

CareSearch eNews

July 2005

Welcome to new team members

We would like to welcome several new members to the CareSearch project. Stella Nall is rejoining the team as the CareSearch Administrative Officer and will be responsible for many of the operational issues around the CareSearch website. Stella has recently completed her PhD in Family Studies and has been involved in administration at the Australian National University and Charles Sturt University.

Bin Li who joins us as the Research Assistant has a Masters Degree from Shanghai Medical University. He has worked in research for a number of years on various clinical trials and investigations in Japan and China.

Chris Sanderson will be taking up the position of Research Fellow with the project. Chris has a medical degree, BA in Social Science and a MPH. She is currently completing her advanced training in palliative medicine and has worked as a registrar in palliative services in SA and NSW. We look forward to the contribution that these staff members will make to the project in developing resources for inclusion on the website.

We are also fortunate to have several new members joining the National Reference Group. Dr Bev McNamara, Dr Mark Boughey and Professor Margaret O'Connor have consented to join CareSearch's advisory and consultative body. We would also like to sincerely thank Professor Sanchia Aranda who is leaving the group. Professor Aranda has been involved with the National Reference Group since its inception in 2001 and has made a significant contribution to the development of the project.

From the website

We have been involved in making some minor changes to improve the search functions in the literature databases. Users can now sort their results by date, author, abstract ID or title.

This makes it easier to track down material of interest in the databases.

We are currently working with our web developer to upgrade the content management system of the website. This will enable us to present materials more appealingly on the site and to enter materials more efficiently. We are hoping to have this system upgraded in the next 2 – 3 weeks. This will enable us to enter new content relating to education and training courses, grants and PubMed searches that we have prepared. Six new sets of searches for use in PubMed have been developed and will be uploaded in the near future:

- Depression
- Constipation
- Delirium/Confusion
- Support for staff
- Palliative sedation
- Spirituality

We have included some additional documents to the Resources section. These include: Phase One of the National Palliative Care Research Program: Summary Paper (Details on thirteen palliative research projects funded through the NHMRC in 2002/2003); and Poster presentations from the 2005 European Association of Palliative Care Conference.

Hot Picks

Professor Paddy Phillips' has selected an article by Murray SA, Kendall M, Boyd K, Sheikh A on *Illness trajectories and palliative care* for review. Professor Phillips highlights the importance of understanding which trajectory a particular patient might fit into in terms of helping staff to plan the type of care that best suits the patient and carer. Details on the article and Professor Phillips article can be found on the CareSearch website at

<http://www.caresearch.com.au/minigen/default.asp?contentID=105>

Some website statistics

We now have 2 714 items in the literature databases:

Journal articles	475
Conference abstracts	2 056
Theses	79
Grey literature	104

Visitor numbers remain high:

April	2 883
May	2 906
June	2 883

From the Web

Palliative Care Australia has released *A Guide to Palliative Care Service Development: A population based approach*. The document suggests a plan for providing equitable access to palliative care. The full documents is available online at <http://www.pallcare.org.au/publications/PCA%20Service%20Provisions.pdf>

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality has recently published a report on *End-of-life care and outcomes*. Karl Lorenz and Joanne Lynn were the principal investigators. The report is available at <http://www.ahrq.gov/downloads/pub/evidence/pdf/eolcare/eolcare.pdf>

The Department of Pain Medicine and Palliative Care at Beth Israel Medical Center, New York, has redesigned their website StopPain. The renewed site is available at <http://www.stoppain.org/>

A new site Social Care Online has replaced the electronic Library for Social Care (eLSC). It offers a range of resources for those providing or researching social care at <http://www.scie-socialcareonline.org.uk/> They include an Internet training tutorial for social workers at <http://www.vts.rdn.ac.uk/tutorial/social-worker/>

Another interesting site is RE-AIM. RE-AIM is a systematic way for researchers, practitioners, and policy makers to evaluate health behavior interventions. It can be used to estimate the potential impact of interventions on public health. The website is found at <http://www.re-aim.org/>

News and events

World Hospice Day will be held on 8th October 2005. World Hospice and Palliative Care Day is a new unified day of action to celebrate and support hospice and palliative care around the world. Details on the day can be found at the website on <http://www.worldday.org/>

The International Institute of Palliative and Supportive Services has just released the 2nd edition of *Motor Neurone Disease – A Learning Package for Health Professionals*. For further details, email iihs@flinders.edu.au

Conference Information

The following conferences have been sent brought to our attention: Dr Janice Winchester Nadeau in conjunction with the Centre for Grief Education is undertaking a national tour speaking on family caregiving and family loss and grief issues. Full details on the venues and topics can be found at http://www.grief.org.au/docs/nadeau_2005.pdf

Best Practice Clinical Trials at Rydges Jamieson Sydney on 9th and 10th August. Full details at <http://www.marcusevans.com.au/pdf/423.pdf>

Details on all these conferences and on others can be found on CareSearch in the Resources section, Conferences 2005

Training Opportunities

The inaugural palliative medicine trainee study day will be held on Sunday 28th August at Sacred Heart Hospice, Sydney. Details are available from the Advanced Trainee reps – Dr Mainstone (pmainstone@optusnet.com.au) and Dr Agar (meera_agar@yahoo.com.au)

Education/training items

We are developing a new section on the website for education, training and short courses. Please send us details on any education and training activities that you have organised for September to December 2005 so that we can include it on the new pages

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