

Centre of Research Excellence for the Study of Naevi



Naevus CRE Update – 18 December 2017

Upcoming CRE Events

- **2018 Scientific Meeting** will occur in mid-2018 (May/June), providing an update of the CRE research programs. Further information will be provided in the first quarter of 2018.
- **2018 Consumer Forums** – the first consumer forum for 2018 is expected to coincide with the CRE Scientific Meeting and have a genomics focus. Further information will be provided in the first quarter of 2018.
- **The 2018 CRE Researcher in Residence** will be Professor Rainer Hofmann-Wellenhof, Professor of Dermatology at the Department of Dermatology, Medical University of Graz, Austria. He will visit Brisbane in August 2018, and further details will be provided next year.

CRE News and Progress

- There are several **new CRE publications** arising from the Core Study, Program I and Program III. Please refer to the [CRE website Publications page](#) for details.
- Research from the CRE has resulted in numerous **Conference Presentations** in 2017, most recently at the 23rd International Pigment Cell Conference (IPCC), Denver, Colorado, USA; and the 9th World Congress of Melanoma (joint meeting with the Society for Melanoma Research), Brisbane, Australia. Details can be found on the [CRE website Presentations page](#).
- We recently received the **new commercial version of the VECTRA WB360 3D Total Body Imaging System**, installed at the Translational Research Institute Clinical Research Facility in October 2017. This commercial version, replacing our prototype model, had double the number of cameras as well as the ability to take polarised images. This technology is integral to the CRE research program and our study participants are now being transitioned to the new system for their imaging appointments. Click [HERE](#) to view the CRE website news story.
- The **Core Study (Mind your Moles Study)** recently commenced 12 month follow-up visits of the 200 recruited participants. The 6 month visits have nearly been completed. 46 participants have attended their 12 month follow-up imaging appointment, with the remainder scheduled to occur by mid-2018. DNA has been extracted from all of the collected saliva samples.
- **Program I: Genetics and Epidemiology of Naevi** is currently focusing on data analysis and research outputs, with several publications during 2017 and more planned in 2018. Of the 1254 participants, 1233 had usable saliva samples, and we now have Core Exome sequencing results for all 1233.

- **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 (during mid-late 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** ceased recruitment at the end of July 2017. In our advanced melanoma patient case group, 45 participants have completed their baseline imaging, 32 their 4 month follow-up imaging, 12 their 8 month follow-up imaging, and 6 their final 12 month follow-up imaging. In our control group (with a personal or family history of melanoma), 107 participants have completed their baseline imaging, 74 their 4 month follow-up imaging, 61 their 8 month follow-up imaging, and 28 their final 12 month follow-up imaging.
- **Research Opportunities** currently exist within the CRE for a Postdoctoral researcher and a PhD student. For further details click [HERE](#).
- **The 2017 CRE Researcher in Residence, Professor Allan Halpern**, visited 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, with a special interest in the roles of naevi as precursors and risk factors for melanoma. During his visit Prof Halpern interacted with the CRE team and visited the Translational Research Institute (TRI).
- **2017 CRE Consumer Forum 3** was held on Wed 18th October at Cancer Council Queensland. Professor Allan Halpern, the 2017 CRE Researcher in Residence, led the discussion on the topic of "Algorithms and robots, will they play a role in melanoma early detection". Further details can be found on the [CRE website Consumer Forum page](#), including a Consumer Reflections summary.
- The **9th World Congress of Melanoma** held in Brisbane from 18th- 21st October 2017 was a key event for 2017, involving unique opportunities for networking, presentations from the CRE team, as well as associated Medical Journal of Australia publications by CRE CI's (Volume 207, Issue 8 – 16 October 2017) - [Whither Melanoma in Australia](#) (Editorial by Smithers BM, Dunn J and Soyer HP), [Automated diagnosis of melanoma](#) (Letter by Janda M and Soyer HP).
- Introducing **Dr Anthony Raphael**, a Postdoctoral researcher associated with the CRE Core Study, who has a focus on the use of imaging technologies/approaches in preventative personalised medicine for skin cancer. Click [HERE](#) to view Dr Raphael's profile.
- Introducing the **CRE Clinical Research Assistants** ([Dr Antonia Laino](#) and [Dr Jenna Rayner](#) continuing into 2018) who provide an important clinician perspective for participant imaging, tissue collection, and subsequent lesion review and follow-up procedures of the CRE research programs.