

Centre of Research Excellence for the Study of Naevi



Naevus CRE Update – 26 July 2017

Upcoming CRE Events

- **2017 CRE Researcher in Residence, Professor Allan Halpern**, will visit Brisbane in October 2017 in conjunction with the 9th 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>. Prof Halpern will be available to interact with CRE team members during the World Congress and on Friday 20th October when he will visit the Translational Research Institute (TRI). Please contact Melissa Kerr (melissa.kerr@uq.edu.au) to arrange a meeting with Prof Halpern.
- **2017 CRE Consumer Forum** will be held on Wed 18th October at Cancer Council Queensland, 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** <https://naevi.centre.uq.edu.au/publications> under the Outcomes/Results heading, now has 2 additional publications arising from the Core Study and Program I.
[The natural history of common melanocytic naevi: a systematic review of longitudinal studies in the general population.](#) Plasmeijer EI, Nguyen TM, Olsen CM, Janda M, Soyer HP, Green AC. *J Invest Dermatol.* 2017 May 18. pii: S0022-202X(17)31539-7. doi: 10.1016/j.jid.2017.03.040. [Epub ahead of print]
[Skin Pigmentation Genetics for the Clinic](#) Ainger SA, Jagirdar K, Lee KJ, Soyer HP, Sturm RA. *Dermatology.* 2017 May 3. DOI: 10.1159/000468538.
- The **2017 CRE Scientific Meeting** was held on Friday 19th May at the TRI. This provided an opportunity for the CRE team to come together for detailed updates on progress across the CRE Core Study, Programs I and III, and the Consumer Forums. This meeting resulted in spirited team discussions of the CRE’s research.

- In 2017 there have already been several **Conference Presentations** that can be attributed to the CRE including at the Australia-Singapore Partnership in Skin Cancer Biology Conference, the 50th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australasian College of Dermatologists, and the 2017 Australasian Society for Dermatology Research (ASDR) Conference. Details can be found on the Presentations page of the CRE website <https://naevi.centre.uq.edu.au/presentations> under the Outcomes/Results heading.
- The CRE hosted **Dr Brian D'Alessandro, Image Analysis Research Scientist from Canfield Scientific**, USA, from the 24th – 28th April. He represented Canfield Scientific, manufacturer of the WB360 Vectra Imaging System which is used for all CRE participants imaging. He interacted extensively with the CRE team, providing his expertise in relation to the Vectra, software utilisation and image analysis. Brian also gave a presentation at the TRI on Thursday 27th April, '3D Whole Body Imaging, Lesion Mapping, and Lesion Analysis using the Vectra WB360 System' which gave details on the new commercial Vectra system, its' software updates and improvements, and utility for research.
- The **Core Study** (also called the **Mind your Moles Study**) commenced the 6 month follow-up visits of the 200 recruited participants in early June. To date 60 participants have attended their 6 month follow-up imaging appointment, with the remainder scheduled to occur by mid-October. DNA has been extracted from half of the collected saliva samples and is expected to be completed within the next couple of months.
- **Program I: Genetics and Epidemiology of Naevi** has recently undergone a data quality review due to the large number of participants enrolled in the study. A random 10% double data entry from the participant sun behaviour questionnaire was conducted to validate data entry accuracy, and showed a very low overall error rate. Of the 1344+ participants enrolled since 2011, 1254 have completed sun behaviour questionnaires and imaging data recorded. The majority of these 1254 participants also have a range of additional data collected (iris images, skin spectrophotometer readings etc) which will be valuable for ongoing analysis and evaluation. Numerous research outputs are anticipated from Program I 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, 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** will cease recruitment at the end of July. A total of 55 advanced melanoma patients have been recruited and are at various stages of the study: 36 have had baseline imaging, 18 have had 4 month follow-up imaging, and 6 have had 8 month follow-up imaging.
Recruitment for the control participants, who have a personal or family history of melanoma, has now reached 113 participants who are at various stages of the study: 97 have had baseline imaging, 59 have had 4 month follow-up imaging, 21 have had 8 month follow-up imaging, and 2 have had 12 month follow-up imaging.