



Raj Nair

## Message from the Editor

Welcome to the February edition of our Newsletter.

In this issue, I am featuring a pioneer in oral oncology, Professor Douglas Peterson, ISOO Distinguished Service Award winner. Also featured this month is a message from ISOO President Dr. Allan Hovan and a message from the Organising Committee of the Japanese Association of Oral Supportive Care in Cancer. Please feel free to contact me via email with your suggestions and contributions. Happy reading!

Regards,  
Raj Nair, Editor, *ISOO Newsletter*

## A Message from the ISOO President

Dear ISOO Member:

Happy New Year! 2018 promises to be an exciting year for ISOO. Our new Board has been very busy since the Washington meeting. I wanted to update you on some of the significant progress that we have made over the last 6 months.

A new MOU has been signed with MASCC that solidifies our relationship as a partner organization with MASCC. We have asked that our CE session on Saturday be advertised as three parallel sessions (as opposed to the "ISOO CE Session") to make it more clearly available to non-ISOO members attending on Saturday. We have put together three very impressive sessions for the Vienna meeting that will be of interest to a broad audience. Our topic areas will be jaw necrosis (featuring Dr. Salvatore Ruggiero as one of our sponsored speakers), oral pain, and common oral infections in cancer patients. I know you will enjoy all three sessions.

Separately, we have negotiated for reduced fees for participants who are just interested in attending the three ISOO parallels on Saturday. This will be helpful in attracting members of the local dental community, who may not be able to attend the full MASCC/ISOO meeting. It is our hope that, by introducing them to the Saturday sessions, they will see value in becoming full members of MASCC/ISOO in the future.

We continue to pursue revenue sources for ISOO with groups interested in our systematic reviews and patient education materials. In parallel, we are exploring alliances with organizations that might be interested in partnering with ISOO in the future. Our recent support of the Japanese Association of Oral Supportive Care in Cancer (JAOSCC) is one such example. In the coming weeks, we will be meeting with representatives from ASCO, ASTRO, and the American Head and Neck Society to pursue other possible future collaborations.

So . . . exciting times! I look forward to seeing you all in Vienna in June.

Dr. Allan Hovan



ISOO President,  
Allan Hovan

## Share the News

Do you have an article or news that you would like to share? Please contact Raj, [r.nair@griffith.edu.au](mailto:r.nair@griffith.edu.au)

## Oral Oncology: A Few Reflections, an Exciting Future

Douglas E. Peterson, DMD, PhD, FDS RCSEd

As I think about my involvement in oral oncology, I begin with the outstanding academic and clinical opportunities provided to me at the University of Pennsylvania many years ago. These opportunities introduced me to the basic science world of cancer, linked to a first-class Oral Medicine curriculum throughout the four years of my dental education. Little did I imagine that, by embarking after dental school on an Oral Medicine residency, as well as doctoral research in tumor immunology, I would begin to understand the opportunities that could be developed in oral oncology. Completing my doctoral research at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) was of unique and valuable research benefit to me as well. Because of this experience, I seriously considered a post-doc at NCI following my graduate education. That would have been a wonderful career choice for me, too. However, I was very much drawn to the linkage of dental medicine and oncology, and thus embarked on a university-based clinician-scientist career. I have been so very fortunate with this choice on so many levels.

Steve Sonis's elegant essay in the December 2017 ISOO Newsletter reminded me clearly of the long-standing collaboration and wonderful friendship that he and I have shared for the past 40+ years. His trailblazing research has redefined the molecular, as well as clinical, understanding of toxicities of cancer therapy. Thank you, Steve, for your remarkable contributions. It has been, and continues to be, my privilege to collaborate with you.

Steve's December Newsletter article also very nicely reviewed the history of ISOO, including the pivotal collaboration with Mark Schubert that began in the 1980s. Mark's contributions to oral oncology have been exceptional. I have treasured our friendship and collaborations over these many (many) years.

As ISOO matured, it became clear to the three of us that moving to an integrated organizational model with our oncology colleagues could be a valuable next step. The alliance of ISOO with MASCC in 1998 was important on many levels, not the least of which have been the interprofessional educational programs, research collaborations, and evidence-based guidelines that have emerged over these past 20 years.

Speaking of guidelines, I'm very pleased to report that the stage is now set for publication of first-in-kind joint oral oncology guidelines with the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO). Drawing on the expertise of members of the ISOO Oral Care Study Group, the first two sets of joint guidelines are scheduled for completion by summer of this year. Linking ASCO together with MASCC/ISOO at this level very much optimizes the opportunity for oral oncology guideline dissemination to the international oncology audience. This joint guideline model could also open the door for measuring outcomes of these new guidelines in oncology clinical practice in the future, via CancerLinQ™ technology developed by ASCO. We have had initial discussions with ASCO along these lines and look forward to continuing the modeling this year.

An additional halo effect of the Oral Care Study Group collaboration is that the recent systematic reviews can now be utilized as a foundation for updating the NCI PDQ® portfolio titled *Oral Complications of Chemotherapy and Head/Neck Radiation*. The stage is now set to begin the comprehensive PDQ® update this spring.

There are so many friends and colleagues I would like to specifically mention, in addition to Steve and Mark. I almost, no, I really don't know where to begin. I will thus defer on listing all of your names, which would require another several pages. To you, I express my sincere gratitude for your scientific and clinical expertise, as well as your limitless support. It continues to be my privilege to share the oral oncology platform with you. *Continued.*



Douglas Peterson receiving the ISOO  
2016 Distinguished Service Award.  
MASCC/ISOO Annual Meeting  
Adelaide, Australia

Oral Oncology: A Few Reflections, an Exciting Future - *continued*.

As Steve noted in his Newsletter article, there are extraordinary opportunities ahead, as well as some challenges to address. If history is any indication, I am more confident than ever that the ISOO team will move oral oncology to the next strategic level in the next few years, in partnership with our MASCC and ASCO colleagues. There are new frontiers to conquer relative to complications of cancer therapy, including but certainly not limited to strategically expanding the delineation of:

- patient-based variables, including impact of the microbiome and tissue-based genetic governance of risk and response to treatment;
- newly defined toxicities that have recently emerged, based on continued novel advances in targeted therapies and precision medicine;
- strategies to optimize use of clinical practice guidelines in oncology practice, including access to cancer care for patients and systematic assessment of clinical and economic outcomes via big-data technology.

Successfully advancing these frontiers will, in turn, continue to foster significant improvements in interprofessional oncology practice for the benefit of cancer patients. Thank you all for sharing this oral oncology adventure with me. I can't wait for the next chapter to begin.

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## MESSAGE from the Japanese Association of Oral Supportive Care in Cancer

We are writing to express our deep appreciation for the ISOO's support of our 3rd Annual Meeting of the Japanese Association of Oral Supportive Care in Cancer (JAOSCC). This meeting was held at Okayama University, Japan, on November 25th and 26th, 2017. The main theme was "Dissemination of Oral Supportive Care in Japan." The meeting included a keynote lecture by a Japanese authority, a symposium with Japanese experts, and oral/poster presentation sessions by members. About 170 people participated in the meeting. JAOSCC is playing a pivotal role as a platform for Japanese healthcare professionals interested in multidisciplinary approaches to oral supportive care for cancer patients. In Japan, oral supportive care in cancer is becoming more widespread and is incorporated into the medical policies set by the Japanese government. Important issues on oral supportive care/dental management in Japan were addressed at our annual meeting. We would like to actively engage with an international clinical and academic community to support cancer patients worldwide from Japan. We are looking forward to continuing cooperation with the ISOO.

Kanayo Takahashi, Yuko Sugiura, Yoshihiko Soga

*2017 Annual Meeting Chairpersons, Japanese Association of Oral Supportive Care in Cancer (JAOSCC)*

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## What's New in the Scientific World?

**New Blood Test for Cancer Detection** — CancerSEEK is a new blood test that can detect eight common cancer types by assessing levels of circulating proteins and mutations in cell-free DNA. As reported in the January 18 issue of *Science*, the test detected disease in about 70% of more than 1,000 patients already diagnosed with nonmetastatic cancers of the ovary, liver, stomach, pancreas, esophagus, colorectum, lung, or breast. The sensitivities ranged from 69% to 98% for detection of five cancer types (ovary, liver, stomach, pancreas, and esophagus) for which no screening tests are available for average-risk individuals. The specificity of CancerSEEK was more than 99%; only 7 of 812 healthy controls received a positive score. In addition, the test localized cancers to two anatomic sites in a median of 83% of cancer patients and to a single organ in a median of 63% of patients. This study lays the conceptual and practical foundation for a single, multi-analyte blood test for many types of cancer and the estimated cost is comparable or lower than other screening tests for single cancers. Prospective trials will be needed to establish the clinical utility of CancerSEEK and to determine its ability to reduce mortality.

Source: [J. D. Cohen et al., Science 10.1126/science.aar3247 \(2018\)](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aar3247)



MASCC  
*Ball!*  
AND PRESIDENTIAL DINNER

Join us: Friday, JUNE 29, 2018  
MASCC/ISOO Annual Meeting • VIENNA  
Costumes, Masks, Dancing & Prizes!

## Recruit a Colleague

Please introduce a colleague or friend who is interested in the ISOO to become a member. Being a MASCC and ISOO member has great benefits, such as reduced registration rates at annual meetings, the opportunity to meet and collaborate with international experts, online access to our journal, *Supportive Care in Cancer*, and much more.

## Meet a New ISOO Member • Introduce Yourself!

This section is dedicated to new members. If you have joined ISOO recently, please send me ([r.nair@griffith.edu.au](mailto:r.nair@griffith.edu.au)) a brief bio, your personal interests, and a photograph.

# MASCC/ISOO

## ANNUAL MEETING ON SUPPORTIVE CARE IN CANCER

*Save the Date!*



# 2018

28-30 JUNE  
VIENNA, AUSTRIA

SUPPORTIVE CARE  
MAKES EXCELLENT  
CANCER CARE POSSIBLE



[www.mascc.org/meeting](http://www.mascc.org/meeting)

