



All-Australian skin cancer management course on offer to GPs

GPs are being offered a special opportunity to gain comprehensive skills in skin cancer detection and management at the upcoming Australasian College of Dermatologists' (ACD) training program in dermoscopy.

ACD Honorary Secretary Dr Stephen Shumack says that the new course provides a practical approach to the use of dermoscopy in the management of skin cancer in general practice in Australia.

"The ACD has recognised that there exists a need for education in skin cancer management that specifically addresses Australian conditions," says Dr Shumack.

"Our course is unique, in that it is designed specifically for Australian doctors, by Australian doctors, using Australian clinical case studies.

"Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world. Many patients suffer from a huge burden of both melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer, as well as having severe background sun damage.

"Local knowledge is needed to adequately manage our patient groups. These patients require a different management approach from those from more temperate climates.

"The course is designed to meet the needs of mainstream general practitioners, and no prior study of skin cancer medicine is assumed."

GPs will learn how to use dermoscopy to add to their history and clinical assessment of a patient, in order to make better management decisions about suspicious skin lesions.

"This is the most comprehensive, in-depth and practical course on offer for teaching the management of skin cancer of the Australian population," says Dr Shumack.

"No other course in Australia offers the same level of hands-on education by specialists with the breadth and depth of local experience."

The course will cover basic history and examination skills as well as skin morphology, histopathology, fundamentals of dermoscopy and the detection and management of common skin lesions which present to GPs.

"On completion of the course, participants will know how to use dermoscopy to its fullest extent," says Dr Shumack.

“Doctors who complete our courses will have the skills needed to competently manage most skin cancer within their own practices.”

The course has been developed and will be taught by leading Fellows of the ACD, including Professor H. Peter Soyer, Professor of Dermatology at the University of Queensland and President of the International Society of Dermoscopy; Dr Alex Chamberlain, FACD; Dr James Muir, FACD; and Dr Martin Haskett, FACD.

An internationally recognised dermoscopy expert, Professor Soyer says that Australian GPs are faced with the most severely sun damaged and skin cancer prone patient group in the world.

“This course has been developed by Australia’s leading dermatology specialists with this in mind, in close consultation with GPs, who are actively involved in treating skin cancer in the Australian environment,” says Professor Soyer.

The course comprises five pre-learning online modules, which will each take about half an hour to complete, as well as a one day interactive workshop, being held in Surfers Paradise, Queensland on Saturday 1st August 2009.

Interested GPs can find out more at www.dermcoll.asn.au.
Enrollment is required by 10 July 2009, and there is a limit of 60 places.

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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