

High School Cancer Symposium High School Cancer Competition 2019

Information for students

Thank you for your interest in the ACHSC's High School Cancer Symposium and High School Cancer Competition. This document was prepared by the ACHSC to provide a reference for students. It contains more detailed information about the HSCS, HSCC, and what to prepare/expect for each initiative, as well as why students should participate!

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What is the High School Cancer Symposium (HSCS)?

The HSCS is a full day event organised by the Australian Cancer & Health Sciences Competition. It is designed to provide an **exciting and unique chance** for year 10 students to **explore and develop their interests in cancer**. All interested students should contact their teachers to register; places at the HSCS are limited!

The HSCS will be held on **Thursday, 18th July, 2019** at the [Walter and Eliza Hall Institute](#) in Melbourne from 9:00 - 3:10 pm.

Activities for the HSCS will include:

- **Tours** of world-leading cancer research labs at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute;
- A workshop with **cancer survivors** about their journeys with cancer;
- A **networking session** where students will meet cancer researchers;
- **Engaging presentations** from doctors, researchers, and public figures about their work and experiences with cancer.

Details about this year's program, guest speakers, how to register, and photos from previous years' Symposiums can be found on the [HSCS page](#) on the [ACHSC website](#). A brief video recap of 2018's HSCS may also be viewed on [YouTube](#).

Students are not required to have specific knowledge before coming to the HSCS. However, the ACHSC encourages students to be familiar with the [ACHSC's free cancer syllabus](#) to maximise what they take away from the day.

The ACHSC hopes that the HSCS is a **very memorable** and **highly enjoyable** experience for all participating students!

What should students bring to the HSCS?

- Your **pencil case** (with pens, pencils, etc) and a notebook
- Your **lunch** (there will be some snacks provided)
- **Photo ID** (e.g. library card, driver's license, student card, etc.)
- A **curious mind** and any **questions** you might have
- **Yourself!**

Please **avoid bringing bulky school-bags**. Storage space at the venue is limited, and unfortunately the ACHSC cannot guarantee the security of belongings in storage.

What is the High School Cancer Competition (HSCC)?

The HSCC is a multiple choice competition which tests year 10 students' understanding of cancer. It will be held on **Friday, 13th September, 2019** at each participating school.

What makes a cancer cell different from our normal cells?

How do cells become cancerous?

These are the types of questions that students should expect in the Competition.

The ACHSC encourages students to prepare for the Competition using the [ACHSC's free cancer syllabus](#), which has been made specifically for year 10 students. The Syllabus contains most of the content used to write questions in the Competition. It also has lots of useful links to articles, videos, and other interesting resources.

Students are not expected to understand or know the entire syllabus back to front! Rather, the syllabus should be used as a guide to learn about the **basic mechanics of how cancers happen**, as well as some of the social and ethical issues that cancer brings to patients.

The HSCC is designed to **build on most year 10/VCE Unit 1&2 science content**, so students should not fret if they find it challenging. In the past, students have typically done very well on the Competition, and the ACHSC expects participants in 2019 to do just as well. If students are finding the syllabus challenging, they are strongly encouraged to **contact their science teachers or the ACHSC directly at info@achsc.org.au for help.**

If students are attending the HSCS, they are also encouraged to complete the HSCC. However, students who attend the HSCS will not have an unfair advantage over those who don't.

More information about the HSCC and sample questions are on the [ACHSC website](#).

What is the HSCC prize?

The top-performing students in the HSCC will be offered a **research internship** during the school holidays at one of our partner cancer research institutions, such as the Olivia Newton John Cancer Research Institute.

All participating students will receive a signed certificate.

Why participate?

Whilst the HSCS and HSCC might be a little intimidating, the ACHSC warmly encourages any students interested in learning more about cancer to participate.

The focus of the HSCS and HSCC are to give students a general understanding about what cancer is, how cancers work, and the research that's being done to prevent/cure them. We also hope that the HSCS in particular will interest students in learning more about cancer in the future, and even doing some research themselves.

Preparing for the HSCC and attending the HSCS will help students answer questions such as:

- What is cancer?
- What causes cancer?
- Who is affected?
- What are the different types of cancer?
- How can cancer be treated?
- What is research like?
- What do laboratories look like?
- How do I become a researcher?
- How do I become a clinician?

The HSCS will also be a great opportunity for students to meet like-minded peers, and to learn about the journey that cancer patients go through.

What is the ACHSC?

The ACHSC is a non-profit organisation started in 2015 by a group of students at the University of Melbourne. Our aim is to empower the next generation of scientists, doctors, and leaders with knowledge about cancer and experiences with cancer research, so that one day we can all live in a world free from cancer.

Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact the ACHSC via info@achsc.org.au, or visit our [website](#).

We hope to see as many year 10 students as possible attending the 2019 High School Cancer Symposium and completing the 2019 High School Cancer Competition. Good luck!