



PROSTATE CANCER

and the Rise of Psycho-oncology

Dr Jeremy Couper

Dr Jeremy Couper is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Psychiatry at St Vincent's Hospital, a Consultation-Liaison Psychiatrist at St Vincent's and Head of Psychiatry at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. Jeremy completed his MBBS at St Vincent's, his Master of Medicine (psych) in 1997 and his Doctor of Medicine (MD) in 2006 at the University of Melbourne. In his MD Jeremy reported the findings from a cohort of couples facing early and advanced stage prostate cancer. Along with colleagues in the Department of Clinical Psychology at Peter Mac, Jeremy has established the Psycho-oncology Research Unit there in 2008 and has been the successful principal investigator in 2 studies funded by *beyondblue* in 2007 and 2008. The former study is an observational prospective study of the psychosocial impact on patients receiving radiotherapy for Head and Neck Cancer. The latter is a randomised controlled trial commencing in 2009 of a manualised psychotherapy, Cognitive-Existential Couple Therapy (CECT) for couples facing early stage prostate cancer. CECT was successfully piloted during 2008 at Peter Mac with the help of funds from the Pratt Foundation.

In this talk, Jeremy will argue that the growing recognition of the psychosocial impact of prostate cancer in Australia and overseas mirrors the rise in international acknowledgement of Psycho-oncology as an area of major importance to future health care.



DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY MONDAY COLLOQUIUM

Monday 30 March 2009 / 1North, Main Block,
Royal Melbourne Hospital, Victoria

Lunch: 1215-1230 Presentation: 1230-1330