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Australasian
Society for
Dermatology
Research

ASDR 2026

Annual Scientific Meeting Sydney

Westmead Innovation Centre



The University of Sydney, Westmead
Western Sydney (Baludarri) Precinct

23 - 25 July 2026

ASDR ASM 2026

On behalf of the Australasian Society for Dermatology Research (ASDR), we are thrilled to welcome you to the ASDR 2026 Annual Scientific Meeting. This year's meeting will be an in-person event with an exciting line-up of national and international speakers, sponsors, and exhibitors.

With our vision to bring together the latest basic, clinical, and translational research in dermatology, we have invited a number of international and national speakers who are leaders in their fields, and selected exciting presentations from submitted abstracts, covering the most innovative aspects of dermatology. We would like to thank all presenters and chairs for their contributions and are most grateful to the team at the University of Sydney for hosting this meeting, and to our sponsors.

Co-Chairs

Dr Ali Azimi & Dr Jessamy Tiffen



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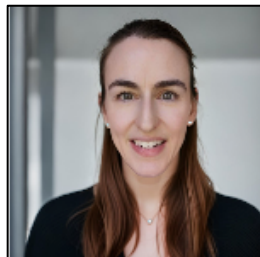
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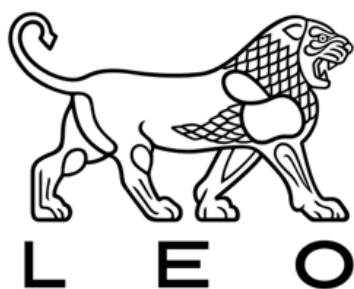
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Table of Contents

<i>Day 1 - Thursday July 23rd</i>	9
Welcome	9
Plenary 1	9
Session 1 - Keratinocyte and Squamous Cell Carcinomas	9
Break	10
Session 2 – Melanocyte/Keratinocyte Biology	10
Lunch and Poster Viewing	10
Session 3 – Microenvironment.....	11
Break	11
Session 4 – Fundamental Skin Research.....	11
Ross Barnetson Lecture.....	12
Welcome Drinks – Club Parramatta, 6:30pm	12
<i>Day 2 - Friday July 24th</i>	13
ASDR Annual General Meeting.....	13
Plenary 2.....	13
Session 5 – Skin Immunology and Immune Disorders.....	13
Break	13
Session 6 – Autoimmune Disorders	14
Lunch and Poster Viewing	14
Session 7 - Sponsor Showcase.....	15
Break	15
Session 8 – Wound Healing and Stem Cells	15
Conference Dinner – 7pm.....	16
<i>Day 3 - Saturday July 25th</i>	17
Open	17
Plenary 3.....	17
Session 9 – Melanoma and Pigmentation Disorders	17
Break	17
Session 10 - Skin Translational Research.....	18
Awards Ceremony.....	18
Conclusion	18
<i>Ross Barnetson Lecturer</i>	19
<i>Plenary Speakers</i>	20
<i>Keynote Speakers</i>	21
<i>Invited Speakers</i>	24
<i>Venue</i>	31
WESTMEAD INNOVATION CENTRE	31
<i>Poster Abstracts</i>	33



ASDR 2026

Annual Scientific Meeting

Day 1 - Thursday July 23rd

Welcome

8:15 AM – 9:00 AM

8:45 AM Opening Remarks

Associate Professor Aideen McInerney-Leo & Co-Chairs

Plenary 1

Chair: Associate Professor Aideen McInerney-Leo

9:00 AM – 9:35 AM

Professor Kathleen Green, Northwestern University, Illinois, United States of America

Integrating Physical and Immune Barriers through Desmosomes

Session 1 - Keratinocyte and Squamous Cell Carcinomas

Chairs: Professor Guy Lyons & Dr Ishana Dixit

9:35 AM - 10.50 AM

9:35 AM Professor Kiarash Khosrotehrani, The University of Queensland
Keynote Understanding the sun damaged skin for a rational approach to management of field cancerisation

10:00 AM Dr Luke McLean, St Vincent's Hospital (Melbourne)
Invited Immune-checkpoint inhibitors in solid organ transplant recipients with skin malignancies

10:15 AM Dr Ali Azimi, The University of Sydney
Invited Proteomics-Based Prediction of Metastatic Risk in Primary Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma

10:30 AM Dr Janin Chandra, The University of Queensland
Abstract Changes in Microbial Composition in Actinic Keratosis after Topical Application of Cutibacterium acnes D1 over Two Weeks: A Placebo-controlled, Randomised, Double-blinded Pilot Study

10:40 AM Ms Divyaa Narayanan, The University of Queensland
Abstract Epithelial NF- κ B Shapes the Innate and Adaptive Immune



Landscape and Coordinates IL-17 Immunity

Break

10:50 AM - 11:20 AM

Session 2 – Melanocyte/Keratinocyte Biology

Chairs: Associate Professor Mitchell Stark & Professor Helen Rizos

11:20 AM - 12:30 PM

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|-----------------------------|---|
| 11:20 AM
Keynote | Professor Hee Young Kang, Ajou University School of Medicine in Suwon, Korea
Melanocyte Senescence as a Therapeutic Target for Skin Aging |
| 11:45 AM
Invited | Dr Katie Dixon, The University of Sydney
Uncovering biomarkers to develop bioactive skin cancer protective agents |
| 12:00 PM
Abstract | Mr Hung Manh Phung, International Research Centre for Medical Sciences, Kumamoto University, Kumamoto, Japan
Inflammation-driven IL-1 signaling remodels epidermal stem cell compartments by suppressing Wnt activity |
| 12:10 PM
Abstract | Dr Alyssa Susanto, The University of Queensland
Pigmentation Delta: Change from Innate to Facultative Pigmentation as an Objective Marker of Photodamage Risk |
| 12:20 PM
Abstract | Dr Gardner Robinson, The University of Melbourne
Minicircle DNA-derived melanocortin peptides enhance melanogenesis via MC1R signalling in murine melanoma cells |

Lunch and Poster Viewing

12:30 PM - 2:05 PM



Session 3 – Microenvironment

Chairs: Professor Kathleen Green & Professor Nikolas Haass

2:05 PM – 3:20 PM

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|----------------------------|---|
| 2:05 PM
Keynote | Professor Yumi Aoyama, Kawasaki Hospital, Okayama Japan
Artificial intelligence-based topographical assessment identifies sweat-associated endotype in atopic dermatitis and highlights skin barrier protection |
| 2:30 PM
Invited | Professor Michael Samuel, Adelaide University
Mast Cells: Gatekeepers against cutaneous cancer initiation |
| 2:45 PM
Invited | Professor Alex Swarbrick, The Garvan Institute of Medical Research
Mapping the cellular ecosystem of in-transit metastasis during checkpoint immunotherapy response |
| 3:00 PM
Abstract | Professor Nikolas Haass, Frazer Institute, The University of Queensland
Modulating Melanoma TIME (Tumour Immune Microenvironment) to Improve Immune Cell Infiltration |
| 3:10 PM
Abstract | Dr Edwige Roy, Frazer Institute, The University of Queensland
UVB exposure drives a tumour-permissive epithelial-immune microenvironment that promotes early cSCC development |

Break

3:20 PM - 3:50 PM

Session 4 – Fundamental Skin Research

Chairs: Professor Rachel Watson & Dr Simone Goldinger

3:50 PM - 4:55 PM

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|----------------------------|--|
| 3:50 PM
Keynote | Professor Monika Janda, Frazer Institute, The University of Queensland
Use of Technology in Skin Cancer Prevention and Early Detection |
| 4:15 PM
Invited | Dr Nigel Maher, Melanoma Institute of Australia, The University of Sydney
Pathological melanoma diagnosis: Current practice and emerging horizons |
| 4:30 PM
Abstract | Ms Ye Mon Soe, Frazer Institute, The University of Queensland
Unique Role of an Ion Channel in Skin Homeostasis and Inflammation |
| 4:45 PM
Abstract | Assistant Professor Li Lin, A*STAR Skin Research Labs, Skin Research Institute of Singapore
Cutaneous ageing in Asian skin: Loss of biomechanical resilience |



with preservation of epidermal architecture

Ross Barnettson Lecture

Chair: Associate Professor Aideen McInerney-Leo
4:55 PM - 5:25 PM

4:55 PM **Professor Rodney Sinclair, The University of Melbourne**
Dermatology Research: How Australia can make a global impact

Welcome Drinks – Club Parramatta, 6:30pm

Venue: Club Parramatta, 2 Macquarie Street, Parramatta NSW 2150

Recommended option: Light rail

From Westmead Hospital, walk to the Westmead Hospital light rail stop on Hawkesbury Road. Take the L4 Parramatta Light Rail towards Carlingford and alight at Church Street. From there, walk west along Macquarie Street to Club Parramatta. Please allow approximately 20–30 minutes door-to-door, depending on walking pace and service frequency.

Taxi or rideshare

Set the destination as Club Parramatta, 2 Macquarie Street, Parramatta. The designated drop-off and pick-up area is directly outside the club entrance.

Driving

Club Parramatta's car park is located at 7 Macquarie Street, Parramatta, across the road from the venue.



Day 2 - Friday July 24th

ASDR Annual General Meeting

8.00 AM - 9.00 AM

8.00 AM Annual General Meeting

Plenary 2

Chair: Dr Asolina Braun

9:00 AM - 9:35 AM

Professor Chia-Yu Chu, National Taiwan University College of Medicine

Skin reactions related to cancer targeted therapy and immunotherapy: from clinical presentations to molecular mechanisms

Session 5 – Skin Immunology and Immune Disorders

Chairs: Dr Angela Ferguson & Dr Yuyang Liu

9:35 AM - 10.50 AM

9:35 AM

Keynote

Professor Gabrielle Belz, Frazer Institute, The University of Queensland

Barrier Immunity in Cancer and Infection: ILC–Epithelial Crosstalk in Melanoma and Mucosal Defence

10:00 AM

Invited

Dr Kirstie Bertram, The Westmead Institute for Medical Research, The University of Sydney

Heterogeneity of LCs, DCs and macrophages in the stratified squamous epithelium of human genital tissue

10:15 AM

Invited

Dr Snehlata Kumari, Frazer Institute, The University of Queensland

Cellular communications and cytokine network in skin inflammation

10:30 AM

Abstract

Associate Professor Hyunsu Lee, Lab of Skin Physiology, Daegu Catholic University, South Korea

Sesamin Induces MCL-1-Dependent Apoptosis in Activated T Cells and Ameliorates Experimental Atopic Dermatitis

10:40 AM

Abstract

Dr Anneliese Ashhurst, The University of Sydney

A novel human immunomodulatory peptide as a candidate therapeutic for inflammatory skin diseases

Break

10:50 AM - 11:18 AM



Session 6 – Autoimmune Disorders

Sponsored by AbbVie

Chairs: Professor Johannes Kern & Dr Snehlata Kumari

11:18 AM - 12:35 PM

11:18 AM Pre-Session Talk by Christine Bailey (Abbvie)

11:20 AM Professor John Frew, The Skin Hospital

Keynote

The pathogenesis of hidradenitis suppurativa at the single cell resolution

11:45 AM Dr Asolina Braun, Monash University

Invited

Investigation of HLA-C*06:02 restricted peptides as autoantigens in psoriasis

12:00 PM Dr Joanne Reed, The Westmead Institute for Medical Research, The University of Sydney

Invited

Multi-omic tissue profiling to predict treatment response in autoimmune bullous disease

12:15 PM Dr Henry Tseng, St George Hospital

Abstract

Parvovirus B19 Infection Is Associated with Increased Risk of Autoimmune Blistering Diseases: A Global Large-Scale Propensity-Matched Cohort Study

12:25 PM Ms Dona Sirimanne, The Westmead Institute for Medical Research, The University of Sydney

Abstract

Double trouble: How Herpes Simplex Virus promotes HIV in Genital Tissue

Lunch and Poster Viewing

12:35 PM - 2:05 PM



Session 7 - Sponsor Showcase

Chairs: Professor Pablo Fernandez-Penas & TBC

2:05 PM - 3:25 PM

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 2:05 PM
Platinum | ProPaira, Baz Hamo
15 C AQUEOUS SERUM |
| 2:20 PM
Platinum | UCB Australia, Dr Francis Lai
Mechanism Matters: Psoriasis and Hidradenitis Suppurativa |
| 2:35 PM
Gold | Leo Pharma, Dr. Liang Joo Leow - FACD, OAM
Targeting the skin barrier-immune-microbiome axis in chronic hand eczema through topical pan JAK inhibition with delgocitinib |
| 2:47 PM
Gold | Novartis, Professor Pablo Fernandez-Penas
Advances in CSU: Guidelines, Management & Novel Therapies |
| 2:59 PM
Gold | Sanofi, Simone Zanini
Sanofi Dermatology Pipeline |
| 3:11 PM
Gold | Galderma, Rebecca Ip
Nemolizumab (NEMLUVIO) |

Break

3:25 PM - 4:05 PM

Session 8 – Wound Healing and Stem Cells

Chairs: Dr Edwige Roy & Dr Natasha Kolesnikoff

4:05 PM – 5:20 PM

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 4:05 PM
Keynote | Professor Allison Cowin, Adelaide University
Harnessing Stem Cells for Wound Healing: From Cell Delivery to Secretome Therapies |
| 4:30 PM
Invited | Associate Professor Geraldine Mitchell, St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research, The University of Melbourne
Bio-engineering human induced pluripotent stem cell-derived vascularized skin |
| 4:45 PM
Invited | Associate Professor Zhe Li, The University of Sydney
Cell Therapy and Guided Skin Regeneration in Severe Burn Wound Care |
| 5:00 PM
Abstract | Ms Yingxue He, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, The University of Melbourne
Non-lytic necroptotic signaling drives keratinocyte differentiation and delays wound repair via Ca ²⁺ -dependent mechanisms |



5:10 PM
Abstract

Professor Nikolas Haass, Frazer Institute, The University of Queensland

Environmentally stressed drug-naïve melanoma cells share a molecular signature with drug-tolerant and drug-resistant cells

Conference Dinner – 7pm

Venue: Sahra By The River, 2/76 Phillip Street, Parramatta NSW 2150

Recommended option: Light rail

From Westmead Hospital, walk to the Westmead Hospital light rail stop on Hawkesbury Road. Take the L4 Parramatta Light Rail towards Carlingford and alight at Church Street. From there, walk east along Phillip Street towards the river. Sahra By The River is located at 2/76 Phillip Street. Please allow approximately 20–30 minutes door-to-door, depending on walking pace and service frequency.

Taxi or rideshare

Set the destination as Sahra By The River, 2/76 Phillip Street, Parramatta. Drop-off is available on or near Phillip Street.

Driving

Limited street parking may be available nearby. Paid parking is available in the Parramatta CBD, including car parks on or near Phillip Street.



Day 3 - Saturday July 25th

Open

8.30 AM - 9.00 AM

Plenary 3

Chair: Professor Victoria Mar

9:00 AM - 9:35 AM

Professor Mark Shackleton, Alfred Health, Monash University, Melbourne

Implications of Melanocytic Differentiation in Melanoma and Vitiligo
Pathogenesis

Session 9 – Melanoma and Pigmentation Disorders

Sponsored by Pierre Fabre

Chairs: Professor Mark Shackleton & Dr Cindy Tseng

9:35 AM – 10:52 AM

9:35 AM Pre-session Talk by Janis McNicholas (Pierre Fabre)

9:37 AM Professor Helen Rizos, Macquarie University
Keynote Understanding Melanoma ICI Resistance and the Limits of
Prediction

10:02 AM Dr Jessamy Tiffen, Centenary Institute, The University of Sydney
Invited Tumour microenvironment KDM6A mediates sex-specific
melanoma suppression in vivo

10:17 AM Professor Elin Gray, Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research,
Invited **Edith Cowan University,**
Liquid Biopsy as a Window into the Tumour Microenvironment

10:32 AM Dr Samuel Tan, The University of Queensland
Abstract Why are thick melanomas lethal? Immune exclusion underpins
recurrence in primary melanoma

10:42 AM Associate Professor Mitchell Stark, The University of
Abstract **Queensland**
Precision diagnostics for early melanoma detection using spatial
biology and AI-guided image analysis

Break

10:52 AM - 11:20 AM



Session 10 - Skin Translational Research

Chairs: Professor H. Peter Soyer & Dr Jess Tiffen

11:20 AM – 12:35 PM

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 11:20 AM
Keynote | Professor Victoria Mar, Alfred Health, Melbourne
Foundation Models and Beyond |
| 11:45 AM
Invited | Associate Professor Julia Steinberg, The Daffodil Centre, The University of Sydney, and Cancer Council NSW
Paving the path to risk-based skin cancer screening: validating melanoma risk prediction models in a large prospective cohort study in Australia |
| 12:00 PM
Invited | Professor Pascale Guitera, Melanoma Institute Australia, The University of Sydney
Translational research: the in vivo imaging for biology prediction of skin cancers |
| 12:15 PM
Abstract | Dr Naomi Truong, The Westmead Institute for Medical Research, The University of Sydney
Understanding the immune cell interactions with Herpes simplex virus in initial infection in human foreskin |
| 12:25 PM
Abstract | Dr Ellie Maas, Frazer Institute, The University of Queensland
Three dimensional total body photography identifies cutaneous phenotypes associated with late-onset invasive melanoma risk |

Awards Ceremony

12:35 PM - 1:05 PM

Chair: Awards Team

Conclusion

1:05 PM



Ross Barnetson Lecturer

Professor Rodney Sinclair



Prof Rodney Sinclair is the Specialist Dermatologist, Professor of Medicine at the University of Melbourne, Director of Sinclair Dermatology DIRECT and CEO of Samson Clinical Pty. Ltd. He is Co-Founder and Current President of the Australasian Hair and Wool Research Society (AHWRS), and together with Prof Ross Barnetson Co-Founded and is a Past-President of the Australasian Society for Dermatology Research (ASDR). Professor Sinclair was awarded the Australasian College of Dermatology Travelling

Fellowship to study in Oxford, UK in 1993 and became a Fellow of the Australasian College of Dermatologists in 1995. For his clinical and research contributions to Dermatology, he has been awarded Honorary Life Membership of the American Dermatology Association, Honorary Life Membership of the British Association of Dermatologist, Honorary Life Membership of the Ukrainian Hair Research Society and Honorary Life Membership of the Polish Dermatology Association.

Professor Sinclair is the inventor of over 30 awarded international patents and has authored 13 textbooks and over 80 book chapters including *Dermatology* in the Oxford Textbook of Medicine, *Diseases of the Hair and Scalp* in Rook's Textbook of Dermatology and *Alopecia* in Bologna's Dermatology Textbook.

He has had over 1,000 career research publications including 500 papers in the past 10 years. With over 30,000 career citations, in 2025, Professor Sinclair was ranked 44th most highly cited Dermatologist globally and number 1 for Australia.



Plenary Speakers

Professor Kathleen Green



Dr. Green is the Joseph L. Mayberry Professor of Pathology at Northwestern University and Professor in the Department of Dermatology. She serves as Associate Director for Basic Sciences in the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Centre of Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Green's pioneering work on intercellular junctions called desmosomes contributed to their discovery as pathogenic targets in inherited diseases of the skin and heart. The lab is currently determining how desmosomes integrate mechanical and chemical signalling to direct formation of both the physical and immune barriers of the epidermis. Dr. Green served as President of the Society for Investigative Dermatology and currently serves as Secretary Treasurer. An Honorary Member of the Society for Investigative Dermatology and European Society for Dermatological Research, Dr. Green was elected into the German National Academy of Sciences in 2016.

Professor Chia-Yu Chu

Dr. Chia-Yu CHU is currently Professor of Dermatology at National Taiwan University College of Medicine and also the President of Taiwanese Society for Investigative Dermatology (TSID). His main research interests include drug eruptions, atopic dermatitis, urticaria, and autoimmune blistering diseases. During 2008-2010, he was a Visiting Professor in the University of Paris-East and clinical research fellow in Henri Mondor Hospital of Paris. In the past 25 years, he has been involved in many international clinical trials including novel treatments for atopic dermatitis, urticaria, pemphigus and pemphigoid. He also collaborated with several international research groups to investigate the basic immunologic mechanisms, natural history, and disease burden of drug eruptions, atopic dermatitis, and urticaria. As a dermatologist specializing in immunology and allergy, he has published 18 book/chapters and over 300 peer reviewed journal articles in the related fields.





Professor Mark Shackleton



Prof Mark Shackleton is the Director of Oncology in the Alfred Care Group of Bayside Health, a Professor and Head of the Department of Cancer Medicine at Monash University, a Co-Director of the Monash Partners Comprehensive Cancer Consortium, and Chair of Melanoma and Skin Cancer Trials Ltd. After training in medical oncology in Melbourne, he undertook Fellowship training in clinical trials at the Ludwig Institute, PhD studies in epithelial biology at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, and postdoctoral work on melanoma biology at the University of Michigan, USA. He has received several major prizes for his research: the 2006 Victorian Premier's Award for Medical Research, a 2010 NHMRC Achievement Award, a 2011 Pfizer Australia Fellowship, and a 2016 Victorian Cancer Agency Clinical Research Fellowship. In 2012, he was awarded the Australian Science Minister's Prize for Life Scientist of the Year. His clinical interests include cutaneous oncology, melanoma, molecular oncology, immuno-oncology, early phase clinical trials, and addressing inequities in health service delivery. His laboratory studies melanocyte and melanoma biology, cancer genomics, and the causes and consequences of cancer heterogeneity.

Keynote Speakers

Professor Kiarash Khosrotehrani



Professor Khosrotehrani is a clinician-scientist, practicing dermatologist with a focus on delivering state of the art concept and technologies to real-world clinical problems. He is the director of the Frazer Institute, a major translational research hub at the University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia. His research is fundamentally based on regenerative medicine concepts applied at basic, translational and clinical levels to melanoma, keratinocyte cancers and skin wounds. In particular, he has identified tissue resident progenitors that drive vascularisation in wounds and cancers as well as the clonal responses of epidermal progenitors to ultraviolet radiation during field cancerisation. The breadth of expertise established in his research team allows the multidisciplinary approach required for these difficult questions. This unique expertise and leadership in research is witnessed by a record of highly cited articles (over 7000 citations, H index 46). The originality of this body of work was acknowledged by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) of Australia through an achievement award (2011) and an NHMRC excellence award (2016). More recently he was the recipient of the Queensland Health Excellence in Research Translation award (2024).



Professor Hee Young Kang



Prof Hee Young Kang, M.D., Ph.D., is Professor and Chair of the Department of Dermatology at Ajou University School of Medicine in Suwon, Korea. She currently serves as President of the Korean Society for Investigative Dermatology (KSID). Prof. Kang received both her M.D. and Ph.D. from Ajou University School of Medicine. She further studied in the Department of Life Science at POSTECH, Korea (1995–1997), and served as a Visiting Scholar at the University of Nice, France (2008–2009). Prof. Kang has authored over 180 scientific and clinical publications in high-impact international journals. Her research focuses on pigmentary disorders, melanocyte biology, and skin aging.

Professor Yumi Aoyama

Prof Yumi Aoyama, MD, PhD, is Professor and Chair of the Department of Dermatology at Kawasaki Medical School, Japan. Her research focuses on the physiological role of sweating in maintaining skin barrier homeostasis and its contribution to inflammatory skin diseases, particularly atopic dermatitis. Her group was the first to demonstrate that transient sweat suppression impairs skin barrier function and promotes allergic sensitization, highlighting sweating as an essential component of skin barrier protection. More recently, she has developed an artificial intelligence–based automated system to quantitatively assess skin surface microstructure and sweating patterns, enabling identification of clinically relevant endotypes and prediction of therapeutic responses in atopic dermatitis. Her research integrates dermatology, immunology, and biomedical engineering to advance precision medicine for inflammatory skin diseases. She is President of the 51st Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society for Investigative Dermatology (JSID 2026), to be held in Okayama, Japan.



Prof Monika Janda



Professor Monika Janda is a NHMRC Leadership Fellow (2025–29), and leads the Behavioural Sciences team at the Frazer Institute in the Faculty of Health, Medicine & Behavioural Sciences. Professor Janda leads the NHMRC funded Synergy Roadmap Towards Melanoma Screening (2022–2026). She trained as a health psychologist and is a behavioural scientist with a research background in cancer prevention and quality of life research. Prof Janda has strong clinical collaborations, and a passion for consumer-centred digital interventions that make self-management of health-related issues easier for people. Her work focuses on applied health and clinical research problems, making a difference to cancer prevention, early detection and treatment outcomes.



Professor Gabrielle Belz



Professor Gabrielle Belz trained in veterinary medicine and surgery. She has made major contributions to the field of immunology for which she was awarded a Doctor of Veterinary Science and has received the Gottschalk Medal (AAS), a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator Award, ARC Laureate Fellowship, elected to the Australian Academy of Science and is a Clarivate Highly Cited Researcher. She has major interests in understanding the cellular and molecular factors that

shape innate and adaptive immune responses that lead to immune protective memory against pathogens. Her group aims to unravel fine tuning of the immune system, particularly of the barrier tissues, in enforcing immune homeostasis, protection against infectious organisms and understanding how dysregulation of these systems results in both local and systemic disease.

Associate Professor John Frew

A/Prof Frew is a clinical dermatologist and Director of Research at The Skin Hospital in Sydney, Australia. He is a conjoint Associate Professor of dermatology at the University of New South Wales and is the current editor in chief of the Australasian Journal of Dermatology. He currently holds a clinical appointment at Liverpool Hospital in Sydney, A/Prof Frew has authored over 200 peer-reviewed articles and has a special interest in the pathogenesis and molecular mechanisms of inflammatory dermatoses including Hidradenitis Suppurativa.



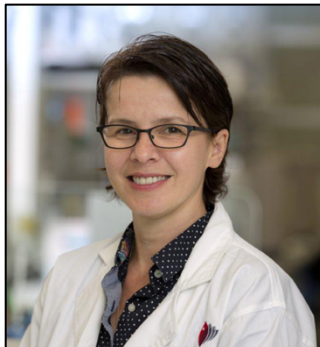
Prof Allison Cowin



Prof Allison Cowin is Professor of Regenerative Medicine at the Adelaide University and an internationally recognised leader in wound healing and tissue repair. She has authored over 200 peer-reviewed publications, editorials, and book chapters in leading journals and books. Her research focuses on developing innovative technologies for wound treatment and has been supported by more than \$22 million in competitive funding, including continuous NHMRC support since 2004. Her work was recognised by the NHMRC through inclusion in its “10 of the Best” publications in 2025.



Professor Helen Rizos



Prof Helen Rizos is a cancer cell and molecular biologist whose research integrates genetic analyses of melanoma tumours with functional cell biology to better understand the pathways that drive tumour development, therapeutic response, and resistance. At Macquarie University, she leads a research group focused on translating these insights into clinical impact. Her team is particularly interested in the utility of liquid biopsies and the advancement of functional precision oncology to improve patient outcomes.

Professor Victoria Mar

Prof Victoria Mar is a Fellow of the Australasian College of Dermatologists and Director of the Victorian Melanoma Service at the Alfred Hospital. She holds an NHMRC Investigator Grant with a focus on early diagnosis of melanoma and skin cancer and surveillance of high-risk individuals, including the use of artificial intelligence. She is Chair of the Australian Centre of Excellence for Melanoma Imaging and Diagnosis, a Board member of the Melanoma and Skin Cancer Trials Group and leads a number of investigator-led clinical trials.



Invited Speakers

Dr Luke McLean



Dr Luke McLean is a medical oncologist and clinician scientist at St Vincent's Hospital (Melbourne) and Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, where he subspecialises in tumours of the head and neck, thyroid, and skin/melanoma. Luke's current research focuses on the complex dynamics of immunotherapy resistance and response in cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma, a malignancy for which Australia has one of the highest rates globally. He seeks to unravel the molecular and immunological factors that dictate therapeutic outcomes, aiming to identify why certain tumours exhibit responsiveness to immunotherapy while others remain refractory. Moreover, he is particularly dedicated to refining immunotherapeutic strategies for high-risk populations, including immunocompromised individuals such as solid organ transplant recipients, to enhance treatment efficacy and improve patient outcomes.



Dr Ali Azimi



Dr Ali Azimi is a Research Fellow at the Faculty of Medicine and Health, The University of Sydney. His research focuses on translational cancer proteomics, biomarker discovery, and multi-omics integration to improve the diagnosis, prognostication, and treatment of cancer. His research spans melanoma, cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma, cutaneous T-cell lymphoma, and inflammatory skin diseases, with a particular focus on developing non-invasive diagnostic technologies and advancing precision oncology through clinically translatable molecular profiling. He has authored more than 17 peer-reviewed publications. In addition to his research, Dr Azimi supervises Honours and higher degree research students and works closely with clinicians, pathologists, and researchers across Australia to translate laboratory discoveries into improved patient care.

Dr Katie Dixon



Dr. Katie Dixon is a photobiologist and leader of the Sunlight and Cancer Group at the University of Sydney, Australia. Her research focuses on understanding how ultraviolet (UV) radiation affects the skin, with the goal of identifying novel molecular targets for skin cancer prevention. During her PhD under Prof. Rebecca Mason, Dr. Dixon demonstrated that vitamin D compounds inhibit UV-induced skin carcinogenesis in a murine model. Her research now investigates low-calcaemic vitamin D analogs and structurally related compounds as potential agents to prevent UV-induced carcinogenesis. Dr. Dixon's work aims to uncover mechanisms by which these compounds modulate tumour suppressor pathways and oncogenic signalling, advancing the development of innovative strategies for skin cancer prevention.

Professor Michael Samnuel



Michael is Professor of Matrix Biology at Adelaide University. He heads the Tumour Microenvironment Laboratory at the Centre for Cancer Biology, and the Cancer Mechanotherapies Laboratory at the Basil Hetzel Institute for Translational Health Research. His research focuses on understanding the biomechanical characteristics of the tumour microenvironment, specifically how a tumour-promoting extra-cellular matrix (ECM) is set down under the influence of cancer cells and how this ECM influences the behaviour of the diverse cell types associated with the microenvironment. Michael completed his Bachelor's degree with Honours in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the Australian National University, Canberra. He then moved to Melbourne to conduct his Ph.D. research at the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, in the laboratory of Prof. Matthias



Ernst, working on the epigenetics of colorectal cancers. His work demonstrated the mechanism by which dysregulation of DNA methyltransferases promoted intestinal cancer initiation and progression. Moving to the Beatson Institute for Cancer Research, UK in 2006 to join the laboratory of Prof. Michael Olson as a postdoctoral scientist, he began working on cytoskeletal signalling pathways including the Rho-ROCK signalling pathway, that laid the foundation for his current research programme and have absorbed his interest since. In 2011, Michael was awarded a Florey Fellowship to move back to Australia to conduct research at SA Pathology, Adelaide. In 2012, he set up the Tumour Microenvironment Laboratory at the Centre for Cancer Biology with New Investigator Project Grant funding from the NHMRC and an ARC Future Fellowship.

Professor Alex Swarbrick

Alex is a Senior Principal Research Fellow and co-Director of the Cancer Ecosystems Program in the Garvan Institute of Medical Research; a Professor at UNSW Sydney and an NHMRC Senior Leadership Fellow. Alex completed his PhD at UNSW Sydney, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship with J. Michael Bishop at UCSF. His lab applies cellular genomics to human breast cancer, prostate cancer & melanoma to gain systems-level insights into disease aetiology and the development of novel treatment strategies.



Dr Nigel Maher



Dr Nigel Maher is an anatomical pathologist based at Melanoma Institute Australia and The University of Sydney. Dr Maher completed a two-year fellowship in melanocytic pathology under the supervision of Professor Richard Scolyer AO, and is nearing completion of a PhD focused on developing novel biomarkers for melanocytic pathology using genomics and AI.

Dr Kirstie Bertram has specialised for over a decade in isolating immune cells from human tissue and interrogating them by high-parameter flow cytometry. In 2015, as a post-doctoral scientist, she optimised protocols for isolating myeloid cells (particularly dendritic cells and macrophages) from all human tissues physiologically relevant to HIV transmission, spanning skin, type I and type II mucosae (foreskin, labia, vagina, cervix, penile tissue, perineum, rectum). Her work is located at the Westmead Institute for Medical Research, part of the Westmead

Dr Kirstie Bertram





Health precinct, which is the largest health precinct in Australia enabling close ties between clinicians and scientists to access a vast array of human tissue. Genital inflammation is a critical risk factor for HIV transmission, with dysbiosis of the genital microbiota emerging as a primary driver of this inflammatory response. However, the key inflammatory HIV target cells in genital mucosa remain poorly understood. Mononuclear phagocytes (MNP) are innate immune cells and known HIV targets, comprising of Dendritic cells (DC), macrophages and Langerhans cells (LC). DCs and LCs are professional antigen presenting cells responsible for sampling and delivering invading pathogens to CD4 T cells, subsequently causing systemic HIV infection. Using optimised tissue digestion protocols, a 27-parameter flow cytometry panel, and fresh human genital tissue (foreskin, vagina, cervix, labia), we have demonstrated that inflammatory MNPs in anogenital mucosa have vastly different phenotypical expression and function. We have shown inflammatory DC subtypes (Axl+Siglec-6+ DCs, CD1a+CD123+ DCs) in the epithelium of human genital tissue. Comprehensive profiling of inflammatory MNPs will ultimately allow for the development of targeted HIV therapeutic strategies.

Dr Snehlata Kumari



Dr Snehlata Kumari is a group leader and head of the Skin Inflammation and Immunity Laboratory at the University of Queensland, Frazer Institute in Brisbane, Australia. She is a councillor of the International Psoriasis Council (IPC), and a board member and co-chair of the Scientific Program and Award Committee of the Australasian Society for Dermatology Research (ASDR). Her research focuses on uncovering the mechanisms of skin inflammation and paving the way for the translation of new, effective, and safe therapies for skin diseases, including psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, and hidradenitis suppurativa. Her research findings, defining novel mechanisms of skin inflammation initiation and persistence, were published in top-tier journals, including three times in Nature, Nature Communications, and Immunity. She has received multiple international recognitions, including the 2021 Christina Fleishmann Award from the International Cytokine and Interferon Society (ICIS) for Young Women Investigator, and honours from the European Society for Dermatological Research (ESDR), the Japanese Society for Investigative Dermatology (JSID) and the German National Academy of Sciences.



Dr Asolina Braun



Asolina Braun is an immunologist at Monash University interested in naïve and adaptive immunity with a specific focus of skin immune cells. During her PhD at Hannover Medical School she studied the migration of skin-derived immune cells by establishing the technique of skin-draining afferent lymph injection in mice. A Fellowship from the German Research Foundation saw her pursue postdoctoral training in the Carbone/Gebhardt laboratories with research focussed on tissue-resident memory T cells. Asolina contributed widely to this growing field by defining the necessary survival factors and differentiation signals required for the formation and persistence of skin-resident memory T cells. Asolina's passion for skin immunity has then led her establish an independent line of research investigating the causal trigger for flare-ups in the autoimmune skin disease psoriasis which is strongly dominated by the risk factor human leukocyte antigen HLA-C*06:02. The multi-disciplinary approach is aiming to uncover HLA-C*06:02 restricted peptide triggers of psoriasis and involves immunology, proteomics, novel mouse models, clinical research and biotechnology.

Dr Joanne Reed



Dr Joanne Reed is Director of the Centre for Immunology and Allergy Research at the Westmead Institute, an NHMRC Leadership Fellow and Adjunct Associate Professor at University of Sydney. She has a long-standing interest in autoimmune disease, particularly the origins and pathogenesis of autoantibodies. Joanne completed her PhD at Flinders University. She was then awarded an NHMRC CJ Martin Fellowship for postdoctoral training at New York University and the Australian National University followed by the Garvan Institute. In 2021, Joanne established the Autoimmunity and Amyloidosis Laboratory at Westmead Institute. Her team is focused on the use of multi-omics and spatial technologies to improve prognosis and targeted treatment of disease.

Associate Professor Geraldine Mitchell

A/Prof Geraldine Mitchell is Lab Head of the Vascular Biology Group at St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research, Melbourne. Dr Mitchell's research focus in the last 7 years has been on in vitro assembly of human capillary networks and their application in in vivo wound models, and in the vascularization of liver organoids. She has directed studies focused on primary microvascular blood, lymphatic, and liver sinusoidal endothelial cells, and human induced pluripotent stem





cell (hiPSC)-derived endothelial cells, and has undertaken studies on mouse and human liver organoids, the incorporation of vasculature within these organoids, and their role with liver progenitor cells in promoting hepatobiliary differentiation and survival. Her work has recently focused on human induced pluripotent stem cell-derived capillary networks bio-engineered in the Lab and transplanted into various wound models. A recent development was the incorporation of these capillary networks into a hiPSC-derived skin and its transplantation over, and vascular connection to the femoral vascular pedicle in a nude rat model creating a hiPSC-derived skin flap.

Associate Professor Zhe Li

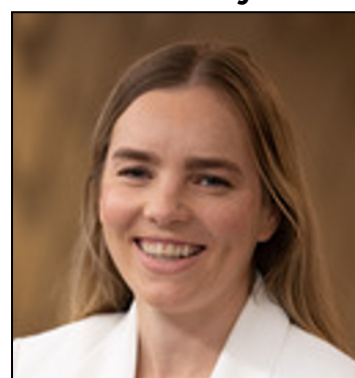


A/Prof Zhe Li is a medically and scientifically trained clinical scientist specialising in severe burn wound care and advanced skin regeneration therapies. He serves as a Clinical Associate Professor in the Surgical Discipline of the University of Sydney Medical School and the Burns and Reconstructive Surgery Unit at Concord Hospital. His expertise includes clinical cell and tissue therapies, skin stem cell technologies, and regenerative

medicine, with a focus on cell-based approaches for complex wound healing. Dr Li leads the Clinical Skin Laboratory, a purpose-built clinical cGMP facility that develops and produces living cells and skin substitutes for life-saving treatment of severe burn patients across all burns Units within the NSW Statewide Burns Service. His research interests span multiple aspects of severe burn care, including burn surgery, wound healing; skin stem cell technologies; cell and tissue therapies; regenerative medicine; scaffold engineering and dressing development, scaffold-guided skin tissue engineering, burn infection and scar management.

Dr Jessamy Tiffen

Dr Jessamy Tiffen leads the Epigenetics of Melanoma Program at the Centenary Institute and is the current recipient of a Melanoma Academy Scholar Award from the U.S. Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs. Her research focuses on epigenetic regulation and biological sex differences in cancer, with publications in leading journals including *Nature Genetics*, *The Lancet Oncology*, *JNCI*, and *Cancer Research*. She completed her PhD in Cancer Genetics at the



University of Sydney and trained at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute in Cambridge, UK. Dr Tiffen established her independent research group in 2018 and is also an Adjunct Senior Lecturer at the University of Sydney. Her work has been supported by major funding bodies including Cancer Institute NSW, Cancer Council NSW, Tour de Cure, and the Australian Melanoma Research Foundation.



Professor Elin Gray



Professor Elin Gray is the Melanoma Discovery Chair at the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research, Deputy Director of the Centre for Precision Health and Head of the Translational Melanoma Research Group at Edith Cowan University, Western Australia. She graduated Summa Cum Laude in Biochemistry and later a MSc in Immunology at the University of Havana, Cuba. Her doctoral and postdoctoral research in South Africa, complemented by training at the NIH Vaccine Research Centre and Duke Human Vaccine Institute, advanced

understanding of HIV-1 evolution and neutralising antibody responses. Since joining Edith Cowan University in 2011, her research has focused on liquid biopsy biomarkers for cancer, particularly melanoma. She has authored more than 130 peer-reviewed publications and is an internationally recognised leader in precision oncology and translational biomarker research.

Associate Professor Julia Steinberg

A/Prof Julia Steinberg is a Cancer Institute NSW Career Development Fellow and leads the Genomics and Precision Health research team at the Daffodil Centre, a partnership between the University of Sydney and Cancer Council NSW. Her research programme aims to integrate individual and population-level genomic, sociodemographic, health, and behaviour information for successful precision health that delivers the right intervention to people at the right time and in the right way for them, to improve health outcomes and reduce the burden of cancer.



Julia completed a DPhil (PhD) in Genomic Medicine and Statistics at the University of Oxford, followed by postdoctoral work in genomics at the Wellcome Sanger Institute / University of Cambridge. She moved to Australia in 2017, changing her research focus to cancer. As a particular highlight, she co-leads the Australian Cancer Risk Study, a collaborative and transdisciplinary program on genomics-informed risk prediction and risk-based early detection for the four most common cancers in Australia, including melanoma.

Prof Pascale Guitera



Prof Pascale Guitera is Director of the Sydney Melanoma Diagnostic Centre at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and faculty member of the Melanoma Institute Australia. She is holding her academic position at the University Of Sydney with a particular interest in new diagnosis tools for skin cancers.



Venue

WESTMEAD INNOVATION CENTRE



Located at: Level 5 - Westmead Innovation Centre - Entrance 10 or 11
Westmead Hospital (K Block), 176 Hawkesbury Road, Westmead NSW 2145.

Known as the innovation precinct, Westmead is home to state-of-the-art medical facilities and internationally recognised research and health services. The district includes four major hospitals, four leading institutes, two university campuses and the largest research-intensive pathology service in the state.

Join us this July for the ASDR 2026 ASM, hosted by The University of Sydney at the Westmead Innovation Centre. Built in 2023, the Centre is a space to innovate, collaborate and simulate, utilising its Virtual Reality and Media Labs, as well as its Maker Space to foster hands-on and interactive learning.

We acknowledge the Darug people as the traditional custodians of the land and pay our respects to elders, both past and present.



GETTING HERE

Public Transport: Westmead Innovation Centre can be accessed by Westmead Train Station – a 10 minute walk, Bus Ride – a 9 minute walk or Light Rail – a 2 minute walk. To walk to the venue, exit the station onto Railway Parade, turn right at Hawkesbury Road and walk to the traffic lights at Darcy Road. Westmead Hospital is on the corner of Hawkesbury and Darcy Roads. For more information, visit NSW Transport.

Taxis and Ride-Sharing: Westmead is a 30 minute journey from Sydney Airport, with plenty of taxis and ride-sharing services available.

Parking: There are three paid car parks for patients and visitors at the hospital and health precinct general (P2, P4, P5 and P21, see the map below). Visitors can be charged a daily maximum of \$25.80. Free 2-hours street parking or paid parking may also be available on the streets east of Hawksbury Road.





Poster Abstracts

- 8 Pigmented Fungiform Papillae of the Tongue Across Three Generations: Implications for a Familial Pigmentary Phenotype**
X. Hang, N. Ling
- 9 Do commonly studied immunohistochemical biomarkers meaningfully stratify early-stage melanoma? Insights from a population-based cohort**
X. Hang, D. C. Whiteman, C. M. Olsen, N. Pandeya, D. Lambie
- 10 Methotrexate Toxicity in Dermatology: A Severe Mucocutaneous Presentation and Review of the Literature**
Dr Isabella De'Ambrosis, Dr Amanda Godbolt
- 11 Grid-like facial granulomas following cosmetic procedures: a foreign body granulomatous reaction**
S. Singh, J. Choi, R. Chan
- 15 One in Five Registry-Coded Melanomas Are Reclassified on Expert Review: Findings from the QSkin Cohort**
X. Hang, Lambie. D, Brennan. T, Whiteman. D
- 16 One in Five Registry-Coded Melanomas Are Reclassified: Predictors from the QSkin Cohort**
X. Hang, Lambie. D, Brennan. T, Whiteman. D
- 19 Bimekizumab impact on dichotomous IHS4 response levels over 3 years in moderate to severe HS: Results from BE HEARD EXT**
Johannes S. Kern, Thrasyvoulos Tzellos, Dillon Minto, Kelsey R. van Straalen, Angelo V. Marzano, Koremasa Hayama, Vivian Y. Shi, Evelina van Ree, Bengt Hoepken, Nicola Tilt, Christopher J. Sayed
- 24 A tale of two dermatoses; morphea and extra-genital lichen sclerosus in a single lesion.**
Aalia Syed, D     F. Murrell, Zahra Asadi-Kani, Nasim Niknezhad
- 25 International development and validation of a 5-point composite investigator global assessment scale for epidermolysis bullosa acquisita**
Aalia Syed, Sera Sarsam, Aikaterini Patsatsi, Baoqi Yang, Kossara Drenovska, Angelo Marzano, Snezhina Vassileva, Emiliano Antiga, Maryam Daneshpazhooh, Soner Uzun, Anisa Mosam, Avital Banial, Eli Sprecher, Nisha Chandran, Donna Culton, Dipankar De, Dario Didona, Ncoza Dlova, Pascal Joly, Johannes Kern, Yen Loo Lim, Hamidreza Mahmoudi, Aimee S. Payne, Marwah A Saleh, Elia Valeva, Jun Yamagami, Boaz Shulruf, D     F. Murrell



- 26 Trial in progress: a phase 3 randomized study of low-dose intralesional cemiplimab versus primary surgery for patients with early-stage cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (CLEAR CSCC)**
Michael R. Migden, Sherrif Ibrahim, John Strasswimmer, Nathalie Zeitouni, Greg J. Goodman, [Kiarash Khosrotehrani](#), Pablo Fernández-Peñas, John Frew, Kurt Gebauer, Suk-Young Yoo, Frank A. Seebach, Israel Lowy, Sabina Sandigursky, Matthew G. Fury
- 28 Use of 5% Imiquimod Cream to Successfully Treat Extra-mammary Paget Disease in a 75-Year-Old Man, A Case Report.**
[Zahra Almosawy](#), Peter Fergin
- 29 Patch Testing Outcomes and Diagnostic Yield in a Tertiary Dermatology Service: A Six-Month Retrospective Review**
NKM. Yoong, L. Ly, [FYX Lai](#), C. Higgins
- 30 Time-Dependent Dynamics of Norepinephrine and Beta-Adrenergic Blockade on CD8+ T-Cell Cytotoxicity in Melanoma**
[Thuy Luong](#), Cindy Tseng, Natalie Teh, Robyn Saw, Diona Damian, G. Greg Neely, Jess Tiffen, J. Guy Lyons
- 31 Altered immunophenotype may explain the persistence of psoriasis on the lower legs after highly effective biological therapy**
[Ali Azimi](#), Juneau Middleton, Lauren Faul, Vivienne Speirs & Pablo Fernandez-Penas
- 32 Proteogenomic Detection of Melanoma-Associated Mutations by Mass Spectrometry-Based Proteomics**
[Ali Azimi](#), Mitchell Stark, and Pablo Fernandez-Penas
- 34 Glossed over: the increasing importance of ultraviolet-cured gel nail polish in allergic contact dermatitis**
[Aalia Syed](#), Brandon Tan, Dédée F. Murrell
- 37 A Mechanistic Case Analysis of Dupilumab in Dual-Therapy Refractory Pemphigoid Gestationis**
[Ahmed Abid](#), Ali Abid, Kelvin Truong, Jing Jing Li, Paul Weller
- 40 Proteomic Profiling of Benign and Dysplastic Nevi Using a Non-Invasive Scarless Biopsy Approach**
[Fatemeh Mehdikhani](#), Rachel Teh, Zhaoxiang Cai, Victoria Mar, Peter Soyer, Monika Janda, Pablo Fernandez-Penas, Ali Azimi
- 41 Ultraviolet Mutational Signature 7 as Definitive Evidence of Cutaneous Origin in a Rare Case of Metastatic Basal Cell Carcinoma**
[A. Susanto](#), C. Mahon, C. Cooper, T. Liu
- 42 Agminated Spitz naevi arising within a congenital naevus spilus: a diagnostic challenge in a paediatric patient.**
[M. Noda](#), M. Zureigat, M. Formby



- 43 A Novel De Novo KRT6A Splice-Site Variant in Pachyonychia Congenita: Atypical Phenotype and 17-Year Diagnostic Journey**
E. Sisson, Edel O'Toole, D.F. Murrell
- 44 Proteomic Insights into the Effectiveness of Cryotherapy and Topical Treatments for Actinic Keratosis**
L. Faul, I. Dixit, A. Azimi, S. Cai, P. Fernandez-Penas
- 45 Assessing the feasibility of PLA2 as a therapeutic target in NMSC**
Su Y. Tan, Maria G. Elias, Jasmine M. Zhou, Mila Sajinovic, Kieran F. Scott, Albert S. Mellick
- 46 Defense or Dysregulation? The Streptococcus pyogenes Immunopeptidome in Health and Disease**
Rungiu Song, Shanzou Chung, Nathan P. Croft, Prithvi Raj Munday, Joshua Osowicki, Hannah R. Frost, Natalie Caltabiano, Danika L. Hill, Melanie R. Neeland, Shivanthan Shanthikumar, Eric Levi, Karen Davies, Andrew C. Steer, Anthony W. Purcell, Asolina Braun
- 48 Systemic and Topical Retinoids for Primary and Secondary Chemoprevention of Non-melanoma Skin Cancer in High-risk Populations: an Updated Systematic Review**
Bomin Ko, Hyun Jae Nam, Vinod Gopalan
- 50 Machine Learning-Assisted Detection of Circulating Tumour Cells for Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma in Epidermolysis Bullosa**
Jasmine M. Zhou, Midhun Shyam, Chen (Amy) Wang, Fiaz R. Chowdhury, Steven Thomas, Mila Sajinovic, Monavvar Andarva, Kieran F. Scott, Ali Azimi, Guy Lyons, Paul de Souza, Albert S. Mellick
- 52 Treatment Preferences for Alopecia**
V. Azzì, A. Dhruv, C. Chew
- 53 Understanding the impacts of prolonged UV exposure on Melanoma Recurrence and Long-term Survival**
Danielle Gavanescu, Samuel X Tan, Nicholas M Muller, Léa Dousset, Lena A von Schuckmann, Kiarash Khosrotehrani
- 57 Fields of BRAFV600E-mutant melanocytes are present in non-lesional skin and enriched near naevi and prior melanoma sites**
Katie J. Lee, Yung-Ching Kao, Amanda Jiang, Anastasia Prokofyeva, Lisa N. Tom, Kasturee Jagirdar, Darren J. Smit, Harald M. Oey, Jean-Marie Tan, Stephen A. Ainger, Nancy Huang, Zewen Kelvin Tuong, Stacey Andersen, Anne Senabouth, Joseph E. Powell, Duncan Lambie, Helmut Schaidler, H. Peter Soyer, Richard A. Sturm, Alana L. Welm, Douglas Grossman, Robert L. Judson-Torres, and Mitchell S. Stark
- 58 Leprosy in Disguise: A Case of Chronic Treatment Refractory Dermatitis**
Yuyang Liu, Shu Zhe Cheah



- 59 Can AI See Me? Part II: A Systematic Review of Artificial Intelligence for Diagnosing Inflammatory Skin Conditions in Skin of Colour Populations**
Yuyang Liu, Tabrez Sheriff, H. Peter Soyer, Brigid Betz-Stablein, Clare A Primiero
- 60 Managing Cutaneous Adverse Events in Cancer Care: An 18-Month Review of a Rapid-Access Oncodermatology Clinic**
Yuyang Liu, Samuel X. Tan, Nicholas M. Muller, Xiaohua Shen, Celine Lee, Yit Nah Lau, Victoria Atkinson, Rahul Ladwa, Emma-Anne Karlsen, Kiarash Khosrotehrani
- 61 Beneath the Surface of Hidradenitis Suppurativa: Histopathological Patterns Across 197 Surgically Deroofed Specimens**
Yuyang Liu, Timothy J. Liu, Duncan Lambie, Luke Watson, Erin K. McMeniman
- 63 The role of the skin microenvironment in suppressing cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma initiation**
Natasha Kolesnikoff, Michael S. Samuel
- 66 Systemic Immune Correlates of Cutaneous Immune Related Adverse Events in Patients Receiving Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors**
Yuyang Liu, Huang Wang, Emma-Anne Karlsen, Euan Walpole, Lea Dousset, Janin Chandra, Kiarash Khosrotehrani
- 68 Novel serum autoantibodies against ATRX, a component of PML nuclear bodies, in dermatomyositis**
Y. Yamashita, H. Kanoh, Y. Muro, S. Kamiya, E. Noda, N. Akashi, H. Koizumi, M. Ogawa-Momohara, T. Takeichi, M. Akiyama
- 69 Ammonium persulfate as a leading cause of vulval contact dermatitis**
Lily Rath, Jonathan J Peek, Lynda Spelman
- 70 Novel rescue therapy for steroid-refractory drug eruption with overlying pustular psoriasis/AGEP: combination ciclosporin and bimekizumab**
Lily Rath, Jim Muir, Daman Langguth
- 71 Photoprotection in Australia: Bridging Photobiological Mechanisms and Public Health Practice in the World's Highest UV-Burdened Environment**
Matthew Chen, Katie M. Dixon
- 73 Deciphering the complex pathways in Lentigo Maligna through Proteomics in scarless biopsy**
R. Ruiz Araujo, A. Azimi, R. Teh, L. Faul & P. Fernandez-Penas
- 76 Retrospective analysis of basal cell carcinoma growth using serial dermoscopic imaging**
Joe Beaird, Sam Kahler, Ellie Maas, Clare Primiero, H. Peter Soyer, Aideen McInernery-Leo
- 78 Cost-utility of sirolimus in the treatment of vascular malformations**
Grace X Li, Deshan F Sebaratnam



- 79 A mechanistic case: analysis of dupilumab in dual-therapy refractory pemphigoid gestationis**
Ahmed Abid, Ali Abid, Kelvin Truong, Jing Jing Li, Paul Weller
- 80 Frisson, Triggered Piloerection as a Novel non pharmacological Strategy to Modulate Itch and Pain Pathways.**
Max Wu, BMedSci (Hons), MD; Geoffrey Lee, MBBS, DPhil (Oxon), FACD