
Dr Belinda Kiely

When: Wednesday 21st September, 2011
11:30am – 12:30pm

Where: Medical Foundation Building Auditorium
92-94 Parramatta Road, Camperdown
Map ref:
1. campus map http://db.auth.usyd.edu.au/directories/map/building.stm?location=01B
2. local street map http://www.whereis.com/index.htm?ref=homeMap#session=MjE=

Biography
Belinda Kiely is a medical oncologist in the third year of her PhD studies at the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre. Her PhD is titled ‘Estimating survival duration and communication of prognostic uncertainty in patients with advanced cancer.’ Belinda was one of 54 promising cancer researchers presented a Conquer Cancer Foundation Young Investigator Award at the 2011 American Society of Clinical Oncology Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois. Her award is to support a 12 month project titled “Evaluating an iTool to estimate and explain survival time scenarios to people with advanced cancer.”

Abstract
Most patients with advanced cancer want information about their expected survival time and many want specific estimates of the best case, worst case and typical scenarios for survival. We have developed a web-based tool (iTool) to assist oncologists estimate and explain individualized scenarios for survival to patients with incurable cancer. The aim of this study is to evaluate: the attitudes of oncologists to using the iTool to explain survival times during clinical consultations; the attitudes of advanced cancer patients and their family members to receiving survival information formatted as three scenarios (best case, worst case and typical) and the attitudes of other health practitioners involved in the patient’s care to receiving a printed summary of the survival information. If found to be helpful, the iTool has potential to significantly improve communication of prognosis to people with advanced cancer.