

# Centre of Research Excellence for the Study of Naevi



## Naevus CRE Update – 26 April 2017

### Upcoming CRE Events

- **2017 CRE Scientific Meeting** will be held from 2pm - 4pm, Friday 19th May 2017, Room 2007 at the Translational Research Institute. For any further information and to RSVP, please contact Melissa Kerr [m.kerr@uq.edu.au](mailto:m.kerr@uq.edu.au)
- **2017 CRE Researcher in Residence, Professor Allan Halpern**, will visit Brisbane in October 2017 in conjunction with the 9<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Melanoma. Prof Halpern, Chief of the Dermatology Service and co-Leader of the Melanoma Disease Management Team at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, USA, is an internationally recognised expert in melanoma and pigmented lesions. He has a special interest in the roles of naevi as precursors and risk factors for melanoma.  
<https://naevi.centre.uq.edu.au/event/292/2017-researcher-residence-professor-allan-halpern>
- **2017 CRE Consumer Forum** will be held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October at Cancer Council Queensland, Brisbane, ahead of the World Congress of Melanoma. The 2017 CRE Researcher in Residence, Professor Allan Halpern, will be leading the discussion on the topic of "Algorithms and robots, will they play a role in melanoma early detection".  
<https://naevi.centre.uq.edu.au/event/283/cre-study-naevi-consumer-forum>

### CRE News and Progress

- The CRE website Publications page is now active, under the Outcomes/Result tab, <https://naevi.centre.uq.edu.au/publications> and currently lists the first of the CRE publications which is associated with Program I. Numerous publications are currently being prepared.  
[Testing of viable human skin cell dilution cultures as an approach to validating microsampling.](#) Ainger SA, Yong XL, Soyer HP, Sturm RA. (2017) Testing of viable human skin cell dilution cultures as an approach to validating microsampling. Arch Dermatol Res. 2017 Mar 3. doi: 10.1007/s00403-017-1726-3. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 28255674
- The **Core Study** (also called the **Mind your Moles Study**) is proceeding well, with recruitment expected to reach the target of 200 participants by the end of May. The 6 month follow up imaging appointments will commence in June.

The 10 participants who were involved in our baseline pilot validation study, to allow evaluation of our Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), have undergone their 6 month follow up imaging appointment. Once again these pilot participants have been useful for optimising our SOPs, allowing determination of the best way to incorporate the new body maps with existing data.

- **Emma Betts** (<http://www.dearmelanoma.com/>) who was diagnosed with Stage 4 melanoma three years ago has sadly passed away at 25 years of age. She played a very proactive role in raising public awareness of the risks of melanoma and raising funds for melanoma research. We greatly appreciate her support of our Mind your Moles recruitment campaign (<https://naevi.centre.uq.edu.au/mind-your-moles-study>) and contribute much of our successful recruitment response to her involvement. We would like to extend our condolences to her family, and are convinced that the advocacy network she established for melanoma awareness and research will continue to have broad and meaningful impacts.
- **Program I: Genetics and Epidemiology of Naevi** reached its recruitment goal of 1200 participants at the end of 2016, with 1255 participants enrolled when the study was finalised. We have now complete phenotypic/imaging data and genotyping data for all 1255 participants (593 cases, 662 controls). This program will now continue with analysis and evaluation of the large data set acquired since 2011, with numerous research outputs anticipated in 2017.
- **Program II: Consumer Facilitated Naevi Monitoring** will utilise participants recruited as part of the CRE Core Study, and will commence at their 18 month follow up appointment in 2018, allowing for optimal alignment with work being conducted within the complementary NHMRC Partnership Project APP1113962 'Redesigning skin cancer early detection and care' 2015-2018.
- **Program III: Molecular and Genetic Properties of Changing Naevi** recruitment is continuing. A total of 41 advanced melanoma patients have now been recruited, with 26 attending their baseline imaging visit and 6 attending their 4 month follow up visit. Recruitment for the control participants has exceeded our initial target of 50, with 77 participants currently enrolled, and 59 already attending their 4 month follow up visits. We are also planning on expanding the Program to include molecular analysis of benign pigmented lesions including benign naevi and precursor lesions (both pigmented and non-pigmented).
- **Energex received the National Melanoma Award for Excellence in Corporate Responsibility** in January 2017. Researchers from the CRE (Prof H. Peter Soyer, UQ and Prof Monika Janda, QUT), in conjunction with the PA Research Foundation, nominated the energy company for the award. Energex has contributed to skin cancer research conducted across both organisations for numerous years, and won the award for their demonstrated proactive commitment to raising awareness and protecting staff and the wider community when it comes to skin cancer prevention and detection.  
<https://naevi.centre.uq.edu.au/article/2017/01/melanoma-researchers-support-energex-win-national-melanoma-award>