

Centre of Research Excellence for the Study of Naevi



Naevus CRE Update – 18 Dec 2019

Upcoming CRE Events

- The [ASSC Sun Exposure Summit](#), hosted by The Australian Skin and Skin Cancer Research Centre (ASSC), will be held at QIMRB Berghofer Medical Research Institute on Monday 16th March 2020. This Summit will review the latest evidence on both the benefits and risks associated with sun exposure. It aims to determine if current Australian and New Zealand policies are optimal for health, and how to most effectively communicate a balanced message about sun exposure risks and benefits to the wider community. CRE Chief Investigator Professor Monika Janda is part of this Summit's Organising Committee.
This Sun Exposure Summit follows two previous and highly successful Summits: the 2018 [Sunscreen Summit](#) and the 2019 [Melanoma Screening Summit](#).

CRE News and Progress

- The **2019 CRE Researcher in Residence** was Associate Professor Samuel Smith from the University of Leeds, who visited the CRE from the 30th September until the 8th November 2019. Sam's academic background is in behavioural science and health psychology, and his research interests include the psychological factors affecting chemoprevention use, cancer in high risk populations, lifestyle behaviour change and cancer screening uptake. During his visit Sam interacted extensively with the CRE research team, was actively involved in the CRE Consumer Forum, and gave a presentation 'Applying psychological science to solving problems in cancer prevention' at the Global Advances and Controversies in Skin Cancer 2019 Conference at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre on 11th Oct 2019. Several opportunities for collaborative research are currently under development.
- The **2019 CRE Consumer Forum** with the topic of 'Cancer prevention: what has psychology got to do with it?' was held on 16th October 2019. This forum was well attended by 60 delegates, many of whom are involved as participants in our clinical research studies. CRE Researcher in Residence A/Prof Sam Smith gave the forums' main presentation, which was followed by an animated discussion between the consumers and the research team. A summary of this forum can be found at [CRE Consumer Forum Reflections](#), along with similar summaries from our previous consumer forums.
- The **2019 CRE Researcher Forum** was held on the 16th October 2019 and included updates and overviews for all of the CRE research programs. [View the event program](#).
- The **Melanoma Screening Summit**, hosted by the Australian Skin and Skin Cancer Research Centre was held in March 2019. A [meeting report](#) from the Summit is now available online, and a report of consensus statements from the meeting has been submitted for publication.

- The **Core Study (Mind your Moles Study)** is now at the final, 36-month follow-up time point. Nearly 75% of the participants have completed this visit and the study is on track to complete all final 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 an additional 3 publications since the previous CRE update, with 5 publications from this Program in 2019.
- **Program II: Consumer Facilitated Naevi Monitoring** is enrolling participants recruited as part of the CRE Core Study and commenced in late 2018. Due to the limited number of mobile dermatoscopes (*Handyscope*), this program is conducted in 2 waves. The first wave has been completed with 21 participants enrolled and asked to monitor 2 clinician-identified lesions located on easy-to-see body areas. The second wave commenced in mid-2019 and currently 13 participants are enrolled who are monitoring 2 clinician-identified lesions on difficult-to-see body areas.
- **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, with three manuscripts currently under preparation.
- **Health Hack** was a weekend event attended by CRE researchers in September, that brings members of the community, researchers and healthcare professionals together with software developers, engineers and designers to provide innovative solutions to current health problems. Health Hack resulted in development of a prototype 'donate-a-mole' App to gather photos of moles, and their body location, with the aim of identifying melanoma 'hotspots' and to increase overall skin cancer awareness within the community. Further development of the App will be explored in early 2020.
- 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 international conferences including the 16th International Congress of the Society for Melanoma Research (20th – 23rd November 2019, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA), and nationally at the 2019 Australasian Society for Dermatology Research Conference (16th - 17th May 2019, Melbourne); the 52nd Australasian College of Dermatologists Annual Scientific Meeting (18th - 21st May 2019, Melbourne), where Prof H. Peter Soyer was also awarded the Belisario Award for Academic Dermatology; and the ASSC Annual Scientific Meeting (11th October 2019, Brisbane).
- A [Mind Your Moles Instagram](#) account has been established to complement other social media activities carried out by the Centre, through the Mind Your Moles [Facebook page](#) and [CRE Twitter account](#), and with the aim of raising skin cancer awareness for younger Australians, aged 18-40. During Skin Cancer Action Week, 17 to 23 November, Mind Your Moles, the social media team ran extra awareness posts, and promoted sun safety with a display at the Translational Research Institute.