Aus-CanPCRA Greetings

Welcome from the Director

On behalf of the Australian-Canadian Prostate Cancer Research Alliance I would like to welcome you to an exciting program for the 2012 Symposium, proudly supported by the Queensland Government National and International Research Alliance Program, Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Queensland, Prostate Cancer Canada and Movember.

This year, in the spirit of collaboration, we have asked experts from both countries to develop engaging, interactive and discussion based sessions around some key themes in prostate cancer research.

The Symposium hopes to bring together a wealth of knowledge, expertise, ideas and resources, in a format that engenders participation and stimulates exchange within the prostate cancer research communities across both continents; with the goal of advancing translational outcomes.

Your contribution is invaluable to building the strength of this exciting and growing network and I look forward to your continued involvement with the Australian-Canadian Prostate Cancer Research Alliance!

Best wishes,

Professor Colleen Coyne Nelson
Director
Australian-Canadian Prostate Cancer Research Alliance

The Aus-CanPCRA Coordinators
Kathryn Arthy – Australian Coordinator
Kathleen Barilla – Canadian Coordinator

For detailed information on the Australian-Canadian Prostate Cancer Research Alliance please visit the Aus-CanPCRA website - www.aus-canprostatealliance.org

Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre Queensland

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Acknowledgements

The Australian-Canadian Prostate Cancer Research Alliance and its Symposium are supported by the generosity of the following organisations:

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2012 Symposium Program at a glance

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8:00am – 9:00am		Poster Setup Daydream Island Room		
9:00am – 9:15am		Welcome Great Barrier Reef Room		
9:15am – 10:00am		Session 1: Targeting of the Androgen Receptor by novel approaches Great Barrier Reef Room	Session 7: The cutting edge of molecular pathology and drug discovery Great Barrier Reef Room	Session 13: New programs and funding opportunities – Movember Australian Survivorship Action Partnership and Global Action Plan and Prostate Cancer Canada Great Barrier Reef Room
10:00am – 10:45am		Session 2: Functions of the Androgen Receptor, androgens and anti-androgens Great Barrier Reef Room	Session 8: Provocative stress and RNA binding and DNA repair pathways to target Great Barrier Reef Room	
10:45am – 11:15am		Morning Tea Break Daydream Island Room	Morning Tea Break Daydream Island Room	Symposium concludes with Morning Tea Takeaway lunch provided for all delegates Daydream Island Room
11:15am – 12:00pm		Session 3: Things we don't think about: Challenging the dogma Great Barrier Reef Room	Session 9: Targeting metabolic pathways in advanced prostate cancer Great Barrier Reef Room	
12:00pm – 2:00pm	Symposium Registration Resort Reception Poster Set-up Daydream Island Room	Lunch & Poster Session Daydream Island Room	Lunch & Poster Session Daydream Island Room	
2:00pm – 2:45pm		Session 4: Making sense of the data: Bioinformatics – exploring the genome and data integration Great Barrier Reef Room	Session 10: Modelling prostate cancer – primary human xenografts, tissue organ culture, 3D-engineered models of bone matrices Great Barrier Reef Room	
2:45pm – 3:30pm		Session 5: Advanced imaging for preclinical development and clinical detection and therapeutic response Great Barrier Reef Room	Session 11: Preclinical development of new therapeutics Great Barrier Reef Room	
3:30pm – 4:00pm		Afternoon Tea Break Daydream Island Room	Afternoon Tea Daydream Island Room	
4:00pm – 4:45pm		Session 6: Assessing disease and treatment response from the circulation Great Barrier Reef Room	Session 12: Patterns of practice and care in prostate cancer and the associated health economics Great Barrier Reef Room	
6:00pm – 10:00pm	Welcome Dinner Sunlover's Terrace	Dinner Waterfalls Restaurant	Farewell Dinner Open Air Cinema	

Session 1: Targeting of the Androgen Receptor by novel approaches

9:15 – 10:00am

Chair

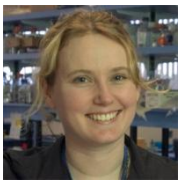
Paul Rennie
Director, Laboratory Research
Vancouver Prostate Centre
University of British Columbia

Identification of Novel Antagonists that Target Androgen Receptor Surface Sites

Speakers

Tanya Day
Research Fellow
Dame Roma Mitchell Cancer Research Centre
University of Adelaide

Deregulated androgen receptor signalling and the N-terminal domain



Lisa Butler
Senior Research Fellow, Medicine
Dame Roma Mitchell Cancer Research Centre
University of Adelaide

Targeting Hsp90-dependent maturation of the androgen receptor

Jennifer Bishop
Postdoctoral Fellow
Vancouver Prostate Centre
University of British Columbia

Combination therapy using lapatinib and MDV3100 to treat EGRF/Her2 mediated anti-androgen resistance in castration-resistant prostate cancer

Saturday 14 April 2012

Session 2: Functions of the Androgen Receptor, androgens and anti-androgens

10:00 – 10:45am

Chair

Colleen Nelson
Executive Director
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Queensland
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology
Androgens and anti-androgens don't operate as light switch – changing states during therapy

Speakers

Martin Sadowski
Research Fellow
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre - Queensland
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology
Androgen – a double agent of prostate cancer?

Grant Buchanan
Head, Molecular Ageing Laboratory
Basil Hetzel Institute for Translational Research
University of Adelaide

Androgen receptor networks in prostatic fibroblasts

Mitchell Lawrence
Postdoctoral Fellow
Department of Anatomy and Developmental Biology
Monash University

Targeting Tumour Stroma without AR

Session 3: Things we don't think about: Challenging the dogma

11:15 – 12:00pm

Chair

Ralph Buttyan
Senior Scientist
Vancouver Prostate Centre
University of British Columbia

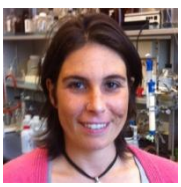
An Unbiased Screen Reveals and Unexpected Role for an Understudied Cell Structure in AR Activity

Speakers

Michelle Liberio
PhD Candidate
Eskitis Institute for Molecular and Cell Therapies
Griffith University

Like barnacles on a boat: Optimizing LNCaP cell culture for screening, attachment and cell behaviour

Anja Rockstroh
Research Fellow
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Queensland
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology
Cell density – tales of mystery and imagination



Barbara Lelj Garolla Di Bard
Research Associate
Department of Urology, Vancouver Prostate Centre
University of British Columbia

Using protein biophysical properties to design effective drug screening assays for the molecular chaperones HspB1

Session 4: Making sense of the data: Bioinformatics – exploring the genome and data integration

2:00 – 2:45pm

Chair

Melanie Lehman
Research Fellow
Vancouver Prostate Centre, University of British Columbia
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Queensland
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, Queensland University of Technology
Genes and Genomic Complexity

Speakers

Marcel Dinger
NHMRC Research Fellow, Group Leader
Cancer Genomics and Transcriptomics Group,
Diamantina Institute for Cancer, Immunology and Metabolic Medicine
University of Queensland
Leave no base unturned: Understanding human development and disease through an integrated analysis of gene regulatory architecture

Paul Boutros
Principal Investigator
Informatics & Biocomputing Platform
Ontario Institute for Cancer Research

The Genomic Complexity of Prostate Cancer – And The Complexity of Finding It

Jacques Lapointe
Assistant Professor
Department of Surgery, Division of Urology
McGill University

Prostate cancer: from the microarray data to biomarkers and biological insights

Session 5: Advanced imaging for preclinical development and clinical detection and therapeutic response

2:45 – 3:30pm

Chair

Pamela Russell
Head of Biomedical Imaging and Prostate Cancer Models
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Queensland
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology
Improving Magnetic Resonance imaging strategies using nanoparticles

Speakers

Elizabeth Williams
Laboratory Head, Cancer Metastasis
Monash Institute of Medical Research
Monash University

Optical Imaging

Jason Dowling
Research Scientist, Biomedical Imaging
Australian E-Health Research Centre
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

3D anatomical models for MRI-alone prostate radiation therapy

Session 6: Assessing disease and treatment response from the circulation

4:00 – 4:45pm

Chair

Bharati Bapat
Professor
Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute, Mt Sinai Hospital
Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology
University of Toronto
Correlation of ERG expression and DNA methylation biomarkers with adverse clinicopathological features of prostate cancer

Speakers

Carolina Soekmadji
Research Fellow
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Queensland
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology
Exosome biomarkers for castrate resistance and drug resistance prostate cancer

Jyotsna Batra
Research Fellow
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Queensland
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology
Follow up genome wide association studies in prostate cancer risk and prognosis

Chris Hovens
Scientific Director
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre Epworth, Victoria

Prognostic role of circulating cells in prostate cancer recurrence post surgery

Session 7: The cutting edge of molecular pathology and drug discovery

9:15 – 10:00am

Chair

Tarek Bismar
Associate Professor, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Oncology, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
University of Calgary

Developing molecular signatures for aggressive and indolent prostate cancer

Speakers

Ladan Fazli
Research Pathologist, Urologic Sciences
Vancouver Prostate Centre

Gleason grading agreement between Urologic Pathologists in Active Surveillance Clinical Trial highlights problematic patterns for differentiating grade 3 from grade 4

Michael Kerger
Urological Biorepository and Data Manager
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre Epworth, Victoria

Profile of the Urological Biorepository: Australian Prostate Cancer Research, Victoria

Ron Quinn
Director
Eskitis Institute for Cell and Molecular Therapies
Griffith University

Multiple Approaches to New Prostate Cancer Drugs: Direct Inhibitors and Synthetic Lethal Screening using Nature Bank

Session 8: Provocative stress and RNA binding and DNA repair pathways to target

10:00 – 10:45am

Chair

Luc Furic
Research Fellow
Department of Anatomy and Development Biology
Monash University

Targeting survival signalling in prostate cancer

Speakers

Derek Richard
Head of Genomic Stability Laboratory
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology

The role of hSSB1 in maintaining genome stability

Anja Rockstroh
Research Fellow
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Queensland
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology
YB-1 – a regulator of cancer progression to castrate resistance?

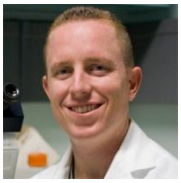
Thomas Cordonnier
Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Vancouver Prostate Centre

Hsp27 is an Important Regulator of Epithelial to Mesenchymal Transition in Prostate Cancer

Session 9: Targeting metabolic pathways in advanced prostate cancer

11:15 – 12:00pm

Chair



Jeff Holst
Head, Origins of Cancer Laboratory
Centenary Institute

Coordinated control of amino acid uptake by multiple pathways in prostate cancer

Speakers

Amy Lubik
Research Fellow
Vancouver Prostate Centre

Insulin, IGF2 and ADT induced Metabolic syndrome: Pathways to prostate cancer progression

Sally Stephenson
Lecturer and Group Leader, Eph Receptor Biology Group
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology

Altered expression and cellular localisation of EphB4 in prostate cancer

Session 10: Modelling prostate cancer – primary human xenografts, tissue organ culture, 3D-engineered models of bone matrices

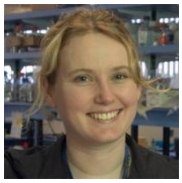
2:00 – 2:45pm

Chair

YZ Wang
Senior Scientist, Associate Professor
Vancouver Prostate Centre and British Columbia Cancer Agency
University of British Columbia

Lessons learned from modelling CRPC

Speakers



Lisa Butler
Senior Research Fellow, Medicine
Dame Roma Mitchell Cancer Research Laboratories
University of Adelaide

Ex vivo culture of human prostate tissues and its utility in translational research

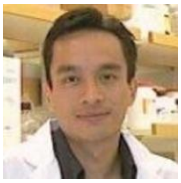
Dietmar Hutmacher
Professor and Chair of Regenerative Medicine
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Queensland
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology
Tumor Engineering Utilizing Tissue Engineering Principles

Brett Hollier
Senior Research Fellow
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Queensland
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology
Developing novel models for studying the role of EMT in Prostate Cancer Invasion and Metastasis

Session 11: Preclinical development of new therapeutics

2:45 – 3:30pm

Chair



Chris Ong
Senior Scientist
Vancouver Prostate Centre
University of British Columbia

Semaphorin 3C: a novel therapeutic target for treatment of advanced prostate cancer

Speakers

Kieran Scott
Honorary Senior Lecturer
St George Hospital Clinical School
University of New South Wales

Orally-active cyclic peptide PLA2 inhibitors

Jan Jongstra
Senior Scientist, Genetics and Development
University Health Network
Toronto Western Research Institute

PIM kinase inhibitors in combination therapies

Patrick Ling
Senior Research Fellow
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre - Queensland
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology
Palm oil-derived tocotrienol as the next generation anti-cancer vitamin E

Session 12: Patterns of practice and care in prostate cancer and the associated health economics

4:00 – 4:45pm

Chair

Tony Costello
Professorial Fellow & Head
Department of Urology, Royal Melbourne Hospital
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre Epworth, Victoria
Department of Surgery, University of Melbourne

Speakers

Addie Wootten
Director of Clinical and Allied Health Research
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre Epworth, Victoria

Psychosocial support for men with prostate cancer

Justin Keogh
Associate Professor
Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine
Bond University

Physical and Psychosocial Benefits of Physical Activity for Men with Prostate Cancer

Amol Wagholikar
Project Leader, Research Scientist
Australian e-Health Research Centre
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
A novel health economics model to simulate and improve advanced prostate cancer patterns of practice

Panel Discussants

Liz Hovey
Senior Staff Specialist, Medical Oncology, SESIAHS & UNSW
Prince of Wales Hospital

John Ramsay
Consultant Psychologist
Private Practice

Session 13: New programs and funding opportunities

9:15 – 10:45am

Chair

Colleen Nelson
Executive Director
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Queensland
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology

Speakers

Ruth Zeisler
Consul and Senior Trade Commissioner
Consulate General of Canada

Canadian Government, Australian-Canadian Opportunities from Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and Canadian Consulate

Stuart Edmonds
Senior Vice President, Research
Prostate Cancer Canada

Prostate Cancer Canada

Paul Villanti
Executive Director, Global Programs
Movember Foundation

Movember Survivorship Action Partnership

Mark Buzza
Global Research Program Manager
Movember Foundation

Movember Global Action Plan

Dr Manuel Altamirano-Dimas
Research Fellow
Vancouver Prostate Centre
University of British Columbia

Dr Altamirano-Dimas is a Research Fellow at Dr Michael E. Cox's laboratory, performing bioinformatics analysis in several studies. They are assessing, in collaboration with colleagues from Antisence Therapeutics, Australia, the use of antisense therapeutic modalities targeting the insulin-like growth factor (IGF) axis, to assess how these agents impact growth and survival signalling in androgen-dependent and CRPC models.

Dr Altamirano-Dimas has helped Dr Cox's team to develop a panel of lineage-matched non-transformed and ERG-transformed prostatic epithelial cell lines. They are testing the hypothesis that aberrant ERG expression consistently reprograms gene expression patterns in prostatic epithelial cells, causing transformation, accelerated growth, invasion, and enhanced metastatic potential, and assessing, in normal prostate epithelial cells, how ERG induces expression of stem cells throw epigenetic modifications that result in genetic changes leading to down regulation of tumour suppressor genes. The modified system has neoplastic characteristics, including cell proliferation and invasion and is associated with alterations in androgen receptor signalling. These studies will set the benchmark for understanding how ERG causes prostate cancer and identify diagnostic and therapeutic targets.

Dr Jiyuan An
Research Fellow
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Queensland
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology

Dr An received his PhD and Masters degree in computer science from University of Tsukuba and Kyushu Institute of Technology, Japan. In his current role, he is engaged in discovering significant non-coding genes from microarray and sequencing data. He also creates mathematical models for biological data, and finds the most suitable parameters for the models.

Dr An and his colleagues recently focussed on the high rate of false positive rates in current miRNA target prediction tools. This renders identification of co-regulating groups of miRNAs and target genes unreliable. They devised a procedure to identify highly probable co-regulating miRNAs, and the corresponding co-regulated gene groups, using a sequence of statistical tests to: (1) identify genes that are highly probable miRNA targets; (2) determine for each gene, the minimum number of miRNAs that co-regulate it with high probability; (3) find, for each gene, the combination of the determined minimum size of miRNAs that co-regulate it with the lowest p-value; and (4) discover for each such combination of miRNAs, the group of genes that are co-regulated by these miRNAs with the lowest p-value computed based on GO term annotations of the genes.

Prof Bharati Bapat
Professor, Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute
Mt Sinai Hospital
Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology
University of Toronto

Prof Bapat's research focuses on uncovering the causes of colorectal, bladder and prostate cancer by taking an "epigenetic" approach. The field of epigenetics examines changes in gene function that do not disrupt the underlying DNA sequence, but are, instead, a reversible change. Her lab is working towards the identification and functional analysis of molecular markers of cancer predisposition and developments, and their association with clinical manifestations of the disease.

DNA methylation is a naturally occurring process that can cause an impermanent change in a gene. Each tumour is expected to have its own unique signature of DNA methylation. By studying changes in DNA methylation, Prof Bapat aims to discover novel cancer therapies.

One of Prof Bapat's new projects involves the use of an innovative profiling technique to screen the genomes of prostate cancer patients at various stages of progression. This process will reveal genetic markers to help pathologists, oncologists and urologists better understand a patient's prognosis, and ultimately determine optimal treatment on a case-by-case basis. She is also working on the development of non-invasive diagnostic tests for cancers.

Dr Jyotsna Batra
Research Fellow
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre - Queensland
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology

Over the past three years, Dr Batra has been applying her knowledge on asthma genetics to prostate and ovarian cancers. Studying the genetic variation in Kallikrein genes has been a major focus for her current postdoctoral fellowship.

In addition to researching the relevant literature and experimental design, Dr Batra is responsible for in-house DNA quality control, selection and prioritization of KLK genetic variants, establishment of a genetic database, optimization of Massarray sequenom and other polymorphism detection systems and setting up and maintaining the national and international collaborations. Recent collaborative research has lead to a publication in Nature Genetics.

Mrs Jenny Bazov
Head of Clinical and Therapeutic Development Laboratory
Vancouver Prostate Centre
University of British Columbia

Ms Bazov received her Masters degree in 1999 from Jerusalem, Hebrew University and has been a Research Assistant since 2002.

Currently she works as a Research Assistant with Drs. Martin Gleave and Kim Chi at the Vancouver Prostate Centre. Her research is focussed on the biology of prostate cancer circulating tumour cells (CTCs), including their enumeration, molecular characterization and downstream analysis.

Ms Bazov also works on the identification of new reliable bio-markers, improvement of patients' stratification, monitoring of therapy response and indentification of new potential therapeutic targets.

Dr Jennifer Bishop
Postdoctoral Fellow
Vancouver Prostate Centre
University of British Columbia

Having extensively studied the role of the SRC family kinase Lyn in regulation of innate immune responses and inflammation, Dr Bishop has developed a keen interest in the role these regulators play in cellular function during homeostasis and disease. The way Lyn functions in hematopoietic cells has been delineated; however, its role in tumour cells is poorly defined. Because Lyn is commonly up-regulated in many malignancies, including prostate cancer, and SRC kinase inhibitors are used in the clinic, it is critical to uncover how Lyn regulates tumor biology.

Using her knowledge of Lyn signalling in an immune context, Dr Bishop is interested in understanding the role of Lyn in tumours during the progression of prostate cancer, especially its role in epithelial to mesenchymal transition. This will build on other projects investigating the role of Lyn in androgen receptor activity in prostate tumour cells. In addition, as her work on inflammation has highlighted, the cytokine/growth factor milieu dictates not only epithelial and immune cell responses during disease, but also their phenotypes. Dr Bishop is particularly interested in how an androgen deficient microenvironment in models of castration resistant prostate cancer affects: 1) the development of anti-androgen drug resistance, 2) the secretion of cytokines from tumour and stromal cells that affect tumour EMT and the inflammatory response of tumour infiltrating immune cells, and 3) the frequency and dissemination of prostate cancer stem cells.

Dr Tarek Bismar
Associate Professor, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Oncology, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
University of Calgary

Dr Bismar completed his medical studies in Syria, where he received his MD from Damascus University. He continued his postgraduate education at several US universities, including Washington University-St. Louis, Wayne State University in Michigan and Harvard University in Massachusetts. Dr Bismar specialized in pathology at Washington University in St. Louis. During his studies, he decided to continue his training in urological pathology and start his own prostate cancer research program. His research interests include; pathology; oncology; biomarkers; gene expression; proteomics; aCGH and FISH.

In addition to Dr Bismar's research role, he also supervises two post-doctorate candidates in the field of pathology. Dr Bismar has also received the PCF Young Investigator Award, and the Junior I Scientist Award from the Fonds de la Recherche en Santé du Québec. His work can be found in 38 publications and book chapters. He is also a reviewer for scientific journals such as Cancer Research, Clinical Cancer Research and Cancer.

Dr Paul Boutros
Principal Investigator, Informatics & Computing Platform
Ontario Institute for Cancer Research
Associate Professor, Department of Medical Biophysics
University of Toronto

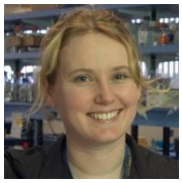
Dr. Paul Boutros pursued his undergraduate education in Chemical Engineering and Chemistry at the University of Waterloo. During the co-op portion of his degree, he worked for a wide range of companies, including a water-purification company, Petro-Canada, and the Federal Government. He found his true calling during a work-term spent at Michigan State University developing computer models of drug response. His undergraduate thesis focused on modelling DNA damage, and he was awarded First Place in the National Undergraduate Chemistry Conference. In 2004, Paul started his PhD at the Ontario Cancer Institute in Toronto. During his degree he received several awards, including the CIHR/Next Generation First Prize and the Invitrogen Canada Young Investigator Silver Award. He received his PhD in 2008 for his work on cancer biomarkers, and started his independent research career with an appointment at the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research.

His research group now focuses on using new DNA sequencing technologies to improve diagnosis and treatment of prostate cancer. In particular, Dr. Boutros is involved with the Canadian Prostate Cancer Genome Network (CPC-GENE), a national Outcomes-Based project focusing on developing biomarkers to predict which intermediate-risk prostate cancer patients will suffer relapse, and which can safely be placed on active surveillance protocols. He also works on a number of experimental and algorithmic approaches to generating robust biomarkers, particularly in a minimal or non-invasive fashion, such as by using blood or urine.

Dr Grant Buchanan
Head, Molecular Ageing Laboratory
Basil Hetzel Institute for Translational Research
University of Adelaide

Dr Grant Buchanan completed his postdoctoral research in high-throughput technology and bioinformatics applied to cancer, at the University of Adelaide and the University of Southern California. His Molecular Ageing Laboratory Group, initiated in 2009 at the University of Adelaide, applies these skills to a deeper understanding of steroid receptors in the cancer microenvironment.

Specifically, Dr Buchanan's group examines how the co-ordinated action of steroid hormones in different compartments of the breast and prostate (e.g. stromal and epithelial cells) control the maintenance and homeostasis of these tissues. They are investigating how this control breaks down in cancer, ageing, and under conditions of hormone intervention. Techniques applied include: next-generation sequencing, bioinformatics, high-throughput transcriptional assays , chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP), ChIP-sequencing, expression microarray analysis, siRNA knockdown, drug screening, and novel animal models.



Dr Lisa Butler
Senior Research Fellow, Medicine
Dame Roma Mitchell Cancer Research Laboratories
University of Adelaide

Dr Lisa Butler is a Senior Research Fellow in the Dame Roma Mitchell Cancer Research Laboratories (DRMCRL) in Adelaide. She holds a Ph.D. in cancer biology from the University of Adelaide with postdoctoral training at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre in New York.

During her time at MSKCC, Dr Butler was the first to demonstrate that a new class of histone deacetylase inhibitors had potent biological activity against prostate tumours. This research initiated clinical trials for these agents in the USA, and since that time, the field of histone deacetylase inhibitors has expanded considerably, with major pharmaceutical companies now having development programs and over 10 agents in clinical trials.

Since 2002, she has worked in the DRMCRL at the University of Adelaide and Hanson Institute. Dr Butler's initial research here was supported by a postdoctoral research fellowship from the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. Subsequently, she was awarded a Florey Research Fellowship, and she currently holds a Senior Research Fellowship from Cancer Council SA.

Dr Butler currently heads a molecular therapeutics research group in the DRMCRL, which focuses on novel combinatorial approaches (e.g. using histone deacetylases inhibitors, heat shock protein-90 inhibitors, and molecular agents such as dominant negative receptors), to target androgen signalling therapeutically in prostate and breast cancer. She also has a strong interest in the development and utilisation of preclinical models of disease, including mouse models and human tissue explants.

Dr Ralph Buttyan
Senior Scientist, Vancouver Prostate Centre
Professor, Department of Urologic Sciences
University of British Columbia

Dr Ralph Buttyan, a Senior Scientist in the Vancouver Prostate Centre, has been involved in prostate cancer research for over 28 years. He recently joined the Prostate Centre from New York, USA, where he was Professor in Pathology and Urology at Columbia University as well as a Senior Scientist at the Ordway Research Institute. He is a Past-President of the Society of Urological Research and remains on the Executive Board.

Dr Buttyan's research interest lies in understanding the molecular and genetic changes that enable prostate cancer cells to acquire resistance to androgen ablation (hormone), and other types of therapies. More recently, his focus has turned to the role of developmental signaling pathways in therapeutic resistant prostate cancer. This new work supports the ideas that cell signaling pathways that guide normal embryonic development of the prostate gland are hijacked in prostate cancer cells and become linked to the processes that drive the abnormal growth of the cancer cells and their ability to metastasize to other tissues of the body. These abnormal embryonic signals appear to be also especially important for the acquisition of therapy resistance by prostate cancer. One potential benefit of this observation is the availability of contemporary drugs that selectively inhibit developmental signaling pathways, and Dr. Buttyan's goal is to pre-clinical test them as therapeutics for advanced prostate cancer.

Dr Mark Buzza
Global Research Program Manager
Movember Foundation, Australia

Dr Buzza is the Global Research Program Manager at the Movember Foundation, based in Australia, where he oversees a global cross-functional collaborative research initiative designed to realize synergies within the global prostate cancer research effort and expedite outcomes for the benefit of prostate cancer patients - part of Movember's Global Action Plan (GAP).

Before joining Movember, Dr Buzza held the position of Program Manager - Plasma Strategy at the Australian Red Cross Blood Service where he delivered a large multi-project, cross-functional program for the Blood Service Executive Leadership Team and Board focused on strategy development and business process improvement.

Prior to this, he was Management Consultant at Executive Compass where he performed market intelligence, developed new business models and implemented new strategic opportunities to ensure sustained business growth for a major global chemical company client.

As Development Manager, at Virax Holdings Ltd, he was responsible for the project/program management of the company's R&D pipeline. He played a key role in running Virax's pre-clinical and clinical programs in Australia, the US, Europe and South Africa. As a Clinical Research Associate at Servier Laboratories, he was responsible for managing up to 25 hospital research centres and 5 phase III clinical trials in Australia and NZ, across a range of therapeutic areas

Dr Karen Chambers
Research Assistant
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology

Dr Karen Chambers is a Senior Research Assistant in Prof. Judith Clements' Laboratory. Prior to her appointment at IHBI, she was a postdoctoral scientist at the University Of York, UK, where she was studying stromal to epithelial signalling in the prostate.

Since arriving in Australia she has been involved in developing 3D models of prostate cancer with a particular focus on stromal and epithelial interactions. These models will eventually be used to study the effects of kallikreins on prostate cancer progression.

Mr Seth Cheetham
Research Assistant
Diamantina Institute for Cancer Immunology and Metabolic Medicine
University of Queensland

Seth Cheetham is a research assistant within the Dinger Transcriptomics lab at the University of Queensland's Diamantina Institute. He works on the molecular mechanisms of non-coding RNA in directing epigenetic modification to specific genomic loci, with a focus on homeotic and cancer loci regulation.

This research entails the use of next generation sequencing to analyse the molecular phenotype of knock-down cell lines, and the use of ChIP-seq and Chromatin Isolation by RNA Purification (ChIRP) to study DNA-RNA-Protein interactions that underpin histone modification. These studies are focused on investigating the role of non-coding RNAs derived from embryonic and cancer loci in regulating gene expression to drive development and cancer metastasis.

He is also particularly interested in the use of RNA Capture-sequencing in re-examination of cancer-associated loci for novel coding and non-coding transcripts, which may contribute to tumourigenesis.

Dr Thomas Cordonnier
Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Vancouver Prostate Centre

Dr Cordonnier's work in the Vancouver Prostate Centre focuses on the mechanisms of epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition (EMT). More specifically his efforts are concentrated on the role of Hsp27 in EGF-induced EMT in prostate cancer.

The epidermal growth factor (EGF) and its associated receptor (EGFR) and also the heat shock protein 27 (Hsp27) are increased in castrate resistant prostate cancer, and this facilitates EMT. Dr Cordonnier and his team suggest that increased Hsp27 enhances EGF-induced EMT and thereby metastasis.

The aim of his work is to establish that Hsp27 is a central "node" for several signalling pathways known to modulate EMT. His research team is conducting a comprehensive analysis of in vitro and in vivo models to demonstrate that Hsp27 mediates EMT through EGF signalling pathways.

Professor Anthony Costello, MDFRACS
Professorial Fellow & Head
Department of Urology, Royal Melbourne Hospital
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre Epworth, Victoria
Department of Surgery, University of Melbourne

Professor Costello was the first urologist to use lasers to treat benign prostatic hyperplasia and has received international recognition in this field. The only Australian member of the prestigious American Association of Genitourinary Surgeons, he is also an invited member of the International Advisory Board of the Cleveland Clinic Urological Department.

He developed a novel biological treatment of hormonal refractory prostate cancer, which is being trialled in phase I treatment for men with hormonal refractory prostate cancer and soon will be the subject of a multicentre international trial, which should be a very significant advance in the treatment of prostate cancer.

In 2007, he established the Victorian Prostate Cancer Research Collaborative at The Royal Melbourne Hospital. He is also a national board member of the Australian Prostate Cancer Foundation.

Prof Costello has over 120 peer-reviewed published articles and five book chapters in press. He heads the largest robotic surgery program in Australia and is one of four urologists invited to teach the technique of robotic prostatectomy for prostate cancer surgery at the American Association of Urological Surgery Annual General Meeting.

Dr Simon Cowell
Biology Specialist
Western Region Lab
Health Canada

Dr Cowell is the project leader for the allergens and molecular biology group in the Western Regional Lab of Health Canada. His team works closely with the Food Directorate in the Ottawa on a variety of projects to support their mandate of managing the health-related risks and benefits of health products and food.

Dr Cowell's research group performs ELISA screening to collect data on the presence of allergens and other health hazards in food to support risk assessment and standard setting.

In addition, they develop methods for screening foods using DNA based technologies, such as PCR, and use cell culture to conduct some toxicology research. Their projects are conducted in collaboration with Health Product and Food scientists in Ottawa and other regions, as well as with other federal departments and academics in British Columbia.

Ms Sally Crittenden
Business Development Manager
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre Epworth, Victoria

Ms Crittenden's expertise is in fundraising, operations, and business development. She experience in the commercial and non-profit sectors, both in Australia and overseas.

In addition to her work for a number of organisations in the not-for-profit sector (including The Big Issue, Able Australia and National Breast Cancer Foundation) Ms Crittenden was involved in the Olivia Newton John Cancer Appeal at the Austin. She was also responsible for fundraising activity for the new cancer centre that opened in 2011.

Ms Crittenden spent more than ten years in the major event industry and was responsible for the operations at major events, including the 2006 Commonwealth Games, Australian Grand Prix, and the National Mothers Day Classic Breast Cancer Walk/Run.

Since 2010, Ms Crittenden has been involved in the development of Australian Prostate Cancer Research, a new national research organisation, launched in 2012, which partners with leading institutions to develop, fund, and deliver national prostate cancer research programs.

Ms Helen Crowe
Urology Research Nurse
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre Epworth, Victoria

Ms Crowe has been working in urology for over 18 years, and was instrumental in establishing urology nursing professional organisations in Australia. She is employed in a clinical role in a private urology practice, and at the Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre at Epworth as a research nurse.

She also has an honorary appointment to the Urology Department at The Royal Melbourne Hospital. Ms Crowe was the first urology nurse practitioner appointed in Australia. She has extensive urological clinical and research experience and has over 20 publications in peer-reviewed journals, primarily related to prostate cancer. She has also received numerous awards for her research presentations and publications.

Ms Crowe developed the post graduate urological nursing course for Australian Catholic University, and, in the same year, she developed and initiated the Prostate Cancer Risk Information Clinic at the Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre

Ms Crowe has performed the roles of Co-ordinator and Principal Investigator in numerous clinical trials, including, most recently, "*Delayed versus immediate exercise for men on androgen deprivation therapy"* and *"RAVES, early versus delayed radiotherapy in high risk patients".*

Among her many honours and awards are the ANZUNS 16th Annual Meeting Best Paper Award "*Male catheterisation: Still a taboo practice?*" (2010), Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia Nursing Conference Grant (2010) and the Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates Catherine-Ann Lawrence Literary Excellence Award (2004).

Dr Padraig Daly
Fellow, Urology &Transplant
Princess Alexandra Hospital

Dr. Daly is currently based in the Princess Alexandra Hospital as the Laproscopic Donor Fellow.
He is originally from Ireland where he completed a 6 year urological surgical training. He also worked during this time with Prof. Willaim Watson in the Conway Institute, UCD, to achieve a Masters in Surgery.

He has been awarded the Anthony Walsh Travelling Fellowship to pursue an interest in minimally invasive surgery.

His main areas of interest are urological surgical oncology and transplantation.

Dr Tanya Day
Research Fellow, Medicine
Dame Roma Mitchell Cancer Research Centre
University of Adelaide

Tanya undertook her studies for a Bachelor of Biotechnology (Hons) at Flinders University, where she also subsequently completed her PhD in Radiation / Molecular Biology. Her PhD involved investigating the molecular changes that occur as a result of radiation-induced DNA damage, and the relevance of these changes to the development of cancer. Studies performed as part of Tanya's PhD made significant contributions to the field of low dose radiation research.

Tanya's first postdoctoral period was spent at The Prostate Centre at Vancouver General Hospital, with Professor Martin Gleave, investigating the pro-and anti-apoptotic role of clusterin splice variants in prostate cancer.

Tanya now works with Professor Wayne Tilley at the Dame Roma Mitchell Cancer Research Centre at Adelaide University, investigating the role of aberrant AR-signalling in modifying gene expression in prostate cancer development.

Dr Marcel Dinger
NHMRC Research Fellow, Group Leader
Cancer Genomics and Transcriptomics Group
Diamantina Institute
University of Queensland

Dr Dinger is a Group Leader at The University of Queensland Diamantina Institute. He received his PhD from the University of Waikato, in 2003. While undertaking his PhD, Dr Dinger founded an informatics company that produced a series of highly successful products and services.

In 2005, he resumed his academic career with a prestigious New Zealand Foundation for Research Science and Technology Postdoctoral Fellowship to join Professor Mattick's group at the Institute for Molecular Bioscience at The University of Queensland. Here he studied the role of long non-coding RNAs in mammalian development and disease.

During his six years in the Mattick laboratory, Dr Dinger published more than 30 papers, including research articles in PNAS, Nature Biotechnology, Genome Research, Cancer Research and Cell.

In 2009, he was awarded a Smart Futures Fellowship from the Queensland State Government, and, in 2010, he received an NHMRC Career Development Award. Dr Dinger was recruited to the University of Queensland Diamantina Institute in 2011.

Dr Jason Dowling
Research Scientist
Biomedical Imaging
Australian E-Health Research Centre
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

Dr Dowling works within the CSIRO ICT Centre, which is one of the largest information and communication technologies research facilities in Australia.

The main aims of his current research project are to investigate methods by which to automatically detect and segment the prostate borders on MRI scans. They are also working to develop algorithms to automatically segment organs and assign electron density information to MRI scans for radiotherapy dose calculations. This has significance for treatment planning, which is currently this is not possible as MRI scans lack the electron density information required to calculate radiation dose.

Dr Dowling previously worked on Image Quality Sensitive Watermarking of Medical Images project at the Australian e-Health Research Centre. His PhD work was supported by Cochlear Ltd, and researched mobility enhancement for visual prosthesis ("bionic eye") recipients. His BComp(Hons) research was in the area of latent semantic indexing for information retrieval.

Dr Stuart Edmonds
Senior Vice President, Research
Prostate Cancer Canada

In his role at Prostate Cancer Canada (PCC), Dr Edmonds spearheads the development of the research strategy focused on understanding the cause of, as well as the treatment and cure of, prostate cancer and oversees PCC's research programs. Under his guidance, PCC will lead the way in significantly and measurably improving the quality of life of prostate cancer survivors.

Prior to joining Prostate Cancer Canada, Dr Edmonds was the Director of the Research Advisory Group of The Canadian Partnership against Cancer - an independent organization funded by the federal government to implement the first pan-Canadian cancer control strategy.

He also served as Executive Director of the Canadian Cancer Research Alliance. By encouraging and facilitating collaboration among Canada's major cancer research funding agencies, Dr Edmonds has provided leadership in developing Canada's first national cancer research strategy and convened the first Canadian Cancer Research Conference.

Dr Edmonds was also the Director of Research Programs at the former National Cancer Institute of Canada and the Director of the Canadian Prostate Cancer Research Initiative, where he developed and successfully launched a number of new research programs, while also implementing many new operational initiatives. He holds a doctorate in pharmacology from Oxford University and a Bachelor of Science in biochemistry from Swansea University.

Dr Ladan Fazli
Research Pathologist, Urologic Sciences
Vancouver Prostate Centre

Dr Fazli is in charge of directing the pathology lab in the Prostate Centre at Vancouver General hospital - the biggest centre for prostate cancer research in Canada. She joined the Vancouver prostate Centre in 2002 after holding a position at Kinetek Pharmaceutical Inc, where she was a part of target discovery group.

Dr Fazli holds a medical degree and specialized in anatomical and clinical pathology from National University of Iran. She immigrated to Canada in 1996.

Aside from her extensive experience as a pathologist in tumour and normal morphologic diagnosis, she has established and upgraded histopathology labs – equipping them with autostainer for IHC, CISH and FISH, Laser micro-dissection, Tissue micro-arrayer, digital image scanning and quantitative image analysis.

Dr Maggie Fung
Clinical Coordinator
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Queensland
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology

After receiving her PhD degree in drug resistance in testicular cancer, Dr Fung was recruited by Johnson & Johnson as a Clinical Research Associate in Hong Kong. She was responsible for initiating and coordinating global oncology studies. This role roused her interest in clinical trials.

Dr Fung joined the APCRC–Q as Clinical Coordinator in 2009. Here she coordinates all aspects of clinical trials for prostate cancer, run within the Multidisciplinary Prostate Cancer Clinical Trials Unit. Dr Fung also liaises with national and international groups initiating prostate cancer clinical trials, and prepares trial documents for ethics and regulatory submission.

It falls to her to ensure that complete, accurate and comprehensive records are kept for monitoring as well as maintaining and providing case record forms to sponsors, facilitating the recruitment of patients to trials.

Dr Luc Furic
Research Fellow
Department of Anatomy and Developmental Biology
Monash University

Dr Furic obtained his PhD from University of Montreal for his work on RNA-protein interactions and mRNA stability. This project led to the discovery of a new mRNA decay mechanism, termed Staufen-mediated decay (Kim, Furic, DesGroseillers and Maquat, Cell 2005).

He later undertook his postdoctoral training in the laboratory of Dr Nahum Sonenberg at the Mcgill University, Goodman Cancer Centre. Here he worked on the role of regulating mRNA translation in prostate cancer.

Dr Furic is a Research Fellow of The Terry Fox Foundation through an award from the National Cancer Institute of Canada. He holds a postdoctoral training fellowship from the DOD, US Army-Prostate Cancer Research Program. Dr Furic's research interests include: eIF4E; translation initiation; PI3K; MAPK; tumour invasion.

Mr James Garland
Chief Operating Officer
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre Epworth, Victoria

James Garland has worked in the commercial and non-profit sectors, both in Australia and overseas.

For the last ten years, Mr Garland has worked at senior management level within several non-profit organisations, with roles encompassing State Management, National Development, and Partnerships Management.

Recent organisations he has worked for at senior levels include: Save the Children Australia, Able Australia Disability Services and, most recently, the Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre Epworth.

Mr Garland holds a Bachelor of Commerce from Melbourne University, is an internationally Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) and is currently completing an MBA.

Miss Lauren Giorgio
PhD Candidate
Basil Hetzel Institute for Translational Research
University of Adelaide

Miss Giorgio is a second year PhD student in the Cancer Biology Group at the Basil Hetzel Institute for Translational Medical Research, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Adelaide.

Miss Giorgio obtained her Bachelor of Health Science (Honours) from the University of Adelaide in 2009. The project, for which she received first class Honours, investigated the role of the neuropeptide Substance P in eliciting inflammation associated with traumatic brain injury.

In 2010 she worked as a research assistant in the Dame Roma Mitchell Cancer Research Laboratories before beginning a PhD in 2011 with Dr Grant Buchanan. Dr Buchanan's research is focussed on the action of steroid hormones in different compartments of the breast and prostate and their role in cancer.

Miss Giorgio's research project primarily explores prostatic fibroblasts, a component of the tumour micro-environment, with particular interest within the genomic changes associated with the transition from normal to cancer associated fibroblasts and how steroid signalling through these cells can influence tumour growth.

Miss Parisa Hesami
PhD Candidate
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology

Miss Parisa Hesami is a PhD student within the Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane.

Miss Hesami's research interests include: cancer progression, endogenous factors, exogenous factors, genes/genetic polymorphisms, marker discovery, metastases, technology development.

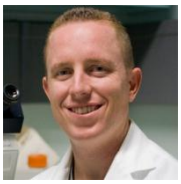
Dr Brett Hollier
Senior Research Fellow, Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Queensland
Research Fellow & Group Leader – IGF Mechanistic Studies
Tissue Repair & Regeneration Program
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, Queensland University of Technology

Dr Brett Hollier is an early career researcher with an interest in understanding the mechanisms that mediate cancer metastasis. In particular, his research focuses on the Insulin-like Growth Factor (IGF) family and the epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition (EMT) program.

Dr Hollier recently joined the Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre-QLD (APCRC-Q) after returning to Australia in late 2010 following his two-year postdoctoral position at the M.D Anderson Cancer Centre (MDACC) in Houston, TX. While at MDACC, Dr Hollier was awarded a Susan G Komen for the Cure® Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship (USA) for his research investigating the role of EMT in cancer stem cells and breast cancer metastasis.

Dr Hollier's current research aims to better define and understand the EMT program in the context of prostate cancer (PCa) progression to castrate resistant prostate cancer and metastasis. This involves collaborative studies investigating the mechanisms of insulin/IGF action on PCa cells, as well as developing novel cellular models to investigate the EMT program.

Dr Hollier was award a three-year fellowship to design smarter targeted therapies for cancer progression and is excited about the future opportunities to extend his research in these fields.



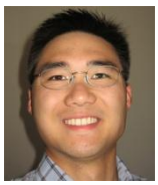
Dr Jeff Holst
Head, Origins Cancer Group
Centenary Institute

Dr Holst completed his PhD in Immunology in 2003 at St Vincent's Hospital Centre for Immunology in Sydney, before undertaking postdoctoral studies at St Jude Children's Research Hospital in the USA.

He has a strong reputation for research excellence and implementation of new techniques including mouse models, flow cytometry, and gene transfer. His most significant research contribution was published in Nature Immunology in 2008, and resulted in the receipt of the inaugural Research Australia Discovery Award.

After devising a ground-breaking new technique for expressing T cell receptors in mice, he returned to Australia in 2006, to focus cancer research with funding from the Cancer Institute NSW, the NHMRC, Cancer Council NSW, and the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia.

Dr Holst heads the Origins of Cancer group at the Centenary Institute, which focuses on two distinct areas: the role of CTCF and BORIS transcription factors in cancer, and the role of amino acid transport in prostate cancer.



Dr Matthew Hong
Research Scientist
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre Epworth, Victoria
PhD Candidate, Department of Surgery
University of Melbourne, Royal Melbourne Hospital

Dr Matthew Hong is a medical graduate who is currently undertaking prostate cancer research towards a PhD. Following the completion of formal research training, he will resume clinical training in urology.

His work is aimed at distinguishing lethal phenotype prostate cancer from indolent cancer using genomic approaches on clinical samples. His other research interests include general urological oncology and clinical informatics.

He has held scholarships from the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and the National Health and Medical Research Council, and currently holds the Melville Hughes Scholarship from the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne.

Dr Chris Hovens
Scientific Director
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre Epworth, Victoria

Dr Hovens is a co-founder of the drug discovery/development company, Velacor Therapeutics Pty Ltd for which he serves as Chief Scientific Officer. He is a co-inventor on 13 different patents in the area of drug discovery and development, ranging across indications from cancer to neurodegenerative disorders.

The overall goal of the research program is to improve the accuracy of prognostic information for PCa patients by understanding the processes which govern the neovascularisation of prostate tumours at both the primary site, as well as at sites of distant metastasis.

By quantifying the levels of circulating pro-angiogenic/lymphangiogenic cells and bone marrow-derived progenitor cells in PCa patients, Dr Hovens's team will develop improved prognostic discriminators of the developmental course of the disease as well as surrogate biomarkers of treatment response.

By taking a concerted and comprehensive approach to the detection and quantification of circulating endothelial cells and their progenitors in PCa, Dr Hovens aims to fast-track the development of new clinical diagnostic and prognostic methodologies. These studies should definitively determine the role of mobilise-able endothelial progenitor cells in PCa neovascularisation and may improve our ability to clinically stratify PCa patients and predict their long-term response to existing and new developmental therapies.

Dr Elizabeth Hovey
Senior Staff Specialist, Medical Oncology
South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service
University of New South Wales
Prince of Wales Hospital

Dr Hovey is a Senior Staff Specialist in Medical Oncology at Prince of Wales Hospital, Conjoint Senior Lecturer at UNSW and Honorary Associate of the University of Sydney. She is the Lead Principal Investigator (Study Chair) for a national 25-hospital Investigator-initiated industry-sponsored multicentre phase III randomised clinical trial addressing fatigue in the setting of prostate and breast cancer. These results were recently presented at GU ASCO ASM 2012 in San Francisco. She has been the local PI of numerous genito-urinary clinical trials at both Liverpool Hospital and Prince of Wales Hospital, particularly castrate-resistant prostate cancer.

Dr Hovey is outgoing Chair of the COSA (Clinical Oncological Society of Australia) Neuro-oncology Group after 2 elected terms (2006-2010); the current Deputy Chair of the NSW Cancer Institute Neurooncology Group (recently elected in for a second term) and the Secretary of COGNO (Cooperative Trials Group for Neuro-oncology) also serving on its Operations Executive. She coordinated the successful competitive 2007 grant application to Cancer Australia, which culminated in the formation of COGNO (Cooperative Trials Group of Australia).

As part of the COGNO Operations Executive she also has been involved in the subsequent reports and successful applications to Cancer Australia for COGNO's recurrent funding, and CI for a NSW Cancer Institute Infrastructure Grant, representing COGNO. She is the NSW Chief Investigator for the international EORTC/TROG Low Grade Glioma Study (Australian PI DR Gail Ryan), which is addressing the very significant question of the role of chemotherapy versus radiation in this very challenging setting. This study has attracted NHMRC funding.

Professor Dietmar Hutmacher
Professor and Chair of Regenerative Medicine
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre - Queensland
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology

Over the last four years, Professor Hutmacher has developed an international track record in adult stem cell research related to regenerative medicine. More than 400 patients have been treated with the FDA-approved bone engineering scaffolds developed by Prof Hutmacher's Singapore-based interdisciplinary research group.

Regenerative medicine seeks to develop functional cell, tissue and organ substitutes to repair, replace or enhance biological function that has been lost due to congenital abnormalities, injury, disease or aging. It includes both the regeneration of tissues in vitro for subsequent implantation in vivo as well as regeneration directly in vivo. In addition to having a therapeutic application, tissue engineering can have a diagnostic application where the engineered tissue is used as a biosensor.

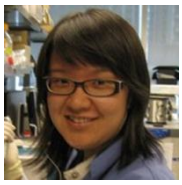
Engineered tissues can also be used for the development of drugs, including screening for novel drug candidates, identifying novel genes as drug targets, and testing for drug metabolism, uptake, and toxicity.

Dr Varinder Jeet
Research Fellow
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre- Queensland
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology

Dr Varinder Jeet completed his PhD studies from the University of New South Wales, Sydney in 2009. He received a Masters degree in Biotechnology from Punjabi University, India.

He started his PhD in 2005, after receiving the Sydney Foundation of Medical Research Postgraduate Scholarship. During his PhD, he investigated various aspects of prostate cancer (PCa), including development of a suitable model for prostate cancer progression, study of mechanisms underlying advanced PCa and targeted gene therapy mediated approaches to curb the growth and proliferation of PCa cells.

Soon after completing his PhD, he moved to Brisbane to work on the dendritic cell-based cancer immunotherapy at the Mater Hospital, Brisbane. His current project at APCRC-Q involves the identification and targeting of various molecular markers that underlie the progression of prostate cancer towards androgen independence.



Ms Cheng Jin
PhD Candidate
Pharmaceutical Sciences
University of Toronto

Cheng Jin's research interests lie in the field of nanotechnology and nanomaterials for cancer research. Her current focus is on the assessment of porphysomes in photothermal therapy. Porphysomes are novel intrinsic multifunctional nanovesicles that serve as potent photothermal therapeutic agents due to their photoacoustic and photothermal properties.

In previous projects, she has successfully produced and characterized porphysomes in terms of their physiochemical properties, and has demonstrated that porphysome-enabled photothermal therapy (PTT) can completely eradicate tumours in a xenograft model.

This project is an extension to orthotopic prostate tumour models to investigate the photothermal therapeutic efficacy of porphysomes for focal laser therapy in prostate cancer. In future projects, Chen Jin aims to improve the porphysome formulation to include targeting ligands via collaboration for tumour-specific accumulation, and therefore enhance the therapeutic specificity and the overall therapeutic value.

Dr Jan Jongstra
Senior Scientist, Genetics and Development
University Health Network
Toronto Western Research Institute

Dr Jonstra research focuses on the role of PIM kinases in the regulation of major proliferative signalling pathways. The PIM family of oncogenic serine/threonine kinases consists of three members, PIM-1, PIM-2 and PIM-3, and are involved in formation of lymphoid and solid tumours.

Dr Jongstra's team have developed a novel small chemical molecule, designated M-110 that is a potent inhibitor of proliferation of a variety of human tumour-derived cell lines with little activity on normal human cells. M-110 is a highly selective inhibitor of the three PIM kinase isoforms. Using M-110 they were able to define novel PIM kinase isoform-specific biological functions and significantly enhance our understanding of how PIM kinases may regulate cell proliferation.

Upon further investigation, their published and preliminary data suggests that PIM-1 contributes positively to EGFR signalling by suppressing the expression of the EGFR inhibitor MIG6 through phosphorylation of RUNX1.

They tested the hypothesis that PIM inhibitors synergize with the EGFR-TKI Gefitinib to inhibit cell proliferation and showed significant synergy between M-110 or SGI-1776 and Gefitinib for inhibition of DU-145 and PC3 cell proliferation. They also demonstrated that PIM kinase inhibitors also inhibit activation of MET, the receptor for HGF/SF, downstream of the EGFR. These results have potential clinical significance by suggesting combination therapies that increase the efficacy of EGFR targeted chemotherapy for late stage prostate cancer patients.

Dr Lidija Jovanovic
Research Fellow
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Queensland
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology

Dr Lidija Jovanovic is a molecular scientist who obtained her degrees from University of Belgrade, Yugoslavia, and the University of Otago, New Zealand. She completed her PhD investigating clonal origins and molecular phenotypes in multiple and histologically diverse tumours in multifocal papillary thyroid carcinoma.

Her postdoctoral research focused on markers of progression in prostate cancer and molecular characterization of synchronous clear cell/papillary renal carcinomas. Lidija joined APCRC–Q in March 2009.

Dr Jovanovic's areas of research include stage-specific differentiation markers within a prostate stem-cell unit and molecular pathology of prostate carcinoma.

Associate Professor Justin Keogh
Associate Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine, Bond University
Affiliate, Centre for Physical Activity and Nutrition Research,
Auckland University of Technology
Affiliate, Person Centred Research Centre, Auckland University of Technology

Dr Keogh's research focuses on understanding the acute stresses, and the chronic adaptations resulting from a range of physical activities, particularly resistance training and, more recently, dance, walking, and physical video games, like the Nintendo Wii Sports, for athletic populations and/or older adults.

With his older adult research, he examines the benefits, barriers, and motives to both general and specific therapeutic physical activity. His research involving older adults has focused on understanding the causes of the age-related decline in upper limb fine-motor control, the benefits of resistance training and dancing for improving physical function and reducing falls risk, as well as benefits, barriers, and motives to physical activity in prostate cancer survivors.

Mr Michael Kerger
Urological Biorepository and Data Manager
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre Epworth, Victoria

After 15 years at The Burnet Institute, Epidemiology, Social Research and International Health Unit, working in the area of HIV/AIDS and Hepatities, Mr Kreger joined the Robotic Surgery Team at Epworth. There he established a clinical database on the early cases.

In 2004, he joined the Department of Urology at Royal Melbourne Hospital in the research team and, in 2005, established the Urological Biorepository, with a focus on Prostate Cancer tissue.

His current focus is on continuing and perfecting a well annotated, accurate, high quality tissue resource for research.

Jacques Lapointe
Assistant Professor
Department of Surgery, Division of Urology
McGill University

The main focus of the laboratory is to study gene expression and DNA copy number alteration profiles of prostate cancer using DNA microarray technology.

The goals are to increase understanding of prostate cancer pathology, establish a new molecular classification of prostate tumors, and identify new prognostic and diagnostic markers.

Dr Mitchell Lawrence
Postdoctoral Fellow
Department of Anatomy and Developmental Biology
Monash University

Dr Lawrence completed his PhD with Prof Judith Clements at the Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre-Queensland, Queensland University of Technology.

In 2010, he joined Monash University to work with Dr Caroline Gargett and Prof Gail Risbridger. Dr Lawrence is funded by an NHMRC Early Career Fellowship and a Movember Young Investigator Grant awarded through Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia's Research Program.

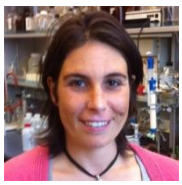
The focus of Dr Lawrence's research is the tumour microenvironment - in particular, defining the differences between normal prostate fibroblasts and cancer-associated fibroblasts. These studies involve flow cytometry of fresh patient specimens and primary cell culture.

Dr Melanie Lehman
Research Fellow, Vancouver Prostate Centre, University of British Columbia
Research Fellow, Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Queensland
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology

Melanie Lehman received a BSc from the University of Alberta (cell biotechnology), a certificate in software engineering from Carleton University, a PhD from the University of British Columbia (computational biology and prostate cancer) and currently holds a joint position as a postdoctoral research fellow at the Vancouver Prostate Centre and Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre-Queensland.

She has worked for the past 10 years in prostate cancer research utilizing computational approaches to analyse genome-wide profiling data from cell lines, animal models, and human tissue samples.

Dr. Lehman has integrated data from high density microarrays and next-generation sequencing (RNA, small RNA, ChIP, and DNA) technologies to study the regulation and interplay of protein-coding and non-coding RNAs in steroid response and treatment resistance.



Dr Barbara Lelj Garolla Di Bard
Research Associate
Department of Urology
Vancouver Prostate Centre
University of British Columbia

Dr Lelji Garolla Di Bard is interested in the role that molecular chaperones have in supporting treatment resistant prostate cancer. In particular, she investigates the intracellular, small HspB1 (Hsp27) and the only known extracellular chaperone, Clusterin.

Her research focuses on understanding the biophysical properties of these molecules in solution with the final aim of designing effective drug screenings. Moreover, she searches for solution conditions optimal for crystal growth and for other techniques (NMR and EM) that can be used for three dimensional structure determinations.

The main technique Dr Lelji Garolla Di Bard uses to characterize protein self-association is analytical ultracentrifugation, which is very powerful in obtaining oligomerization profiles in a vast number of conditions.

She also uses protein purification, chaperone assays, various types of spectroscopy and site-directed mutagenesis to understand what role each protein domain or conserved residues have for protein activity, and applies the knowledge acquired from her studies to develop effective drug screening for these non-enzymatic proteins.

Miss Heather Lewis
Research Assistant
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre Epworth, Victoria

Working under the supervision of Associate Professor Chris Hovens, Miss Lewis's current project explores measuring miRNA species in patient plasma and urine as potential non-invasive prognostic indicators for prostate cancer.

Miss Lewis is a Research Assistant at the Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Epwroth, in Victoria.

Ms Michelle Liberio
PhD Candidate
Eskitis Institute for Molecular and Cell Therapies
Griffith University

In 2006, after receiving her Diploma in Biology from the University of Brasilia (Brazil), Ms Liberio received her Master's degree in Animal Biology at the same university.

She studied peptides isolated from the skin secretions of frogs, identifying antimicrobial and cytotoxic molecules. In the same year, she decided to acquire new skills in New Zealand, studying visual communication for three months.

Ms Liberio arrived in Australia in 2009 to undertake her PhD studies at Griffith University's Eskitis Institute for Cell and Molecular Therapies investigating natural products isolated from Australian ascidians.

Her PhD project aims to purify compounds that are cytotoxic to prostate and breast cancer cells and to identify some of the targets of these secondary metabolites.

Dr Patrick Ling
Senior Research Fellow
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Queensland
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology

Dr Ling graduated with a Bachelor degree in the Department of Biochemistry at The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. He obtained his MPhil and PhD degrees in The University of Hong Kong. In 2005, he received the Outstanding Research Postgraduate Award. He was a Postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of Anatomy at The University of Hong Kong and was promoted to Research Assistant Professor in the same department.

He is currently a Senior Research Fellow in the Institute of Health and Biomedical Science and the Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre-Queensland where he studies the molecular mechanisms that underlie prostate cancer development. He is also interested in investigating the application of fundamental research to the development of improved treatments for hormone-refractory prostate cancer.

Dr Ling was recently awarded two highly competitive NHMRC project grants providing a total of $1.1 million in funds that will allow Dr Ling and his team to understand why prostate cancer preferentially metastasizes to the bone and help develop novel treatments to be used against the metastatic disease.

Dr Amy Lubik
Research Fellow
Vancouver Prostate Centre

Dr Lubik studied biochemistry/ molecular biology at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia. She completed her studies in 2006 with Honours in HIV research, and a co-operative education certificate, having worked multiple semesters at the Vancouver Prostate Centre and Merck Frosst Paramedical in Quebec.

Dr Lubik was heavily involved in the Red Cross Club, and Doctors without Borders. Following her honours project, she travelled to Ternopil, Ukraine, to teach HIV education in high schools and Universities. On returning to Vancouver she worked on steroidogenesis and lipogenesis.

During her PhD, at Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia, she chaired the QUT Movement for Universities Allied for Essential Medicines with great success. She also undertook an internship in neglected disease patent law with Cambia at QUT.

Her focus is on insulin and IGF2 and their effects on prostate cancer progression. Her work is interwoven with the Vancouver Prostate Centre and the Australian-Canadian Prostate Cancer Research Alliance.

Dr Stephen McPherson
Research Fellow
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Queensland
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology

In 1997, Dr McPherson completed a Masters Degree investigating the role of TGF-β related growth factors in prostate cancer from Monash University.

He went on to receive his PhD from Monash University in 2003 and subsequently took up a position at the Monash Institute of Medical Research at Monash University, where he investigated the role of hormonal regulation in controlling the development of benign and malignant prostate disease. This lead him to the study of the roles of steroid hormone receptors, particularly estrogen receptors, in prostate development and disease.

Dr McPherson joined the APCRC–Q to study the inter-relationship of AR and other nuclear hormone receptors with progesterone in prostate cancer and castrate-resistance.

His research interests include: changing expression of nuclear hormone receptors in prostate disease, prostatic response to the changing hormonal environment, aging, progression of prostate cancer, and the role of ERβas.

Mrs Erica Mohr
Physiotherapist-Continence Advisory Service,
Nambour Community Health
Queensland Health

Ms Erica Mohr's research interests lie in the areas of cancer control, education, patient care, and cancer survivorship.

Her current research focuses on the clinical outcomes for clients post prostatectomy who have received multidisciplinary education prior to their prostatectomy.

In the course of her work she collaborates with researchers from the University of Queensland, and the Urology Department at Nambour General Hospital.

Prof Colleen Nelson
Executive Director, Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Queensland
Professor Chair, Prostate Cancer Research
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology

Prof Nelson is the founding Executive Director of the Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre-Queensland, and Chair of Prostate Cancer Research at Queensland University of Technology. She is also Director of the Australian-Canadian Prostate Cancer Research Alliance.

Prior to her appointment in Australia, she was a founding scientist of The Prostate Centre in Vancouver. Since arriving in Australia in 2007, Prof Nelson has been awarded >$13 million in research grants. Recently, she was awarded the prestigious Smart State Premier's Fellowship.

Prof Nelson's expertise is in translational prostate cancer research, specifically in identification of potential therapeutic targets, their in vitro and in vivo validation, validation through molecular pathology approaches, and their translation into potential clinical application.

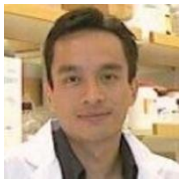
These outcomes are derived from her expertise in high-throughput applications in gene (protein coding and non-coding) and tissue expression profiling, gene regulation, next gen sequencing applications, and bioinformatics. She is particularly interested in characterizing responses to androgen deprivation therapy and progression to castrate resistance and endocrine action of steroid hormones and insulin and insulin-related hormones.

Dr Irina Oleinikova
Clinical Trials Manager
Urology Department
Princess Alexandra Hospital

Dr Oleinikova completed her Medical Degree and post graduate training in Paediatrics in Kazakhstan. For over four years she provided Paediatric services working in a teaching community based hospital. Since moving to Australia, Dr Oleinikova shifted her focus to Clinical Research in Urological Diseases and has over 16 years experience as a senior researcher.

Dr Oleinikova provides immense support to the Multidisciplinary Team for Prostate Cancer by interviewing patients and being their advocate, as well as recruiting patients for clinical trials and scientific research. She provides professional leadership in the completion and compliance of Clinical Trial Services, and assurance with the rights, safety, protection and well-being of clinical trials participants.

She is particularly interested in helping patients understand different knowledge systems including science and philosophy in a way which is grounded, balanced, scientifically valid and clinically effective, motivating patients to embrace the concept of LifeStyle Medicine in managing their side effects of treatment and helping patients to understand how to live mindfully with cancer.



Dr Christopher John Ong
Research Scientist
Vancouver Prostate Centre
Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery
University of British Columbia

Dr Ong's research focuses on the PTEN tumour suppressor gene, which is among the most frequently mutated genes in cancer. Dr Ong's laboratory is currently studying how mutations of that gene confer protection of prostate cancer cells from cell death and resistance to chemotherapy as well as how loss of PTEN influences progression of prostate cancer cells to androgen independence. Implications from this research may lead to new therapeutic strategies designed to prevent or delay progression to androgen independence.

Dr Ong's laboratory is also involved in the development of unique prostate tumour model systems, which are used to characterize the function of a number of genes in normal and malignant prostate biology.

In collaboration with Drs. Alice Mui, Gerald Krystal and Raymond Andersen, Dr Ong has also been involved in the discovery and development of a novel class of small molecule agonists of the SH2-containing inositol phosphatase, SHIP. They have now devised an efficient, high yielding chemical synthetic protocol for production of this new family of compounds.

Dr Ong is a scientific founder of Aquinox Pharmaceuticals Inc., a biopharmaceutical company focused on development of targeted small molecule therapeutics for treatment of cancer and inflammation. In June 2007, Aquinox raised US$14.5 million in financing, which will allow Aquinox to advance its lead compound through pre-clinical studies to commence a Phase I clinical trial in patients with certain forms of blood cancers in early 2009.

Ms Tess Peer
Research Assistant
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre Epworth, Victoria

Tess Peer began work at APCRCE in November 2011. Since then she has been involved in investigating the role of the Androgen Receptor in prostate cancer using molecular biology and bioinformatic approaches.

She completed her Bachelor of Science with Honours (first class) at The University of Adelaide in 2010. Her Honours project was on the molecular regulation of Bcr-Abl in chronic myeloid leukemia.

Dr Ngoc Pham
Research Fellow
Eskitis Institute for Cell and Molecular Therapies
Griffith University

Dr Ngoc Pham's expertise is in natural product isolation, drug design and synthesis. She is particulary interested in identifying natural products which act synthetic lethal with non-oncogenes involving in castrate-resistant prostate cancer.

Prof Ronald Quinn
Director
Eskitis Institute for Cell and Molecular Therapies
Griffith University

Professor Quinn obtained his PhD from the University of New South Wales (1970), followed by postdoctoral work at Arizona State University, University of Hawaii and the Australian National University. He joined the Roche Research Institute of Marine Pharmacology in Sydney (1974). The period with Roche included one year in Basel (1981). He joined Griffith University (1982) and was appointed Professor (1994). He was elected Fellow of the Australia Academy of Technological Sciences & Engineering (2003) and received the RACI Adrien Albert Award (2004).

Professor Quinn's research interests include: Biodiscovery involving high throughput screening against molecular targets, isolation and structure elucidation of bioactive natural products; design and synthesis of receptor ligands and enzyme inhibitors; and understanding of natural product recognition for biosynthetic enzymes and correlation with therapeutic targets as a rational approach to drug discovery.

Professor Quinn initiated collaboration with AstraZeneca (1993) to explore natural products as potential drugs. This collaboration is one of the largest industry/university collaborations in Australia ($100 million in industry investment).

Professor Quinn was appointed Director, Eskitis Institute for Cell and Molecular Therapies (2003).

Dr John Ramsay
Consultant Psychologist
Private Practice

John has worked in primary care and men's health for more than 25 years both in Australia and overseas. At the University of Rome La Sapienza he became involved with the Psychiatric Reabilative Della'Eta Evolutia research and treatment centre dedicated to helping children with developmental, emotional and neurological problems.

He was awarded his PhD in psychology by the University College London (UCL). Dr Ramsay joined the BPS and was a founding member of the then new Division of Criminological and Legal Psychology, now known as the Division of Forensic Psychology.

Dr Ramsay has worked both in Australia and overseas on HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis prevention programs, including in Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. He was an investigator and review panel member of the Australian Medical Council review of sexual health medicine and practice specialisation His involvement and work in prostate and urogenital cancer has arisen as a result of familial experience and an ongoing professional commitment to men's health and psycho oncology as it relates to quality of life and supportive care. He has worked for the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia, the Urology Oncology Program NSW (Cancer Institute NSW) and the NSW Cancer Council. Dr Ramsay has a diversity of health and welfare experiences from the coal face, together with public sector administration, corporate regulation and governance, including policy planning, implementation and evaluation. He has a deep appreciation and empathy for the need for quality collaborative research and trials in prostate and urogenital cancer and the improvement of health outcomes for men.

Prof Paul Rennie
Director, Laboratory Research, Vancouver Prostate Centre
Professor, Department of Urologic Sciences and Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
University of British Columbia

Dr Rennie is the co-founder and Director of Laboratory Research for the Prostate Centre at Vancouver General Hospital. His lab contributed much of the groundwork for development of widely used, cost-efficient treatments for advanced prostate cancer and for providing the mechanistic basis for intermittent androgen suppression treatment protocols.

His lab's early work led to the first studies of intermittent androgen suppression - used in a variety of clinical trial scenarios. His group was also amongst the first to show clusterin expression in androgen-dependent tumours, its potential role in tumour progression, and its function as a cell survival gene.

Dr Rennie's current research is aimed at determining how androgens regulate gene transcription and how to use this knowledge to prevent progression to androgen independence in prostate cancers. Development of small molecule inhibitors of the androgen receptor is another major area of his research interests. In addition, he is working to develop oncolytic vesicular stomatitis and herpes viruses that can selectively infect and kill prostate tumour cells through cell lysis while sparing normal tissues.

In recognition of his achievements in science, Dr Rennie was named a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences in 2007.

Dr Derek Richard
Head of Genomic Stability Laboratory
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology

Dr Richard obtained his PhD in microbial biochemistry from the University of Dundee (Scotland) in 1999. His research interest then moved from the bacterial domain of life to the archaea where he worked as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the laboratory of Prof. Malcolm White studying archaeal DNA repair systems.

During his time at St Andrews University his team made significant progress in understanding the role of the crenarchaeol SSB family of proteins. This research led to the seminal discovery of the human SSB homologues with this work being published in Nature (2008).

Dr Richard moved to Queensland in 2004 to join the team of Prof Kum Kum Khanna at QIMR before transferring his research team to the Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation at QUT in Feb 2011.

Since moving to Queensland, he works as a consultant for, and has licensed technologies to, Cancer Therapeutics. His latest research led to the initiation of a clinical trial sponsored by Cancer Research UK. In 2006, Dr Richard was awarded the RBWH Sir Ian McFarlane medal.

Dr Richard has published in prestigious journals including, Nature, Genes and Development, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Journal of Cell Biology, Pathology and Nucleic Acids Research.

His research team investigates the cellular processes that allow cells to cope with genomic stress and how these processes are modified in disease. This research centres taking on the initial basic discoveries to the translation from bench to bedside.

Dr Anja Rockstroh
Research Fellow
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Queensland
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology

Since early 2010, Dr Rockstroh has been a Research Fellow at the APCRC–Q. Prior to this she was a Research Fellow at the Eskitis Institute for Cell and Molecular Therapies, investigating a potential role of G3BPs in proliferation control and cancer development / progression.

She received her Doctor of Science degree from the Friedrich-Schiller University in Jena, Germany, and completed her PhD project on Human topoisomerase I and genotoxic stress. Dr Rockstroh also holds a Diploma in Biochemistry from the Friedrich-Schiller University.

Prof Pamela Russell
Head, Biomedical Imaging and Prostate Cancer Models
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Queensland
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology

Prof Pamela Russell joined the Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre–Queensland in 2009. Her laboratory has earned an international reputation for its work on genitourinary cancer, and has established cell lines and rare xenografts from primary human bladder and prostate tumours.

Most recently, her team has established new animal models for studies of bony metastases from prostate cancer, including those grown in immunocompetent mice, where interactions of growth factors common to bone cells and immune cells can be investigated.

Recent highlights by her team include production of a monoclonal antibody which binds 70% of prostate cancers, currently undergoing assessment for potential development as a diagnostic reagent and for targeted nanoparticle imaging; development of a first-in-man gene therapy for late stage prostate cancer, which is pending a Phase I clinical trial.

Prof Russell helped to establish the Animal Imaging Facility at The University of New South Wales for preclinical studies, and is now involved in the development of a preclinical imaging facility at the Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Queensland to be part of the new Translational Research Institute, within the Princess Alexandra Biomedical precinct.

Prof Russell has received numerous prestigious awards over her career including the Medal of Australia for contributions to bladder and prostate cancer research; Life Memberships in PCFA (2006) and the Australasian Gene Therapy Society Award (2009).

Dr Martin Sadowski
Research Fellow
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Queensland
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology

During his PhD and postdoctoral research, Dr Sadowski studied how RNA Pol II transcription termination is linked to mRNA processing and the role of protein ubiquitination and phosphorylation in regulating cell cycle progression.

In late 2010, Dr. Sadowski joined the APCRC-Qld to investigate androgen receptor-mediated regulation of critical cell cycle genes in the development of castrate-resistant prostate cancer.

His current research includes the investigation of the role of androgen receptor steroids and fatty acid metabolism in cell cycle regulation and the development of castrate-resistant prostate cancer.

Dr Kieran Scott
Honorary Senior Lecturer
St George Hospital Clinical School
University of New South Wales

Dr Scott trained in Chemistry and Biochemistry at Massey University, New Zealand before completing his PhD in Genetics at the Research School of Biological Sciences, ANU in the early eighties. There he cloned the bacterial genes encoding nitrogenase, the enzyme that makes atmospheric nitrogen available to living organisms.

Following several years at ANU, using reversed genetics techniques that were the forerunners of "knockout mouse" technology to clone and characterise bacterial genes involved in bacterial-plant interactions, he joined a Sydney start-up biotechnology company "PacBio" where his interest in the pathways of arachidonic acid metabolism as targets for new drug development began.

In the early nineties, he established the Inflammation Research Laboratory in the St Vincent's Hospital Clinical School, UNSW, which became the founding laboratory of the Arthritis and Inflammation Research Programme of the Garvan Institute, Sydney.

Dr Scott's research interests in phospholipase A2 enzymes as targets for new drug development have led him to study their role in clinical disorders ranging from sepsis and septic shock to asthma, rheumatoid arthritis, atherosclerosis, reperfusion injury and more recently cancer. His work has led to a promising new therapeutic approach to the treatment of prostate cancer that is approaching the clinic.

Dr Carolina Soekmadji
Research Fellow
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Queensland
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology

Dr Soekmadji joined the APCRC - Q in 2010 to investigate exosomes as prostate cancer biomarkers and the application of targeted nanoparticles to image prostate cancer, where she recently received the FY11 Department of Defence, US Army Postdoctoral Training Award for her project: Exosomes Biomarkers: defining prognosis for drug and castrate resistant prostate cancer.

After working at the University of Stuttgart in Germany on the design of a DNA microarray to detect bacteria, which cause pneumonia sepsis, she accepted the International Postgraduate Research Scholarship and Melbourne International Reseach Scholarship to study in Australia. There she completed her PhD in the Department of Genetics, at the University of Melbourne in 2009 - investigating the role of the stoned protein family in exocytosis/endocytosis of synaptic vesicles.

Prior to joining APCRC-Q, she held a postdoctoral research position at the University of Queensland, investigating the involvement of dynamin in regulating the fusion pore dynamic and its role in the scission step during endocytosis of secretory granules in pancreatic acinar cells.

Dr Shane Stegeman
Research Associate
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology

Dr Shane Stegeman is an early career researcher. His PhD focussed on the area of developmental neurobiology under the supervision of Dr Stephen Wood and Professor Alan Mackay-Sim was granted by Griffith University (Brisbane, Queensland, Australia) on 8 March 2012.

Dr Stegeman is currently working in collaboration with Dr Jyotsna Batra in the laboratory of Professor Judith Clements. Our current project focuses on Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA / KLK3) - Single nucleotide polymorphisms and prostate cancer suseptibility. (Our primary external collaborator is A/Professor Amanda Spurdle, head of the Molecular Cancer Epidemiology Lab, Genetics and Population Health Division, Queensland Institute of Medical Research).

Research interests:

1. miRNAs as biomarkers for prostate cancer diagnosis and progression
2. miRNAs as keys to identifying pathways crucial to prostate cancer aetiology

Dr Sally-Anne Stephenson
Lecturer and Group Leader, Eph Receptor Biology Group
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology

Dr Stephenson is a Lecturer in the School of Life Sciences. She is the Chief Scientific Officer of BenEphex Biotechnologies Pty Ltd in Adelaide, and in 2006 received the Woman of Distinction in Medical Research Award from the Asia Pacific Business Council for Women.

Dr Stephenson also runs the Eph receptor biology group where her research activities focus on the EphB4 receptor tyrosine kinase and its contribution to epithelial cancers.

Currently, they are developing monoclonal antibodies targeting this protein for testing as potential anti-cancer therapeutics.

Miss Nataly Stylianou
PhD Candidate
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Queensland
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology

Nataly Stylianou graduated from Queensland University of Technology (QUT) with a degree in Medical Science and continued her honours degree at the Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation where she developed a novel inducible cell model to investigate the epithelial to mesenchymal transition (EMT) in prostate cancer cells.Nataly is currently a PhD candidate at the Australian Prostate Cancer Research Center – Queensland (Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, QUT) where she is continuing her research in the EMT field.

In particular, Nataly is interested in developing a series of novel cellular models to investigate EMT in a prostate cancer setting, and to further Insights in these areas could lead to the identification of better therapeutic targets for prostate cancer. elucidate prostate cancer and its progression to castrate resistant prostate cancer and metastasis.

Dr Gregor Tevz
Research Fellow
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Queensland
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology

After receiving a Bachelor of Science of Microbiology from the University of Ljubljana, Dr Tevz took up a position as a research assistant at the National Institute of Chemistry Slovenia.

In 2005, he began his PhD, in Biomedical Sciences at the University of Ljubljana and Institute of Oncology Ljubljana.

After being awarded his PhD, Dr Tevz joined European Initial Training Network Consortium for Prostate Cancer Research as a Postdoctoral Fellow at Philips Research in Netherlands.

He then travelled to Australia to join the Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre-Queensland where his main research focus is progression of prostate cancer to castrate resistant disease and identification and development of new therapeutic targets.

Mr Trong Tran
PhD Candidate
Eskitis Institute for Cell and Molecular Therapies
Griffith University

Mr Tran is currently a first year PhD student at the Eskitis Institute, Griffith University under the supervision of Prof. Ronald Quinn and Dr. Ngoc Pham.

His research interests lie in the field of natural product drug discovery and his current research project focuses on the discovery of such products for prostate cancer treatment.

Dr Raj Vasireddy
Research Fellow
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Queensland
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology

Dr Vasireddy completed a Masters in Applied Microbiology and developed interest in cancer research. He received his PhD degree from University of Melbourne in 2009.

His research interests include DNA damage response pathways, cell cycle regulation and radio and chemosenstisers in cancer therapy.

Mr Paul Villanti
Executive Director, Global Programs
Movember Foundation

Paul oversees and leads Movember's global investment in research and survivorship programs. He also serves as a Board Director at Movember, the Prostate Cancer Foundation USA, and an Associate Director at The Prostate Cancer Charity (UK).

Dr Hoan Vu
Research Fellow
Eskitis Institute for Cell and Molecular Therapies
Griffith University

Dr Hoan Vu is a professional officer of the mass spectrometry facility at Esktitis Institute.

His research lines include identifying natural product fragments or lead-like enhanced fractions forming noncovalent complexes with prostate cancer protein targets, as well as developing mass spectrometry-based methods to identify binding sites of these active natural products.

Dr Amol Wagholikar
Project Leader, Research Scientist
Australian e-Health Research Centre
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

Dr Wagholikar has completed a PhD in the area of Decision Support Systems. He has applied this research in the area of health informatics for various health information system projects.

His current research focus is on information retreival and semantic analysis of clinical data.

Current areas of collaboration include: Patient Identification for Advanced Prostate Cancer Clinical Trials; Multidisciplinary team-based (MDT) care for advanced prostate cancer patients.

Ms Chenwei Wang
Research Fellow
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre - Queensland
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology

After receiving her Bachelor of Engineering, Computer Science from Xi'an University of Technology in China, Dr Wang worked as a software engineer for three and half years.

In 2004, she was awarded a Master of Applied Science, Bioinformatics from the University of Sydney, Australia, where she went on to undertake her PhD in Bioinformatics. Her research focussed on linkage mapping, map integration and comparative mapping of the Australian model marsupial tammar wallaby.

In 2010, Dr Wang took up a position Research Officer at the Institute of Molecular Bioscience at the University of Queensland, in Brisbane, Australia. In this role, Dr Wang was responsible for conducting research in multi-focal prostate cancer microarray expression data, which involves data analysis using existing bioinformatics tools and programming. She also supervised students doing research projects on interologs of proteins in orthologous species.

In early 2012, Dr Wang joined the Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre – Queensland, where she in engaged in a multi-focal prostate cancer study using microarray expression data as well as comparative genomic hybridization (CGH) data from a cohort of 10 multi-focal prostate cancer patients.

Dr Qian (Kevin) Wang
Research Officer, Origins of Cancer Laboratory
Gene and Stem Cell Therapy Program
Centenary Institute

Dr Wang's current research focuses on the PI3K/PTEN/Akt pathway, which is frequently altered in prostate cancer. Up and down-regulation of many members of this pathway, including mTOR, neutral endopeptidase and PTEN, together or separately, are found in most prostate cancers.

Amino acids, such as leucine, have been shown to activate mTOR, thereby contributing to uncontrolled proliferation of prostate cancer cells. Dr Wang's laboratory's international track record in amino acid regulation will be applied to dissect how transporters, including leucine transporters, may promote prostate cancer. This will be studied using prostate cancer cell lines and a prostate cancer mouse model crossed with a new knockout mouse model. Analysis of the genes involved in the onset and progression of prostate cancer will be determined in these models. POV1 transporter is a potential target for therapeutic intervention, and understanding this complex network may provide new insights into the effect of diet (particularly red meats and dairy which are high in leucine) on the development and progression of prostate cancer.

Dr YZ Wang
Senior Scientist, Vancouver Prostate Centre, British Columbia Cancer Agency
Associate Professor, University of British Columbia

In addition to proposing novel hypotheses on “prostate stem cells” and “epithelial-immune cell transition (EIT)”, Dr Wang is responsible for developing a novel method for establishing patient-derived cancer tissue xenograft models in SCID mice with a high engraftment rate.

So far, his living tumour laboratory (www.livingtumorlab.com) has developed over 150 transplantable tumour tissue lines that closely resemble patients’ malignancies in terms of histopathology, genetic profiles and drug sensitivities. His current research focuses on applications of such xenograft models for the discovery and validation of potential biomarkers and/or therapeutic targets; preclinical drug efficacy studies in anti-cancer therapeutics development; and personalized cancer therapy.

Dr Wang has received numerous awards for his academic achievements in cancer research, such as the Prostate Cancer Foundation Research Award (2006), the Translation Research Award from Roche (2009), the Overseas Chinese Scholars Award (Distinguished Young Scholar Award, Category B) from the National Natural Science Foundation of China (2009), and the Innovative Scholar Award from the International Cancer Alliance for Research and Education (ICARE) (2010).

Dr Elizabeth Williams
Laboratory Head, Cancer Metastasis
Monash Institute of Medical Research
Monash University

Dr Elizabeth Williams, BSc (Hons), PhD, has worked in the field of cancer metastases, focussing on prostate and bladder cancer since completing her PhD in pharmacology in 1996. She joined the Monash Institute of Medical Research’s Centre for Cancer Research in 2006 to lead the cancer metastases research group.

Prior to joining MIMR, Dr Williams was an Associate Senior Fellow at the Department of Surgery, University of Melbourne and a Research Fellow (Prostate Cancer Group Leader) at the Bernard O’Brien Institute of Microbiology.

Dr Williams and her team have established a panel of systems to study the interaction of prostate cancer cells with the endothelial cells of the prostatic lymphatic vessels, with the aim of identifying key molecules involved in the process.

They are also investigating the molecular basis of prostate cancer cells that survive castration. Her current research project utilises a transplantable human prostate cancer xenograft that her team derived from a bone metastasis in 2001.

Dr Addie Wootten
Director of Clinical Allied Health Research
Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre Epworth, Victoria

Dr. Addie Wootten is a clinical psychologist and Director of Clinical and Allied Health Research at the Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre - Epworth. In this role, she oversees the clinical trials, psychosocial research, and other allied health research conducted in the centre or collaboratively with other groups. As a psychologist, Dr Wootten's key research focus has been the psycho-social experiences of prostate cancer patients and their partners.

Dr Wootten is currently the principal investigator on a project co-funded by beyondblue and the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia, which is investigating the efficacy of an Internet-based psychological intervention for men with prostate cancer.

Dr Wootten was also recently awarded another research grant from beyondblue to develop and evaluate an online support program for partners of men with prostate cancer. Dr Wootten is the convener of the psycho-oncology meeting held as part of the Australasian Prostate Cancer Conference held annually.

As part of her clinical role Dr Wootten provides assessment and therapeutic interventions to individuals suffering a range of physical illnesses, particularly urological cancers. Dr Wootten works clinically with prostate cancer patients and their families across the cancer journey, from diagnosis to palliative care.

Dr Trina Yeadon
National Project Manager
Australian Prostate Cancer BioResource
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
Queensland University of Technology

Dr Yeadon is currently the National Project Manager for the Australian Prostate Cancer BioResource (APCB). The APCB is a not for profit federally funded, by the NHMRC and PCFA, tissue bank which has four state wide collection sites located in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide.

Dr Yeadon supports the ongoing growth of the APCB, along with facilitating and supporting collaborative prostate cancer research by providing tissue samples to Australian researchers.

This role further progresses both strategic and operational agendas within the APCB at a national level. She works closely both with the executive committee and the state coordinators to support and nurture ongoing growth of the state nodes and to ensure their administrative and operational needs are fully met.

Dr Yeadon has a strong background in cancer research, biobanking and clinical trial work which gives her a good understanding of the underlying requirements of researchers and clinicians.

Based in Brisbane, previous to this position she was active in setting up the Princess Alexandra Tissue Bank as well as a number of other key biobanks in Queensland.

Dr Yeadon is currently an independent member on the Access Committee for the Victorian Cancer Biobank and I actively contribute to the International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER) Biospecimen Working Group.

Dr Mahvash Zakikhani
Research Associate, Department of Oncology
Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research of the Jewish General Hospital and McGill University

Dr Mahvash Zakikhani holds a Ph.D. in Parasitology from McGill University, Montreal, Canada. She is a Research Associate in Dr. Michael Pollak's laboratory at the Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research.

She has been involved in several projects, including co-targeting of insulin-like growth factor receptor I and other tyrosine kinase receptors in cancer treatment, the metabolism signaling pathway, as well as in vitro studies of different cancer cell line proliferation and/or growth inhibition after treatment with different drugs.

Dr Zakikhani is currently testing the inhibitory effect of an insulin sensitizer drug on different cancer cell lines, with special emphasis on breast and prostate cancer cells, to see if alterations in cellular energy metabolism are associated with the antiproliferative effects of metformin.

Ms Ellen Ruth Zeisler
Consul and Senior Trade Commissioner
Consulate General of Canada

Ellen Ruth Zeisler has been Senior Trade Commissioner in Sydney since August 2008.

A graduate of Carleton University in History and International Affairs, Ms. Zeisler joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) in 1982. Her first assignment focused on Canada's bilateral trade, investment and policy interests with Japan in agri-food, fish, and consumer products, and on her leading the first biotechnology mission to Japan in 1986. In 1987, she accepted her first assignment abroad as Consul and Trade Commissioner in San Francisco. Returning to Ottawa in 1991 as Deputy Director, Latin America, she was accountable for all planning, development and promotion of Canada's business and economic relations with the region, which led to her designing and implementing the first Latin American and Caribbean Trade Policy Division at DFAIT. Her second assignment abroad, in 1995, was as Counsellor (Commercial) in Tel Aviv, with responsibility for trade in Gaza and the West Bank. Following her participation in the negotiation of the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement, she worked on an economic protocol with the Palestinian Authority.

Returning to Ottawa in 1998, Ms. Zeisler opted for a new "marketing" and "negotiating" challenge, in Human Resources. After two years of being responsible for management of Canada's Foreign Service Directives (FSDs), Ms. Zeisler spent a year on HR policy development, before accepting her last HR assignment in 2003, as Deputy Director, Trade Commissioner Service, responsible for the assignment of Canada's Foreign Service Trade Commissioners in Canada and at Canada's missions abroad. In August 2004, she accepted her third assignment abroad, as Senior Trade Commissioner at the Canadian Embassy in Manila, where she was responsible for leadership of the TCS-MANILA team, and for the overall management of client service and business development activities in the Philippines.

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