

Centre of Research Excellence for the Study of Naevi



Naevus CRE Update – 30 August 2018

Upcoming CRE Events

- [2018 Researcher Forum](#) will occur on Wednesday 19th September 2018, 1 - 5pm at the Translational Research Institute (TRI), providing an update on the CRE research programs.
- [2018 Consumer Forum](#) will occur on Wednesday 19th September 2018, 10am - 12:00pm, Room 2007 at the TRI. This forum will focus on **Melanoma Genomics** and its impact on research and also to the future of treatment and early detection of melanoma.

CRE News and Progress

- **The 2018 CRE Researcher in Residence** was Professor Rainer Hofmann-Wellenhof, Professor of Dermatology, Department of Dermatology, Medical University of Graz, Austria, who visited Brisbane from the 20th to 24th August. During his visit Rainer was involved in image review and lesion classification, research discussions and mentoring sessions, and presented a seminar entitled "The concept of large acquired nevus" at the TRI.
- **Donation of naevus samples for research.** As part of the CRE studies, participants are asked to consider donating one or two of their naevi, which will undergo routine histopathological assessment and additional molecular biology work-up for research purposes. This naevus sample collection commenced in 2018, and to date we have collected 3 samples from Core Study participants and 27 samples from Program III participants.
- **Referrals for lesions of concern.** During a 3D imaging visit, all naevi >5mm in size also undergo dermoscopic imaging which link to the 3D total body avatar. These images undergo a process of lesion review, where our clinical research assistants identify any changed or potentially suspicious lesions for further assessment by our Chief Investigator dermatologists Prof Soyer and A/Prof Schaidler. Any lesions of concern are then referred to the participants GP / dermatologist for follow-up. From the 6146 naevi over 5mm imaged to date, 268 lesions of concern were identified and referred. Of these, 27 have not been actioned with the remaining 241 being excised. The histopathological results from these excisions have indicated 9 melanoma, 4 squamous cell carcinoma, 54 basal cell carcinoma, 66 intraepidermal carcinoma/actinic keratosis, and 108 benign/other (eg solar keratosis).
- The **Core Study (Mind your Moles Study)** initially recruited 200 study participants. Currently 177 participants from the main cohort remain in the study. All of the 12 month follow-up visits and over 50% of the 18 month follow-up visits have been completed.

- **Program I: Genetics and Epidemiology of Naevi** is focusing on analysis of the imaging and genomic data collected from the 1254 participants. Currently one publication is in-press, another is submitted for review, with several in preparation.
- **Program II: Consumer Facilitated Naevi Monitoring** will utilise participants recruited as part of the CRE Core Study, and will commence from the end of September 2018 at their 24 month follow-up appointment. This will provide data building on the research already 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.** These participants undergo baseline imaging, with follow-up imaging every 4 months over 12 months. In our advanced melanoma patient group, 45 participants have completed their baseline imaging, 32 their 4 month imaging, 21 their 8 month imaging, and 18 their final 12 month imaging. In our control group (with a personal/family history of melanoma), 107 participants have completed their baseline imaging, 80 their 4 month imaging, 75 their 8 month imaging, and 64 their final 12 month imaging.
- CRE research continues to be presented at national and international Conferences, most recently at the 51st Annual Scientific Meeting of The Australasian College of Dermatologists and the World Congress on Cancers of the Skin. A complete list of **CRE Conference Presentations** can be found on the [CRE Presentations page](#).
- **A Melanoma Myth Buster campaign** is currently under development, with the intention of addressing many misconceptions on melanoma and skin cancer that have been encountered during the CRE Consumer Forums and via CRE study participants. This will be a social media campaign via the [CRE facebook page](#). Filming has taken place and the content is currently being refined ahead of release.
- **App development.** An App to engage the community in donating images of moles for research purposes is currently being developed by final year IT students. This is occurring within The University of Queensland's Studio 3 Course aimed at providing real life experience for students, who select a project and then design and build the software application over 2 semesters. The CRE team is looking forward to seeing the App concept that will be developed by the end of 2018.