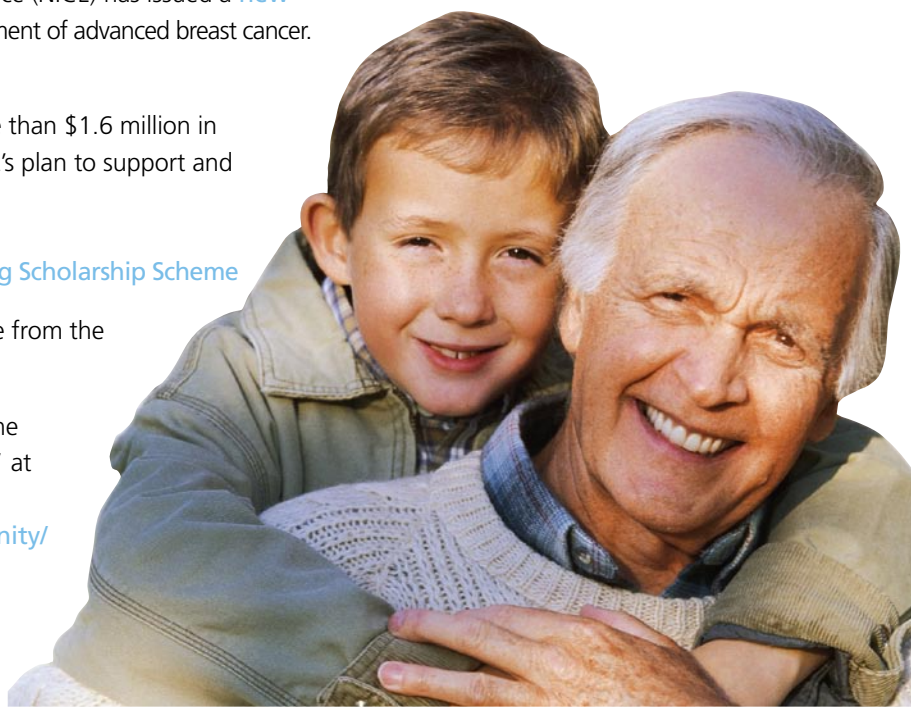
NHMRC [Training \(Postdoctoral\) Fellowships](#) provide opportunities for Australian researchers to undertake research that is both of major importance in its field and of benefit to Australian health. The 2010 funding round for these fellowships is now open. Applications close 1 May 2009.

### ARC Linkage Grants

[ARC Linkage Projects proposals](#) for funding commencing in January 2010 opened on 18 Mar 2009. The closing date for submission of proposals is 17.00 (AEST), Wednesday 13 May 2009.

### Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development

[Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development](#) Proposals for funding commencing in January 2010 are now open for submission via the Australian Research Council website. The closing date for submission of proposals is 17.00 (AEST), Wednesday 13 May 2009.



## CONFERENCES

Conference: The Inaugural International Advance Care Planning Conference

Date: August 13-15 2009

Location: Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Conference: 4th International Conference on Community Health Nursing Research

Date: August 16-20 2009

Location: Adelaide, South Australia, Australia

Conference: Pain in Europe VI Congress

Date: September 9-12 2009

Location: Lisbon, Portugal

Conference: Together! Palliative Care Australia Conference

Date: September 24-28 2009

Location: Perth, Western Australia, Australia

Conference: 32nd Annual Oncology Nurse's Group Conference

Date: October 8-9 2009

Location: Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

This is just a small selection of the 2009 conferences held on CareSearch.

Details on these and other conferences in 2009 and 2010 can be found on the Conferences page at

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/Education/Conferences/tabid/74/Default.aspx>

## PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

We have a variety of information pieces available for the palliative care community. A bookmark has now been printed and can be ordered. It is a handy size to give to patients and members of the community.

A new A4 sheet called [Supporting health professionals providing care at the end of life](#) has been produced.

You can view these resources on the website and download an order form. <http://www.caresearch.com.au/caresearch/AboutCareSearch/ProjectResources/PromotionalResources/tabid/433/Default.aspx>

All enquiries regarding our promotional materials can be directed to Natasha Schembri via email at [natasha.schembri@flinders.edu.au](mailto:natasha.schembri@flinders.edu.au)

### May Newsletter

The next newsletter will be circulated on the first Wednesday in May. If you have any item you would like to have considered for inclusion please send details one week prior to the circulation date to [natasha.schembri@flinders.edu.au](mailto:natasha.schembri@flinders.edu.au)



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