



Melanoma
Research
Victoria
Together, we can cure

Morgan Mansell Prize for Young Victorian Melanoma Researcher of the Year

Where are they now?

Each year the MRV Scientific Exchange Meeting hosts the Victorian Melanoma Service (VMS), Morgan Mansell (MM) Prize, for Young Victorian Melanoma Researcher of the year. The prize is kindly donated by Morgan's parents, Peter and Julie Mansell, who lost their 25-year-old daughter to melanoma. Morgan, an academic herself, remains an inspiration to many researchers particularly those who win this award. Indeed, all of the former winners are continuing to achieve excellence in cancer research.

Dr Simone Park (2019) is a now postdoctoral researcher at the University of Pennsylvania. She is "investigating how protective immune responses are generated in barrier tissues and uncover how T cells can be manipulated to improve disease treatments, with particular interest on cancer immunotherapy". Simone has published in several high impact journals and been awarded multiple funding grants. Simone was a PhD candidate at the Doherty Institute when she won the VMS MM Prize.

Dr Emily Lelliott (2020) is a postdoctoral researcher at the Olivia Newton John Cancer Research Institute looking to identify new ways of harnessing the immune system to fight cancer. Emily is an author on 17 publications and the recipient of National Health and Medical Research Council funding for her research. In mid-2023 she was awarded the Premiers Award for Basic Science Researcher and the overall Premier's Excellence Award. Emily was a PhD candidate at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre when she won the VMS MM Prize.

Dr Sophie Lim (2021) is undertaking her second year of Basic Physician Training at Alfred Health. Sophie was a medical intern when she won the VMS MM Prize for her Bachelor of Medical Science Honors project on the "Evaluation of clonality in lentigo maligna" that she conducted as a medical student. Since then, she has been involved in 11 medical publications, including 8 as first author.

Dr Prachi Bhave (2022) is a medical oncologist, now undertaking a PhD in the McArthur Laboratory at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. With the help of the MRV resource, she is investigating early-stage melanoma and the biomarkers of recurrence using novel multi-omic technologies. Prachi is also the recipient of a Victorian Medical Research Acceleration Fund – Foundation Stream Grant, and an author on almost 20 peer-reviewed publications. Prachi was a medical oncologist at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre when she won the VMS MM Prize and continues to work there in the melanoma and gynaecology-oncology units.

This is the 5th year of the VMS Morgan Mansell Prize, and we are very much looking forward to hearing the presentations from the top three 2023 applicants at the **MRV Scientific Exchange Meeting on the 6th of December**. PTO for your invitation.



Morgan Mansell

Newsletter

Issue 14, October 2023

2013–2023 Melanoma Community Questionnaire

What are your melanoma research priorities? Have they changed since 2013?

It is 10 years since MRV conducted a melanoma community survey on what our research priorities should be. We think it would be wonderful if you as part of the melanoma community could answer those exact same questions a decade later. Your answers will allow us to confirm research directions, look for differences, and plan new research for the future.

Please answer the 5 minute, 7 quick questions, via the survey monkey link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MRV2023survey>

No personal information is collected by this survey.

Hard copies are available from MRV: contact us via MRV@petermac.org or 0408 550 305.

The survey will close at 5pm on the 27th of November 2023. As always, your participation is hugely appreciated but is completely optional. Preliminary results will be reported to the melanoma community at the 2023 MRV Scientific Exchange Meeting. The final report will be posted on the MRV website.

MRV Research

MRV continues to support research projects using the data and biospecimens generously donated by you, the melanoma patients who consented to be a part of the MRV Cohort study. As of October 2023, MRV had provided clinical data to 95 research projects and biospecimens (melanoma tissue and bloods) to 52 (55%) of them. The graph in Figure 1 shows the number research projects approved per year. The **Blue** shows those projects which use data alone, and the **Orange** shows projects which used data alongside biospecimens. Over the COVID-19 pandemic period there was a dip in project numbers, but they appear to be increasing once again. Note that there are still a couple of months to go until the end of 2023. We are also very proud to inform everyone that each MRV cohort participant is being included in an average of 11 research projects. Thank you for making a difference.

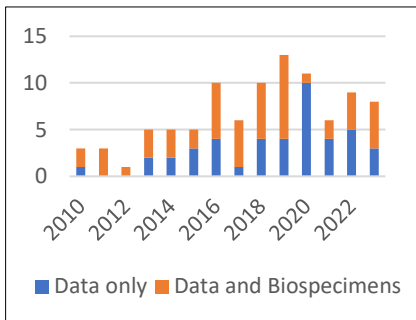


Figure 1. Approved MRV Projects by year and resource

AN INVITATION: 2023 Scientific Exchange Meeting

MRV warmly invites you to attend the **2023 annual Scientific Exchange Meeting**. All members of the melanoma community, including patients, carers, consumers, clinicians, researchers, health professionals, pharma, community members and government representatives are welcome. The event's purpose is to share melanoma knowledge and ideas between all stakeholder groups.

Professor Grant McArthur AO will host this year's meeting which:

1. tackles the question "What is the most effective way to reduce the burden of melanoma in Australia?";
2. discusses the latest in mRNA vaccines; and
3. showcases the work of the 2023 Morgan Mansell Young Melanoma Researcher of the Year Award finalists.

We hope you can join us in person for this event. A Microsoft Teams link is available for people wanting to join online.

Date:

Wednesday 6th December 2023

Time: 6:00-8:00pm

Pre meeting refreshments from 5:15pm.

Where:

Innovation & Education Hub (Lecture Theatre), The Alfred, 55 Commercial Road, Melbourne, 3004

OR

ONLINE via Microsoft Teams

Please register via the link below:

<https://events.humanitix.com/in-person-2023-mrv-scientific-exchange-meeting>

Age at Recruitment

When MRV began in 2010 our focus was on people with very early-stage melanoma which allowed us to recruit large numbers of patients very quickly. In mid-2014 our focus changed to stage II and greater, which translated into longer discussions, more intricate data entry and therefore a more in-depth recruitment process.

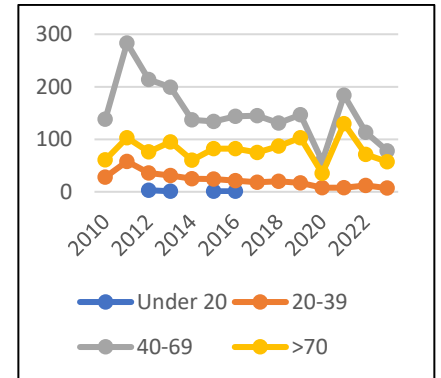


Figure 2. Recruitment by age group, over time

In 2020 there was a substantial dip due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While in 2021 recruitment increased as the Biomarker Study merged into MRV. Recruitment is still ongoing for 2023.

When we look at recruitment by age group most participants are in the 40-69 year group, followed by the over 70 year group. Melanoma is known as the most common cancer affecting the 20-39 age group, but recruitment numbers in this group appear to be decreasing over time. Very few under 20 years are recruited to MRV. Since 2010 we have now recruited over 3,700 participants.

Regardless of age, we can't thank all our participants enough for assisting us with MRV research.



Website <https://melanomaresearchvic.com.au/>



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