

FACULTY OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY

Targeting Cancer and our first documentary on radiation therapy

The Targeting Cancer campaign team driven by clinical lead, A/Prof Sandra Turner, has worked with respected health journalist Dr Norman Swan and his team at Tonic Health Media to produce a documentary titled 'Below the Radar'.

The 28-minute documentary shows real patient stories about the value of radiation therapy and delivers the campaign messages about safety, effectiveness, cost effectiveness and the sophisticated technologies involved with radiation therapy. 'Below the Radar' was broadcast on ABC News24 on 6 and 7 February 2016.

The documentary has been edited into four shorter videos, which will be played in the waiting rooms of general practitioners across Australia, through the Tonic Health Media Network, for the next two years.

The four videos are now available on the Targeting Cancer website. Please visit targetingcancer.com.au to watch and share within your network to spread the word on radiation therapy.

Please like Targeting Cancer on Facebook, or follow @targetingcancer on Twitter, and help us promote radiation therapy as a safe and cost-effective cancer treatment option.

Targeting Cancer 'City to Surf' – call for expression of interest

Do you want to challenge yourself and have fun while promoting radiation therapy and Targeting Cancer? The 2016 City2Surf will be held on Sunday, August 14, and we are looking for participants to join our Targeting Cancer team.

The City2Surf is 14km in distance starting from Sydney's CBD, before heading through Rose Bay, then up

'Heartbreak Hill' (the toughest part of the course) and finishing at the spectacular Bondi Beach.

For details visit city2surf.com.au. If you are interested in participating in this fun event as part of the Targeting Cancer team, please contact us on info@targetingcancer.com.au.

Funding for radiation oncology

The Medicare Benefits Schedule Oncology Clinical Committee (which will include surgical, medical and radiation oncology) is currently being established, and we are pleased that a number of faculty members (from both radiation oncology and radiology) have been invited to participate. The Faculty has established a working group, which will lead our work in responding to and participating in the Medicare Benefits Schedule review process, to help ensure the ongoing provision of accessible and affordable quality radiation oncology services to our patients.

The Department of Health is also undertaking a review of Radiation Oncology Health Program Grants – a Commonwealth capital funding initiative (outside of Medicare) for radiation oncology equipment.

The Faculty made a written submission to the Department on 18 March, in response to a few specific areas of interest of the program grants review e.g. the purpose, benefits and limitations of the scheme, equipment eligibility and alternative funding models. The submission is available on the College website.

It is the Faculty's position that Radiation Oncology Health Program Grants play a vital role in maintaining radiation therapy capital equipment, especially the nation's fleet of linear accelerators, within its agreed lifespan, and it should be maintained.

Dr Dion Forstner

Dean, Faculty of Radiation Oncology