



CENTRE ON-LINE

September 2010

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CPCRE News Update

CALENDAR - The July-September 2010 Education Calendar has been mailed to 1280 sites throughout Queensland and the rest of Australia. If you would like to be on the mailing list for the calendar, please contact Rosaleen Matters (details below).

The Centre is now planning its 2011 Education Calendar. If you have palliative care education activities to be added to the calendar, please email details to [CPCRE](#). Activities will be added to CPCRE's online calendar also.

Newsletter Content

Please email [CPCRE](#) if there is content that you would like considered for publication in Centre On-Line.

For further information about the Education Calendar, or to have information included in the **online calendar**, contact [Rosaleen Matters](#) (07) 3636 1449.

Upcoming CPCRE Educational [Top](#) Activities

Mailing List

Did you receive this edition of *Centre On-Line*, the Centre's quarterly electronic newsletter, or other periodic publication from a colleague?

To receive these publications directly by having your name added to our database, please [email us](#) and

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

- **CPCRE Clinical Skills Update** Brisbane, 19 November 2010
- **CPCRE Clinical Skills Update** Gold Coast, February 2011

Please note: The Clinical Skills Update proposed for Mt Isa in September has been postponed until early 2011.

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 contact us via phone or email [Unsubscribe me](#).

For more information on PEPA workshops, please email [Kym Griffin](#) or phone (07) 3636 6938.

For more information on Clinical Skills Updates, please email [John Haberecht](#) or phone 3636 8197.

PEPA Changes

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PEPA Queensland manager **Kathy Laurent** has resigned to take up a position as Nurse Educator in Aged Care in Roma. The CPCRE team wishes Kathy well in her new position, thanks her for her significant contribution to the success of PEPA in Queensland, and looks forward to working with her and the palliative care professionals in Roma and district.

The contract with the Department of Health and Ageing for the period 2010-2011 has been signed, and host sites will be contacted in the near future to determine their willingness to be involved in PEPA again.

For any PEPA enquiries, email [CPCRE](#) or phone 3636 1449.

CPCRE 10th Annual Research Conference - NEW

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Date Claimer

CPCRE's **10th Annual Research Conference** will be held in the Education Centre, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, on **Friday 27 May 2011**.

Further information will be provided regularly in this newsletter and CPCRE's monthly e-bulletin.

Newsflash - Queensland Activity

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Palliative care continues to be an important policy area for Queensland Health. Many of the projects funded by Queensland

Health in 2009-2010 (including the End of Life Alliance Model of Palliative Care project, the QUT Scoping Study and the PallNet Evaluation) will contribute to a review of palliative care service provision across Queensland.

Exciting news is that on 4th August 2010, Federal Health Minister Nicola Roxon announced a new 10 bed palliative care ward for QEII Hospital in Brisbane.

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PaCCSC Update

The Palliative Care Clinical Studies Collaborative (PaCCSC) has now been recruiting for 2 years and is due to complete its first study - ketamine for cancer related pain - later this year. The team at the Mater Hospital in Brisbane are leading recruitment in this study, having randomised 49 of the 149 participants. Lead Chief Investigator Professor Janet Hardy anticipates the study will provide important clinical information on the way in which ketamine should be used within palliative care.

Studies in PaCCSC focus on medication commonly used in palliative care outside their approved indications. Ultimately, it is hoped that with the support of the pharmaceutical industry, at least some of these medications will have extended indications and may be subsidised by the PBS. This will improve care for terminally ill patients by improving access and reducing costs.

Other studies being conducted by PaCCSC include octreotide for bowel obstruction, megestrol acetate for loss of appetite, risperidone for delirium and opioids for breathlessness. All are now recruiting well. In addition, PaCCSC is assisting Queensland University of Technology staff to implement 2 trials examining the management of nausea. The nausea studies are led by Professor Patsy Yates and Professor Janet Hardy and are funded by the NHMRC.

Further information on PaCCSC is available from

www.CareSearch.com.au

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Improving Communication about End of Life Issues for People with Dementia

The Australian Government Department of Health and Aging has announced funding of a new project through the local palliative care grants scheme that aims to improve the quality of care provided to people with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias. This will be achieved by developing and implementing systems, skills and resources for carers and health professionals that will facilitate timely

communication between those diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias, their primary carers, families and the multi-disciplinary team about end of life issues.

The resources and associated training and support programs developed for this project target three key groups working with people who have early-stage Alzheimer's disease or other dementias - volunteer carers, health professionals and care workers. The resources and training programs will be implemented in six aged care facilities (up to two per organisation from HammondCare, Salvation Army Aged Care Plus and Spiritus) and with Alzheimer's Australia (NSW), using a range of strategies to promote effective and sustainable outcomes.

Evaluation of the impact of the program on practice and service level outcomes will also be undertaken. Alzheimer's Australia (NSW) will provide expert advice, access to early and mid-stage clients and support groups and dissemination of project information.

The project is lead by a team from QUT (incorporating the Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation (IHBI) and Queensland Health's Centre for Palliative Care Research and Education (CPCRE). Partners collaborating with the project include service providers Spiritus, HammondCare and The Salvation Army Aged Care Plus.

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