

# CENTRE ON-LINE

July 2009

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## Did You Know:

That approximately 40% of all patients randomized in the **PaCCSC** trials to date have been recruited from the Queensland site (CPCRE/Mater Health Services).

PaCCSC or the **Palliative Care Clinical Studies Collaborative** is a national palliative care research network launched in August 2007 to improve the quality use of medicines in palliative care. Currently it has 4 clinical studies open for recruitment within 10 sites around Australia: ketamine (for chronic pain), risperidone (for delirium), octreotide (for malignant bowel obstruction) and megestrol (for appetite).

All necessary research infrastructure, such as standard operating procedures, has been developed to support each of the PaCCSC studies. These materials are designed to support and build the capacity to improve the evidence base for quality palliative care through research around Australia for these and subsequent clinical studies. They are available free of charge to all researchers.

## CPCRE News Update

**Calendar** - The Centre is maintaining an on-line Education Calendar. If you are organising a palliative care (or related) educational activity, please email your details through to [CPCRE](#) so that your details can be added to our website.

**PEPA** - Calling all General Practitioners, GP registrars, SMO's and MSRPP's - places are available for 32 hours (equivalent to 4 days) of clinical placements in the Palliative Care environment. Placements are well funded and your workplace may be eligible for a substantial backfill allowance. For allied health and nursing staff - applications are still being taken but a waiting list now exists.

Please email [Kathryn Laurent](#) or call (07) 3636 6216 for more information.

## Upcoming CPCRE Educational Activities

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CPCRE and PEPA (Program of Experience in the Palliative Approach), are running the following workshops over the next few months of 2009:

- PEPA Dinner and Education evening - South Brisbane, Wednesday 22nd July 2009, 6.30pm
- CPCRE Clinical Skills workshop - RBWH, 14th August 2009

For more information on PEPA workshops, or to apply for a clinical exchange, please email [Kathryn Laurent](#) or phone (07) 3636 6216.

For more information on clinical skills workshops, please email [John Haberecht](#) or phone 3636 8197.

## Queensland Research Activity - CPCRE 8th Annual Research Conference

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The CPCRE **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Research Conference** was held at the Education Centre Auditorium at Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital on Friday 5th June 2008.

The conference theme was 'Palliative Care in the Community' and was attended by 191 people. The program was full and the last session "Controversies in Community Palliative Care" kept the panel (and the audience) on their toes!

CPCRE would like to thank all those presenters - both locally and from interstate - for their valuable contribution on the day. Most presentations will be available on the [CPCRE](#) website in the near future. For more information about the day or to provide feedback for future conferences please email CPCRE.

PaCCSC is generously supported by the Department of Health and Ageing. Email [Tania Shelby-James](mailto:Tania.Shelby-James@health.qld.gov.au) for more information.

## Newsletter Content

Please email [CPCRE](mailto:cpcrc@health.qld.gov.au) if there is content that you would like considered for publication in Centre On-Line.

## Mailing List

Do you receive the Centre's quarterly electronic newsletter and other periodic publications? If not, and you would like your name to be added to our database, please email us and provide the following details: title, name, position, organisation, contact phone number and email address.

If you would like to be removed from our database, please also contact us via phone or email [Unsubscribe me](mailto:unsubscribe@health.qld.gov.au).

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## Newsflash - Queensland Activity

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The *Understanding Palliative Care* DVD was launched by television personality Marie-Louise Theile during Palliative Care week. PCQ have created two versions of the DVD - one specifically for Queensland and a generic one for Australia. The aim of the DVD is to empower patients affected by terminal illness with the knowledge and skill required to make informed decisions about end-of-life care. Both the Queensland and National versions of the 35 minute educational DVD are available by contacting PCQ directly on (07) 3633 0096 or by visiting [www.palliativecareqld.org.au](http://www.palliativecareqld.org.au).

Professor Sue Hanson chaired the inaugural meeting of the *Qld End-of-Life Alliance* on May 27th. Thirty key industry stakeholders participated in the four hour meeting that produced significant outcomes for the sector in Queensland. Professor Andrew Wilson, Deputy DG Policy, Planning and Resourcing, Queensland Health, committed to resourcing the development of a statewide model of care that would be used to map and plan service delivery over the next few years. The End-of-Life Alliance will meet periodically to discuss critical issues within the industry and to provide feedback to Queensland Health as they develop the model of care. For more information email [John-Paul Kristensen](mailto:John-Paul.Kristensen@health.qld.gov.au) or phone (07) 3633 0096.

## Resource Showcase

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### Needs Assessment Tool: Progressive Disease - Cancer

The Centre for Health Research & Psycho-oncology ([CHERP](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/cherp/)) is a behavioural research group established in 1988 with funding from the Cancer Council NSW and is based within the Faculty of Health, University of Newcastle. They have just completed the Needs Assessment Tool: Progressive Disease – Cancer (NAT:PD-C).

The NAT: PD-C was developed to complement the Palliative Care Needs Assessment Guidelines. When used in both generalist and specialist settings by any health care provider involved in the care of people with cancer, the NAT: PD-C can assist in matching the types and levels of need experienced by people with advanced cancer with the most appropriate people or services to address those needs. The NAT: PD-C aims to distinguish between those who have:

- no problems and no need for services;
- minor problems (i.e. low need), which may be met by their primary health professional;
- moderate to high needs and potentially require a referral for full assessment by specialist services

The needs assessment can be directly downloaded from the [CHERP](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/cherp/) website. Further versions of the needs assessment tool are currently being evaluated.

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