2014 WORLD CANCER CONGRESS MASTER COURSES

Master Course N°12: Peer support

Supported by: Roche

COURSE LEADERS

Professor Jeff Dunn
Chief Executive Officer
Cancer Council Queensland

Professor Jeff Dunn, PhD, is Chief Executive Officer of the Cancer Council Queensland and holds Professorial appointments with Griffith University and University of Queensland. His work has a central focus on the development and delivery of effective and accessible supportive care for cancer patients and their families. He has led the development of peer support programs in Australia and elsewhere including low resource countries. He is an editorial board member for Psycho-Oncology and current Secretary and Board member for the International Psycho-oncology Society.

Cathy Hirsch
President
Reach to Recovery International

Cathy Hirsch is the president of Reach to Recovery International, an organization that provides peer support and services to improve quality of life for women facing breast cancer. Cathy is a Baltimore, Maryland-based attorney and former journalist, who began with the American Cancer Society as a Reach To Recovery volunteer in 2005, after recovering from breast cancer.

Daina Jones
Online Engagement Coordinator
Breast Cancer Network Australia

Daina Jones is responsible for the management of the website and online community at Breast Cancer Network Australia. The online community gives Australia’s affected by breast cancer a safe online environment to share their stories, experiences and provide tips on how they cope. Daina is passionate about bringing people together through a combination of online and face-to-face support.

Marie-Claire Cheron-Sauer
Director Support Network
Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia

Marie-Claire has a background in social work and has worked in a variety of roles within health and social assistance and across federal and state governments, universities and the non-profit sector. Her areas of interest include the integration of policy, research and practice to deliver better outcomes for the wellbeing of people experiencing psychosocial stress. In her current role, as Director Support Network for PCFA, she provides senior leadership for PCFA’s support programs. She is committed to working fully with consumer stakeholders to design and deliver strengths based and person centred support programs for people with cancer. She is a 2012 Winston Churchill Fellow.
Professor Suzanne Chambers  
Professor of Preventative Health  
Griffith University

Professor Suzanne Chambers is a health psychologist who has worked as a practitioner and researcher in psychological support for people with cancer for over 25 years. She has published extensively on the psychological effects of cancer and is currently leading large scale randomised control trials of interventions that apply peer support approaches. She is an Australian Research Council Future Fellow.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Describe the history and role of peer support in cancer care
2. Understand the theoretical frameworks that explain peer support and how peer support sits within a tiered model of psychological care after cancer
3. Describe the range of delivery approaches including emerging online social contexts for peer support in cancer care
4. Understanding the contribution of peer support in challenging contexts for example, where social and economic disadvantage exists.
5. Describe a role for peer support as a model of patient empowerment and discuss this in connection to personalized healthcare and patient led advocacy

PRE-READING

• Oliffe, JL, Ogrodniczuk, JS., Bottorff, JL. Hislop, TG. Halpin M. Connecting humor, health, and masculinities at prostate cancer support groups, Psycho-Oncology, 2009. Psycho-Oncology 18 (9), 916-926.