Updates in cancer pain management; and Medicinal cannabinoids - What is their role in palliative care?

Cancer is the leading cause of death in Australia with an estimated 134,000 new cases diagnosed each year. Statistics show that up to 70 per cent of people with cancer will experience some degree of pain.

Physicians treating pain in cancer patients are faced with numerous challenges including: prescribing the appropriate medication, understanding opioid pharmacology and the role of medicinal cannabinoids in palliative care cases.

This session will provide an update on cancer pain management and medicinal cannabinoids, looking at pathways and the evidence base for its use.

Following this session you will be able to:

- Differentiate between new medications available for cancer pain management.
- Discuss what’s new in opioid pharmacology.
- Identify what the composition of medicinal cannabinoids are.
- Recognise the prescribing pathways for medicinal cannabinoids.
- Evaluate the evidence base for medicinal cannabinoids in palliative care.

Presenters: Professor Janet Hardy and A/Prof Phillip Good

Professor Janet Hardy is the Director of Palliative and Supportive Care at Mater Health Services, Medical Director of Mater Cancer Services and Cancer Program Leader in the Mater Research Institute. A/Prof Phillip Good is the Medical Director of Palliative Care at St Vincent’s Private Hospital Brisbane and a Senior Specialist at Mater Health Services.

Full presenter profiles are available overleaf.
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Professor Janet Hardy
Director of Palliative and Supportive Care, Mater Health Services

Professor Janet Hardy is the Director of Palliative and Supportive Care at Mater Health Services, Medical Director of Mater Cancer Services and Cancer Program Leader in the Mater Research Institute.

She holds a chair in Palliative Medicine from the University of Queensland. As Clinical Research Programme Leader for the Centre for Palliative Care Research and Education in Brisbane, she leads QPCRG, the Queensland Palliative Care Research Group.

The palliative care service at the Mater is fully integrated within both public and private oncology and provides a consultation service for general medicine and specialties throughout the hospital.

A/Prof Phillip Good
Director of Palliative Care, St Vincent’s Private Hospital Brisbane

Associate Professor Dr Phillip Good is the Medical Director of Palliative Care at St Vincent’s Private Hospital Brisbane, and a Senior Specialist at Mater Health Services. He is also an Associate Professor at Mater Research Institute – University of Queensland.

As well as an active clinical practice he is involved in research on clinical therapeutics in palliative care, qualitative research on patient and carer experience, and the experience of CALD communities in palliative care.