

# Centre of Research Excellence for the Study of Naevi



## Naevus CRE Update – 28 May 2019

### Upcoming CRE Events

- **The 2019 [CRE Researcher in Residence](#)** is Associate Professor Samuel Smith, University of Leeds, who will be visiting the CRE during October. Dr Smith's specific interests include the psychological factors affecting chemoprevention use, cancer in high risk populations, lifestyle behaviour change, novel clinical trial designs, and cancer screening uptake. His academic background is in behavioural science and health psychology, and he uses a range of quantitative and qualitative methods within his research.
- **The 2019 CRE Consumer Forum and Researcher Forum** will both be held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019 in Room 2003 at the Translational Research Institute (TRI). The [Consumer Forum](#) will be led by Dr Smith, the CRE Researcher in Residence, from 10am - 12noon, with the [Researcher Forum](#) to be held from 12:30pm – 4pm.

### CRE News and Progress

- **The [Melanoma Screening Summit](#)** was held in Brisbane on the 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at the TRI, and was hosted by the [Australian Skin and Skin Cancer Research Centre \(ASSC\)](#). Several CRE Investigators (Prof Monika Janda, Prof Joanne Aitken, Prof Adele Green, Prof H. Peter Soyer) were on the Summit's Organising Committee, which had the aim of developing a unified approach to improve the early detection of melanoma. Day 1 brought together over 150 delegates including national and international experts, with [presentations](#) outlining the current evidence, emerging trends and dilemmas. Day 2 was a roundtable session facilitated by Prof Karen Canfell, Cancer Council NSW, with the aim of developing a consensus roadmap for optimising the early detection of melanoma in Australia. This session generated lively discussion which is currently being used to inform iteration of a consensus roadmap.
- **Dr Brian D'Alessandro**, Image Analysis Research Scientist, Canfield Scientific, visited Brisbane from 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Canfield Scientific are the manufacturer of the Vectra 3D WB360 Whole Body Imaging System used for participant imaging in the CRE Research Programs. Brian interacted with many of the CRE researchers during his visit, with detailed discussions occurring around the 3D imaging data collected to date. He also provided a fascinating insight into recent innovations in whole body imaging in a seminar held at the TRI on Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> April entitled 'Lesion Analysis, Lesion Tracking, and AI: Innovations in Whole Body Imaging'. The CRE team is keen to obtain the updated Vectra software, incorporating many of these innovations, when it is released by Canfield Scientific in the next few months.

- The **Core Study (Mind your Moles Study)** is now at the 30-month follow-up time point. Of the 10 pilot participants and 196 main study participants enrolled, 9 pilot participants and 169 main participants remain in the study. The Core Study is on track to complete all study visits by January-February 2020.
- **Program I: Genetics and Epidemiology of Naevi** is focusing on analysis of the imaging and genomic data collected from the 1254 participants. There have been 2 publications from this Program in 2019 to date (Rayner et al, 2019; Duffy et al, 2019), with another 3 publications over previous years (McWhirter et al, 2017; Daley et al, 2017; Laino et al, 2018).
- **Program II: Consumer Facilitated Naevi Monitoring** is enrolling participants recruited as part of the CRE Core Study, and officially commenced at the end of September 2018. Due to the limited number of mobile dermatoscopes (*Handyscope*), this study is conducted in 2 waves. 21 participants were enrolled in the first wave and monitored 2 clinician-identified lesions located on easy-to-see body areas. The second wave has just commenced. Participants enrolled in this second wave will be asked to monitor 2 clinician-identified lesions on difficult-to-see body areas. The data from Program II will build and compliment 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.** This Program includes a case group (advanced melanoma patients) and a control group (with a personal/family history of melanoma), with participants attending baseline imaging (0 months), and follow-up imaging at 4 months, 8 months and 12 months. All imaging appointments have been completed and data analysis is ongoing. Numerous research outputs, following on from 2 case reports (Thomas et al, 2017; Laino et al, 2018), are expected in 2019.
- There have been several **CRE publications** since the last CRE Update, primarily from Program I, and links to all CRE articles can be found on the [CRE Publications page](#).
- CRE research continues to be presented and a complete list of **CRE Conference Presentations** can be found on the [CRE Presentations page](#). Several presentations were given at the recent Australasian College of Dermatologists 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting, where Prof H. Peter Soyer was also awarded the Belisario Award for Academic Dermatology; and the 2019 Australasian Society for Dermatology Research Conference.
- **Welcome to our 2019 Clinical Research Assistants.** The CRE has three clinical research assistants in 2019, Dr Alison Bullen, Dr Mitchell Robinson, and Dr Harrison Edwards. They provide an important clinical perspective to research participant imaging appointments and the subsequent lesion review process.
- **A CRE Instagram account**, Mind Your Moles, has recently been established with the aim of raising skin cancer awareness for younger Australians, aged 18-40.
- **The CRE Melanoma Myth Buster campaign** was launched on the [CRE Mind Your Moles Facebook Page](#) in late November 2018 and can also be found on the [For Consumers page](#) on the CRE website. These six [Melanoma Myth Buster videos](#) address misconceptions encountered by CRE researchers during consumer forums and research study participant visits.