



Australasian
Society for
Dermatology
Research

ASDR 2025

Annual Scientific Meeting Brisbane
Translational Research Institute



TRI Auditorium
Translational Research Institute
Woollongabba | Brisbane (Meanjin)
17 – 19 July 2025



On behalf of the Australasian Society for Dermatology Research (ASDR), we are thrilled to present the ASDR 2025 Annual Scientific Meeting. This year's event will be in-person, taking place from 17th–19th July 2025 at the Translational Research Institute in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

With our vision to bring together the latest basic, clinical, and translational research in dermatology, we have invited several international and national speakers who are leaders in their fields, and 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 Translational Research Institute for hosting this meeting, and to our sponsors.

Co-Chairs

Dr Lea Dousset & Dr Jazmina Gonzalez Cruz



Local Organising Committee

Dr Lea Dousset, Dr Jazmina Gonzalez Cruz,
Dr Snehlata Kumari, A/Prof Mitchell Stark, A/Prof Aideen McInerney-Leo,
Teresa Harris, Wendy Kao, Bhanu Chintala, Danielle Gavanescu, Dr Sam Kahler,
Dr Timothy Liu, Dr Anne Tseng, Dr Deborah Toledo Flores



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About ASSC

ASSC Australian Skin and Skin Cancer Research Centre

The Australian Skin and Skin Cancer Research Centre (ASSC) is a partnership established in 2016 between The University of Queensland and QIMR Berghofer, aimed at recognising and leveraging the significant strengths of both institutions in skin and skin cancer research. The ASSC fosters multidisciplinary collaboration across four key areas: skin, naevi, melanoma, and keratinocyte cancers. In addition, the ASSC supports emerging researchers through its Early Career Grants Scheme, which funds projects strategically aligned with the Centre's priorities—enhancing the prevention, early detection, and treatment of skin cancers and skin diseases.

Conference Awards

1. Barnetson Lecture Award
2. "Women in Skin Research: Clinician Researcher"
3. "Women in Skin Research: Scientific Researcher"
4. ISID Collegiality Award (Senior JSID presenter)
5. ISID Collegiality Award (Senior KSID presenter)
6. ISID Collegiality "Rising Star Award" (JSID EMCR/PhD/trainee)
7. ASDR Conference Travel/Abstract Award: (9 awards: 3x in each category)
8. ASDR Conference Oral Presentation Award: (3 awards: 1x in each category)
9. ASDR Conference Poster Presentation Award: (3 awards: 1x in each category)



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ASDR 2025

Annual Scientific Meeting

Day 1 – Thursday 17th July

Registration Opens

8.15 AM

Welcome

8.45 AM – 9.00 AM

Opening Plenary – Prof Harald Kittler, Medical University of Vienna, Austria

AI in Medicine: fairness and diversity

9.00 AM – 9.30 AM

Session 1 – Microenvironment

Chair(s): **A/Prof Mitchell Stark and Prof Kiarash Khosrotehrani**

9.30 AM – 10.30 AM

9.30 AM **Dr Sam Stehbens, Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, IMB, The University of Queensland**

Keynote

The mechanobiology of melanoma: understanding how tumour cells survive metastasis

09.50 AM **A/Prof. Motoki Nakamura, Department of Geriatric and Environmental Dermatology, Nagoya City University Graduate School of Medical Sciences, Japan**

Abstract

Spatial analysis of tertiary lymphoid structures in Merkel cell carcinoma under immunotherapy.

10.00 AM **Wendy Kao, Frazer Institute, The University of Queensland**

Abstract

The genomic and spatial transcriptomic landscape of seborrheic keratoses reveals pathways for development.

10.10 AM **Yimeng Guan, Frazer Institute, The University of Queensland**

Abstract

Modulating phenotypic melanoma heterogeneity and immune cell infiltration.

10.20 AM **Katie Lee, Frazer Institute, The University of Queensland**

Abstract

The genomic landscape of skin adjacent to prior melanoma is distinct from clinically similar skin without an adjacent melanoma.



Morning Tea

10.30 AM – 10.45 AM

Session 2 – Keratinocyte and Squamous Cell Carcinomas

Chair(s): **Dr Jazmina Gonzalez Cruz and A/Prof Albert Mellick**

10.45 AM – 12.15 PM

10.45 AM **A/Prof James Wells, Frazer Institute, The University of Queensland**
Keynote

A novel approach to reduce the emergence of squamous cell carcinoma in solid organ transplant patients

11.05 AM **Dr Jazmina Gonzalez Cruz, Frazer Institute, The University of Queensland**
Keynote

Human Papilloma Virus transcriptome mapping reveals discrete Spatial Niches in squamous cell carcinoma

11.25 AM **Dr Jilai Zhao, Frazer Institute, The University of Queensland**
Abstract

Immune-Checkpoint Inhibition Reduces Immunogenic Mutations Burden in normal looking skin and Correlates with Improved Actinic Keratosis Clearance.

11.35 AM **Hadis Ghajari, QIMR Berghofer/Queensland University of Technology**
Abstract

Integrating genetic and traditional risk factors to improve prediction of keratinocyte cancers.

11.45 AM **A/Prof Albert Mellick, Nepean Clinical School, University of Sydney**
Abstract

Understanding Butterfly Disease: The Link to Squamous Cell Carcinoma and What We Can Learn.

11.55 AM **A/Prof Lea Dousset, Frazer Institute, The University of Queensland**
Abstract

Topical sirolimus prevents cutaneous squamous cell carcinomas by disrupting the balance between differentiation and proliferation.

Lunch and Poster Viewing

12.05 PM – 1.25 PM

Session 3 – ASSC Session

Chair(s): **Prof Monika Janda and Dr Dilki Jayasinghe**

1.25 PM – 3.15 PM

1.25 PM **A/Prof Serigne Lo, Melanoma Institute Australia, The University of Sydney**
Plenary

Breslow Thickness and Long-Term Survival: Insights from an Australian



Melanoma Population-Based Analysis.

- 1.55 PM**
Keynote **ECR Award winner – Dr Laura Sormani, Frazer Institute, The University of Queensland**
Formulated LNP mRNA Targeting Sox9 in tumor endothelial cells for Vascular Normalization and Enhanced Immunotherapy Response in Melanoma.
- 2.10 PM**
Keynote **ECR Award winner – Dr Chenhao Zhou, Frazer Institute, The University of Queensland**
Using spatial multi-omics to predict early-stage melanomas at high risk of recurrence to improve access to government-sponsored life-saving adjuvant therapies.
- 2.25 PM**
Abstract **Abishna Parasuraman, QIMR Berghofer**
Genetic screening for actinic keratosis could enhance personalized chemoprevention in transplant patients.
- 2.35 PM**
Abstract **Joachim Torrano, Frazer Institute, The University of Queensland**
Differential expression of HRK regulates proliferation of acquired melanocytic naevi
- 2.45 PM**
Abstract **Dr Huanwei Wang, QIMR Berghofer**
Risk prediction model combining both genetic and non-genetic factors for cutaneous melanoma
- 2.55 PM**
Keynote **Prof Anne Cust, Melanoma Institute Australia, the University of Sydney**
Women in In Skin Research: Scientific Research Awardee
Using genomics to inform risk tailored cancer screening – research from the Australian Cancer Risk Study

Break

3.15 PM – 3.30 PM

Session 4 – ASSC Session

Chair(s): **Prof David Whiteman and A/Prof Matthew Law**

3.30 PM – 5.00 PM

- 3.30 PM**
Keynote **ECR Award winner – Dr Dilki Jayasinghe, Centre for Health Services Research, The University of Queensland**
Skin cancer prevention and early detection behaviours in people of colour.
- 3.45 PM**
Keynote **ECR Award winner – Dr Seen Ling Sim, Frazer Institute, The University of Queensland**
Unravelling cellular connections in Hidradenitis suppurativa, a debilitating inflammatory skin disease needing help to improve therapeutic strategies.
- 4.00 PM** **ECR Award winner – Dr Brittany Mitchell, QIMR Berghofer**



Keynote Unravelling the Genetic Architecture of Acne Vulgaris: Sex-Specific Risk Factors and Causal Associations.

4.15 PM ECR Award winner – Dr Nathan Ingold, QIMR Berghofer

Abstract Confirming and Further Exploration of Previously Reported Germline Genetic Influences on Invasive vs In situ Melanoma Risk.

4.30 PM Dr Sam Kahler, Dermatology Research Centre, Frazer

Abstract **Institute, The University of Queensland**

Leveraging Artificial Intelligence and 3D Total Body Photography to Automate Skin Photodamage Assessment

4.40 PM Ye Mon Soe, Frazer Institute, The University of Queensland

Abstract Unique Role of an Ion Channel in Skin Homeostasis and Inflammation

4.50 PM Nima Ghahari, Centre for Health Services Research, The
Abstract **University of Queensland**

Evaluating the Association Between Satellite Naevi Count and Melanoma Risk

Break

5.00 PM – 5.15 PM

Ross Barnetson Lecture

Chair: Prof Nikolas Haass

Prof H. Peter Soyer, Frazer Institute, The University of Queensland

R-Evolution of Dermoscopy

5.15 PM – 6.00 PM

Group Photo & Welcome Drinks

6.00 – 7.30 PM



Day 2 – Friday 18th July

ASDR Annual General Meeting

All current members welcome

8.00 AM – 9.00 AM

Break

9.00 AM – 9.15 AM

Opening Plenary – Prof Tatsuyoshi Kawamura, The University of Yamanashi, Japan

The role of Langerhans cells in HIV Infection

9.15 AM – 9.45 AM

Session 5 – Skin immunology and immune disorders

Chairs: **Dr Janin Chandra** and **Dr Snehlata Kumari**

9.45 AM – 10.45 AM

9.45 AM **Dr Snehlata Kumari, Frazer Institute, The University of Queensland**
Keynote

Innate immune sensing pathways in psoriasis and hidradenitis suppurativa.

10.05 AM **Prof Hyunsu Lee, Daegu Catholic University School of Medicine, Daegu, South Korea**
Abstract

Ameliorative effect of DCM-5 on house dust mite extract-induced atopic dermatitis via direct binding and suppression of the STAT3 pathway

10.15 AM **Divyaa Narayanan, Frazer Institute, The University of Queensland**
Abstract

Epithelial NF- κ B Shapes the Innate and Adaptive Immune Landscape and Coordinates IL-17 Immunity.

10.25 AM **Dr Marra Aghajani, Department of Research and Clinical Trials, The Skin Hospital**
Abstract

Quality of Life Outcomes in Adolescents with Acne: A Comparative Study of Urban, Regional and Rural Care

10.35 AM **Nasim Niknezhad, Skin Research Centre, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran (virtual)**
Abstract

Correlation between Carotid Artery Mean Intima-Media Thickness and brain Natriuretic Peptide in Patients with Psoriasis.

Break

10.45 AM – 11.00 AM



Session 6 – Wound Healing and Stem Cells

Chairs: **Dr Abbas Shafiee and Dr Edwige Roy**

11.00 AM – 12.20 PM

11.00 AM **Dr Abbas Shafiee, Frazer Institute, The University of Queensland**

Keynote

Organoids with Vascularization and Immune Cell Integration to Replicate the Complexity of Human Skin.

11.20 AM **A/Prof Erin McMeniman, School of Medicine, the University of Queensland**

Keynote

Women in In Skin Research: Clinician Research Awardee

Hidradenitis Suppurativa: Updates in Pathogenesis and Personalised Management

11.40 AM **Dr Holly Anderton, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute**

Abstract

Immune Cell Necroptosis Restrains Cutaneous Inflammation: Implications for Therapeutic Targeting

11.50 AM **Imaan Ahmed, Frazer Institute/Griffith University**

Abstract

Isolating skin precursor populations from human pluripotent stem cell-derived skin organoids.

12:00 PM **Haiming Li, Frazer Institute, The University of Queensland**

Abstract

Modelling Melanoma-Vascular Interactions Using Human Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells-Derived Organoids.

Lunch and Poster Viewing

12.10 PM – 1.50 PM

Session 7 – Sponsor Showcase

Chairs: **A/Prof Aideen McInerney-Leo and A/Prof Erin McMeniman**

1.50 PM – 3.20 PM

1.50 PM **Baz Hamo (Propaira)**

Platinum

Beyond Hydroquinone in the management of Hyperpigmentation

2.05 PM **Todd McDougall, Field Medical Lead Immunology (UCB)**

Platinum

Understanding IL-17A and IL-17F Biology: Clinical Translational Data

2.20 PM **Prof Pablo Fernandez-Penas (Boehringer Ingelheim)**

Gold

The role of IL-36 in the treatment of flares in generalised pustular psoriasis (GPP)

2.30 PM **A/Prof Gayle Ross (Leo Pharma)**

Gold

Drug Development- secrets of a company pipeline

2.40 PM **A/Prof John Frew (Novartis)**

Gold

An overview on the role of BTK inhibition in Chronic Spontaneous Urticaria



2.50 PM **Lilly**
Gold Sponsored session

3.00 PM **Celltrion**
Gold Sponsored session

3.10 PM **Johnson & Johnson**
Gold Sponsored session

Break

3.20 PM – 3.35 PM

Session 8 – Melanoma (Genetics/Genomics/Biology) (1)

Chairs: **A/Prof Aideen McInerney-Leo** and **A/Prof Jason Lee**

3.35 PM – 5.25 PM

3.35 PM **A/Prof Mitchell Stark, Frazer Institute, The University of Queensland**
Keynote
The genomic landscape of matching primary and metastatic melanoma

3.55 PM **A/Prof Sonia Troeira Henriques, Queensland University of Technology**
Keynote
Defense peptides to fight drug resistance: a horseshoe crab peptide eliminates all melanoma cell states without inducing resistance

4.15 PM **Dr Samuel Tan, Frazer Institute, The University of Queensland**
Abstract
Machine Learning Prospectively Predicts Risk of Recurrence in Primary Cutaneous Melanoma.

4.25 PM **A/Prof Jason Lee, Frazer Institute, The University of Queensland**
Abstract
Epigenetic Reprogramming as a Therapeutic Strategy Across Melanoma Subtypes to Enhance Immunotherapy Efficacy.

4.35 PM **Shanika Jayasinghe, QIMR Berghofer**
Abstract
Exploring genetic variants linked to melanoma independent of pigmentation.

4.45 PM **Dr Ellie Maas, Frazer Institute, The University of Queensland**
Abstract
Prevalence of high-risk melanoma variants in early onset and/or multiple primary melanomas in an Australia cohort.

4.55 PM **Dr Jessamy Tiffen, The University of Sydney**
Keynote
Why Sex matters in survival from melanoma.

5.05 PM **A/Prof Aideen McInerney-Leo, Frazer Institute, The University of Queensland**
Keynote
Melanoma Genetic Testing: From the Rare to the Common.



End of Day 2

5.25 PM

Taxi from TRI to South Bank

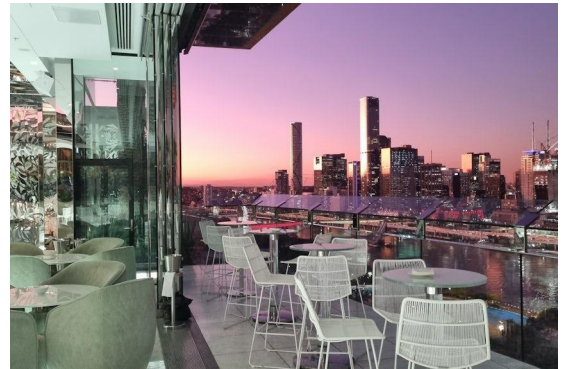
5:45 PM

Conference Dinner

7.00 PM

The Terrace Rooftop Bar, Emporium Hotel

Emporium Hotel **South Bank**,
Level 21/267 Grey Street, South Brisbane QLD
4101





Day 3 – Saturday 19th July

Opening Plenary – Prof Rachel Watson (A*STAR Skin Research Labs (A*SRL) & Skin Research Institute of Singapore)

Ethnicity and skin ageing

9.00 AM – 9.30 AM

Session 9 – Fundamental Skin Research

Chairs: **A/Prof Simone M. Goldinger** and **Prof Kiarash Khosrotehrani**

9.30 AM – 10.20 AM

- 9.30 AM** **Prof Dong-Youn Lee, Samsung Medical Center, Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul, South Korea**
Keynote Molecular Insights into the Nail Unit: Exploring the concept of onychofibroblasts.
- 9.50 AM** **Dr Janin Chandra, Frazer Institute, The University of Queensland**
Keynote Dysregulated Antigen Presentation Pathways in Hyperproliferative Epithelium
- 10.00 AM** **Gisella Edny, Frazer Institute, University of Queensland**
Abstract Autophagy as a driver of phenotypic heterogeneity in an MITF-rheostat spheroid model.
- 09.50 AM** **Dr Yuyang Liu, the University of Queensland/Princess Alexandra Hospital**
Abstract Can AI See Me? A Systemic Review of Artificial Intelligence for Classifying Pigmented Skin Lesions in Skin of Colour
- 10.00 AM** **A/Prof Simone M. Goldinger, the University of Sydney and The University of Queensland**
Keynote ASCO 2025 highlights: what's new in skin cancer and immuno-oncology

Break

10.20 AM – 10.45 AM

Session 10 – Skin Translational Research

Chairs: **Dr Zlatko Kopecki** and **Prof Johannes Kern**

10.45 AM – 12.15 AM

- 10.45 AM** **Dr Zlatko Kopecki, University of South Australia**
Keynote Validation of safety and efficacy of the on-demand antimicrobial hydrogel for precise and rapid elimination of bacterial infection in murine and porcine infected wounds.



- 11.05 AM** **Ross Barnetson ASDR/JSID Rising Star Award – A/Prof Tatsuya Ogawa, Tsukuba University, Tsukuba, Japan**
Keynote TGF- β signalling-mediated wound healing is required for hair follicle neogenesis
- 11.25 AM** **A/Prof Taemin Lee, Samsung Medical Centre, Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul, South Korea**
Abstract Comparative transcriptomic study of the nail unit, skin and hair follicle in humans
- 11.35 AM** **Dr Tara Sholji, The Skin Hospital**
Abstract Early Insights from the Australian Mohs Micrographic Surgery (AMMS) Registry: A Pilot Prospective Database from The Skin Hospital.
- 11.45 AM** **Dr Jessica McClatchy, Royal Melbourne Hospital**
Abstract Combined ultralow dose rituximab and intravenous immunoglobulin protocol to treat pemphigus vulgaris.
- 11.55 AM** **Prof Johannes Kern, Alfred Health**
Keynote The Role of Fibroblasts in Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa Pathogenesis and Current Treatment Approaches

Awards Ceremony

12.15 PM – 12.30 PM

Conclusion

12.30 PM

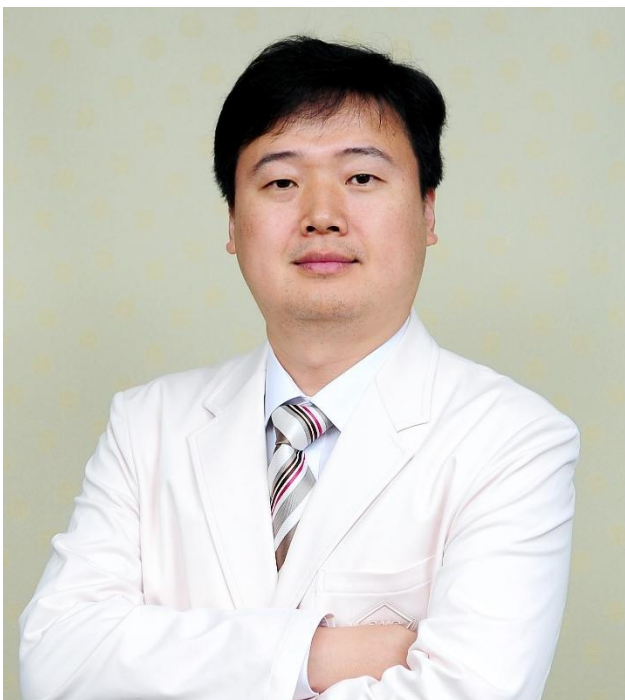


International Speakers



Professor Tatsuyoshi Kawamura graduated and received the MD degree from Yamanashi Medical University in 1990. He was a member of the Department of Dermatology, Yamanashi Medical University, Yamanashi, Japan, from 1990 to 1998 and received his PhD in 1998. Between 1998 and 2002, he was a post-doctoral fellow at the National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Maryland. He won the Fellows Award for Research Excellence at the National Institute of Health in 2002. He has been an assistant professor in the **Department of Dermatology, The University of Yamanashi, Japan**, since 2002. His current interests include Langerhans cell immunity, HIV infection and skin cancer.

Professor Harald Kittler serves as a faculty member in the **Department of Dermatology at the Medical University of Vienna, Austria**. With a dedicated career spanning over 25 years in the field of in-vivo skin imaging, he has established himself as a leading expert in the image-based diagnosis of skin diseases, specifically in the field of AI-based decision support. He has authored and co-authored over 200 scientific articles, many of which have been featured in prestigious journals.



Professor Dong-Youn Lee is the President of **The Korean Society for Investigative Dermatology** and Professor of the **Department of Dermatology at Samsung Medical Center, Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul, Korea**. He also serves as the President of Seoul Branch for the Korean Dermatological Association and as the President of Korean Society for Vitiligo and Pigment Cell Research. A graduate of Seoul National University (MD, PhD), he trained in dermatology at Seoul National University Hospital. He conducted pioneering research on innate immunity in sebocytes at UC San Diego under Prof Richard Gallo. Prof Lee has made groundbreaking contributions to nail biology, defining specialized mesenchymal cells in the nail unit and coining the terms onychofibroblast, onychodermis, onycho-matricodermis, and onychofibroblastoma.



Professor Rachel Watson is the Executive Director of **A*STAR Skin Research Labs (A*SRL) in Singapore** and concurrently leads the **Skin Research Institute of Singapore (SRIS)**.

I am a basic scientist with an honours degree in Anatomy & Cell Biology and a PhD in Biomedicine. I work at the interface between fundamental science and clinical application to increase the mechanistic understanding of clinically relevant topics in skin health and disease; my research focuses on understanding the mechanisms of human ageing.

I have had long-standing (> 30 years) collaborations with key opinion leaders in clinical Dermatology which has provided me a greater appreciation of the needs faced by patients as they age and further allows me to investigate and dissect pathways impacting on the ageing process. In this presentation I will review our current understanding of skin changes associated with photodamage and the mechanisms which underpin these changes in skin's structure and function, and the impact ethnicity plays in the chronicity of cutaneous ageing.

Having led the University of Manchester (UK) Skin Ageing programme, a multidisciplinary partnership between researchers and industry (Walgreens Alliance Boots; total investment since 2009 of c£12m), I relocated to Singapore in 2023 to take up Executive Director roles at A*STAR Skin Research Labs (A*SRL) and the Skin Research Institute of Singapore (SRIS). I maintain an honorary position at the University of Manchester to allow my continued supervision of existing PhD candidates to completion.

I look forward to bringing together clinicians, scientists and engineers within the Singapore ecosystem to provide solutions for skin disease, improving the health of the Singaporean - and global - population.





National Speakers

Ross Barnetson Lecture



Professor H. Peter Soyer, based at **The University of Queensland**, is an internationally recognised dermatologist with over 30 years of experience in translational skin cancer research. A pioneer in dermoscopy, he developed the globally used classification system for pigmented skin lesions. His work focuses on early melanoma detection, teledermatology, and AI-driven innovations, including leading the \$9.9M Australian Centre of Excellence in Melanoma Imaging and Diagnosis (ACEMID). With over 680 publications and more than \$43M in research funding, he has significantly advanced dermatologic imaging and skin cancer prevention, cementing his role as a leader in the field.

ASSC Plenary Session



Associate Professor Serigne Lo is a Senior Biostatistician with over 15 years' experience in medical research. He leads the Research & Biostatistics Group at Melanoma Institute Australia and chairs its Research Committee. Formerly with The George Institute for Global Health and the University of Geneva, he holds a PhD in Econometrics/Statistics. His research focuses on risk prediction, adaptive trials, and survival analysis. He received the 2017 NSW Premier's Award for Excellence in Translational Cancer Research and supports strategic research planning at Melanoma Institute Australia.



Women in Skin Research:

Scientific Researcher



Professor Anne Cust is a cancer epidemiologist whose research is primarily focused on the prevention and early detection of melanoma and other skin cancers. She is interim Director of the Daffodil Centre and is a Faculty member of Melanoma Institute Australia. She is Chair of the Cancer Council National Skin Cancer Committee, Chair of the NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Advisory Committee, and a Past-President of the Australasian Epidemiological Association. She is leading an Australian government-funded Roadmap for a National Targeted Skin Cancer Screening Program.

Clinician Researcher



Associate Professor Erin McMeniman (BSc, MBBS, MPH, FRACGP, FACD, PhD) is a dermatologist practising in both public and private practice in Brisbane. She is involved in research and teaching at University of Queensland and has established multidisciplinary team (MDT) meetings in Hidradenitis Suppurativa and Cutaneous Lymphoma. With the Australasian College of Dermatologists, A/Prof McMeniman has held the positions of Chair of Queensland Faculty of Dermatology, Co-Chair of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Committee, and Member of College Curriculum Committee, Selection Committee and Annual Scientific Meeting Task Force.



Keynote Speakers



Doctor Janin Chandra leads a research lab at **The University of Queensland's Frazer Institute**, focusing on immune regulation in professional antigen-presenting cells, particularly in cutaneous and mucosal squamous cell cancers of the head and neck. She earned her Master of Science from Johann-Wolfgang-Goethe Universität in Germany, conducting research on vaccinia virus-induced interferons. Her PhD at the University of Zurich explored NFκB-inducing kinase in immunity and autoimmunity. After a postdoctoral fellowship in Prof Ian Frazer's lab at UQ, she worked in industry, leading preclinical research that resulted in clinical trials for immunotherapeutic vaccines. Returning to academia in 2019, she continues to investigate immune modulation in HPV-driven cancers.



Associate Professor Simone M. Goldinger is a certified dermatologist and university lecturer with a particular interest in skin cancer. Simone completed her initial medical and dermatology training in Switzerland before moving to Australia. Simone completed further dermatology training in Australia and is a Fellow of the Australasian College of Dermatologists. While in Switzerland, she has become an expert in her field of skin cancer, publishing several original research papers including contributions to The New England Journal of Medicine, Science, The Lancet Oncology and the Journal of Clinical Oncology as well as dermatology textbooks. Simone has studied the skin side effects of new medications and therapies for melanoma and other skin cancers and has published multiple articles on this topic.



Doctor Jazmina Gonzalez Cruz is a mid-career researcher specialising in molecular and cellular biology, focused on T cell activation and cancer immunology. She completed her PhD on the immune evasion strategies of Coronaviruses at the National Centre of Biotechnology in Spain (2011). In 2013, Dr Cruz started a post-doctoral position at the Heinrich Pette Institute in Germany, supported by a Bayer-Alexander Von Humboldt Foundation grant, where she studied the role of innate immunity at the portal of entry of human viruses. In 2015, she joined the A/Prof Wells Group at Frazer Institute, being awarded a 3-year UQ early career fellowship to investigate the immunology of epithelial cancers. In 2019, under the mentorship of Prof Ian Frazer, Dr Cruz was awarded a 5-year GPRWM Foundation grant to develop her research program focused on the immune suppression mechanisms in cancer patients. Currently, she leads the Cancer Immunology and Therapy group at the Translational Research Institute.



Doctor Sónia Troeira Henriques specialises in designing novel anticancer and antimicrobial therapeutic leads by reengineering host defence peptides to selectively enter cells and modulate intracellular targets. As a Chief Investigator with the **ARC Centre of Excellence for Innovations in Peptide and Protein Science**, she is advancing peptide-based drug delivery strategies to unlock their full therapeutic potential. With expertise in cyclic peptides, membrane biology, and peptide-cell interactions, she has identified cancer cell membrane features that enable targeted peptide entry. Dr. Henriques holds a PhD in Biochemistry/Molecular Biophysics from The University of Lisbon and has received multiple prestigious fellowships, including an ARC Future Fellowship.



Professor Johannes Kern is the Professor and Director of Dermatology, Monash University and Alfred Health in Melbourne, Australia. He is a clinical academic Dermatologist conducting treatment trials, translational research and investigator initiated trials in autoimmune and inflammatory skin disease and non-melanoma skin cancers.



Doctor Zlatko Kopecki is a Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation Fellow in Childhood Wound Infections (2021–2026) at the University of South Australia's Future Industries Institute, with previous fellowships including an NHMRC Research Fellowship (2012–2015) and a Future Industries Institute Foundation Fellowship (2015–2021). His research focuses on developing novel therapeutics for wound repair and understanding the mechanisms involved in wound healing, scar formation, and fragile skin syndromes. His work spans skin blistering diseases, tissue regeneration, skin cancer, fibrosis, and wound infections, integrating biomaterials to develop advanced wound dressings and therapeutic approaches. Using small and large animal models, he aims to translate findings into innovative treatments to enhance wound healing and combat infections.



Doctor Snehlata Kumari leads the Skin Inflammation and Immunity Lab at UQ's Frazer Institute. She serves on the boards of the Australasian Society for Dermatology Research and the International Psoriasis Council. Trained in Germany, Dr Kumari has advanced understanding of epithelial cells, cytokines, NF-kappaB, and cell death in skin inflammation. Her work focuses on uncovering mechanisms of diseases like psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, and hidradenitis suppurativa to develop new therapies. She has published in top journals including Nature, Nature Communications, and Immunity, and has received international recognition, including the Christina Fleishmann Award (2021) and honours from the German National Academy of Sciences and the European Society for Dermatological Research.



Associate Professor Aideen McInerney-Leo trained as a genetic counsellor in the UK before moving to the US to conduct clinical research at the National Institutes of Health and lecture at Johns Hopkins University. She is currently Deputy Director of the **Dermatology Research Centre**, and the lead of the Skin and Skin Cancer stream at the Frazer Institute at the University of Queensland. Her research aims to democratise access to genetic testing by upskilling clinicians to offer testing and creating educational interventions to empower patients to make informed decisions regarding testing. Specifically, she is focused on making genetic testing for melanoma accessible to everyone who might benefit.



Doctor Abbas Shafiee is an expert in regenerative medicine and stem cell biology, driving innovations in bioengineered skin models and organoids. Dr Shafiee's previous pioneering work on humanized bioengineered models laid the foundation for advancements in precision medicine, providing novel approaches to studying and treating cancers. His current work on vascularized induced pluripotent stem cell-derived skin organoids is transforming the field by creating advanced platforms that provide a more reliable approach to study skin diseases. The vascularized skin organoids also allow in vitro investigation of inflammatory and immune-related skin conditions, an achievement not possible with previous models. These models integrate all skin, vasculature, and immune components, offering a unique platform for investigating disease mechanisms, evaluating therapies, and accelerating drug discovery processes.



Associate Professor Stehbens is a cell biologist focused on cell adhesion, the cytoskeleton, and cell motility. She began her lab at the Institute for Molecular Bioscience in 2020 as an ARC Future Fellow and is now a joint Group Leader with the Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology. Her research spans cancer biology, from ion channels in brain cancer to growth factor signalling in uterine and breast cancer. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship at The University of California San Francisco (UCSF) and recently discovered a novel role for microtubules in protecting cells during 3D migration, supported by major NHMRC and US Department of Defense funding.



Associate Professor Mitchell Stark is a molecular biologist and Principal Research Fellow at UQ's Dermatology Research Centre, based at the Frazer Institute. He leads the pre-melanoma genomics program, focusing on early melanoma progression, biomarker discovery, and genomics of skin lesions. With over 25 years in melanoma research, his work explores gene dysregulation and familial melanoma risk. He has published 97 papers with over 10,000 citations in top journals including *Nature* and *Nature Genetics*. He has secured over \$10M in research funding and currently holds an NHMRC Investigator EL2 Fellowship.



Doctor Jessamy Tiffen leads the Centre for Cancer Innovations and is acting Deputy Director of the Centenary Institute. She also heads the Melanoma Epigenetics Lab and is a Cancer Institute NSW Career Development Fellow. With over 12 years of experience in cancer cell and molecular biology, her research focuses on how epigenetic dysregulation drives melanoma initiation, progression, and treatment resistance. She is particularly interested in sex-based genetic differences. Her work aims to uncover epigenetic mechanisms that can be targeted by novel therapies to improve outcomes for melanoma patients.



Associate Professor James Wells leads the **Novel Cancer Therapeutics Group at Frazer Institute** and is the **Director of Immunology at the Dermatology Research Centre, University of Queensland**. He is also the Vice President of the Molecular and Experimental Pathology Society of Australasia (MEPSA), and a mentee of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences (AAHMS). He received his PhD in cancer immunotherapy from King's College London, UK, and postdoctoral training at Harvard Medical School, USA, where he received an award for research excellence and was promoted to Faculty as an Instructor. Since 2011, he has led a research team at the University of Queensland's Frazer Institute investigating novel treatments for squamous cell carcinoma. In collaboration with the Queensland Emory Drug Discovery Initiative, he has recently developed and patented a drug (Q2361) designed to prevent and treat skin cancer in immune-suppressed solid organ transplant recipients.