



**Melanoma
Research
Victoria**
Together, we can cure

Current Research Projects

The MRV Governance Committee are currently reviewing what is potentially the 100th melanoma research project to be supported by this amazing resource. The MRV Team are actively assisting 15 ongoing research projects, three that were approved in 2024. Four are PhD projects and three are international collaborations with universities in Canada, Manchester UK, and Harvard USA. One is funded by the US Department of Defense. Two are collaborations with the University of Melbourne and one with Monash University. Seven are using melanoma tissue, five are using histopathology images, four are using blood samples and all are using clinical data. Summaries of MRV projects can be found on our website:

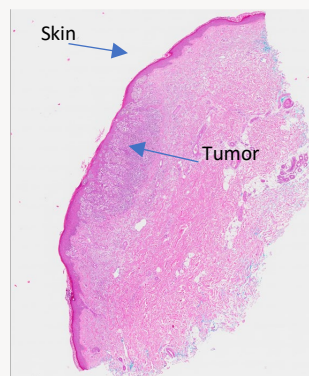
www.melanomaresearchvic.com.au

MRV consumers working with researchers

MRV has two groups of dedicated consumer groups that assist with MRV and external research projects either by reviewing them collectively or bringing a lived-experience expertise to individual projects. The MRV consumers were particularly motivated to contribute to consultant medical oncologist Dr Wanda Cui's important project investigating the implications of immunotherapy on ovarian and testicular function in younger melanoma patients. Dr Noor E Karishma Shaik was also appreciative of the consumer assistance given to her while writing her patient consent form that will be used in a study imaging melanoma and skin cancer lesions on patients'

skin to test the capabilities of the novel specialist AI camera, she developed during her engineering PhD.

MRV also supports and contributes to projects in health services research. MRV is one of five cohorts invited to be part of the establishment of a National Cancer Cohort Platform (NCCP) [National Cancer Cohort Platform](#) being established by Prof. Karin Thursky, A/Prof. Ashley Ng and team via funding from the Medical Research Futures Fund (MRFF). Several of MRV's consumers contributed to the development of Dr Jennifer Soon's recent survey circulated to all MRV participants. A big thank you to those that contributed to the conversation on 'treatment de-intensification in melanoma'. MRV consumers have also contributed to the development and analysis of two MRV community questionnaires regarding 'research priorities' and 'clinical trials'. The latter is now re-open for its 10-year repeat survey (PTO for the link).



Histopathology image of a primary melanoma.
Photo supplied by Dr.A.DiPietro

Newsletter

Issue 15, October 2024

NEW: Self-Reported Follow-Up from 2025

On average MRV participants are included in 11 research projects, simply by consenting to be part of the study. MRV collects clinical information and biospecimens to facilitate melanoma research. Fifty percent of our studies use tissue/blood samples plus clinical data. The other fifty percent use clinical data alone. The quality of the clinical data and follow-up information provided by MRV participants' doctors adds even more value to the MRV resource. We very much appreciate the clinicians who find time in their busy schedules to assist us. Unfortunately, follow-up via community doctors is becoming more complex due to time constraints and patients/ doctors moving clinics. Given the recent successes and accuracy of self-reported clinical data in studies such as CART-WHEEL.org¹ we have decided to trial a self-reported follow-up system in 2025.

How will it work?

Once a year, on the anniversary of your consent to MRV, a link to MRV's Follow-Up questions will be emailed for those with an email address or posted to those who prefer a hard copy. Data will be captured by REDCap and uploaded into the MRV database; both securely housed on the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre server. We hope you will assist us with this new approach which will add to the overall quality of data for melanoma research.

¹Kee, D. et.al.CART-WHEEL.org: An Ethically Approved Online Database for Patient-Entered Data to Facilitate Rare Cancer Research. *JCO Clin Cancer Inform* 4, 136-146(2020)

Fundraising Event at Lifestyle, Officer VIC.

Kristy Barnes-Cullen from MRV spoke to the Lifestyle Community about melanoma and MRV at their annual fundraising morning tea. A wonderful morning was had by all, and we sincerely thank the group for their generous donation.



Kay Downing and Kristy Barnes-Cullen. Photo supplied by KBC.

To donate to MRV:

www.melanomaresearchvic.com.au/donate

Welcome to our new MRV Governance Committee Members

A warm welcome to Dr Fanny Franchini and A/Prof Christopher Steer. Dr Franchini is a senior research fellow and senior data scientist specializing in clinical and digital health at the Cancer Health Services Research Unit, University of Melbourne. A/Prof Steer is a medical oncologist at Border Medical Oncology at the Albury Wodonga Regional Cancer Centre in regional NSW, Australia. He is an Associate Professor at the UNSW

AN INVITATION: 2023 Scientific Exchange Meeting

MRV warmly invites you to attend the **2024 annual MRV Scientific Exchange Meeting**.

Professor Grant McArthur AO will host the meeting at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. All members of the melanoma community are welcome to attend in person or online.

Topics in 2024 include: a MRV update; the debate “There will no longer be a role for adjuvant therapy in melanoma”; AI and Histopathology; and the inspiring Morgan Mansell Young Melanoma Researcher of the Year Prize finalist presentations.

The final program will be available via the Humanitix link.

Date:

Thursday 7th November 2024

Time: 6:00-8:00pm

Pre meeting refreshments from 5:15pm.

Where:

Level 7, Lecture Theatre B,
Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre,
305 Grattan Street,
Melbourne, 3000.

OR

ONLINE via Zoom

Please register via the link below:

<https://events.humanitix.com/2024-mrv-scientific-exchange-meeting>

School of Clinical Medicine, Rural Clinical Campus, Albury and an Adjunct Professor at La Trobe University, Wodonga campus.

Your HELP: A 10-year repeat survey about ‘clinical trials’

Do you think clinical trials are valuable? Are there enough of them? Are they accessible to everyone?

We would love to know your opinion in 2024 so we can compare your answers to the 2014 responses and gain a more current perspective on clinical trials today. Please consider answering this 10-question, 10-minute survey to help our health services research.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MRV2024survey>

No identifiable information is collected. Participation is optional and indicates consent. Hard copies are available from MRV: contact us via MRV@petermac.org or 0408 550 305. Survey closes at 5pm on **Monday 28th October**. Results will be analysed and reported back to the you via our publications and social media.

Melanoma ‘Research Priorities’ Survey Thanks to all that contributed to the 2013-2023 survey. Findings will be presented at the Australasian Melanoma Conference in Sydney 25-26 October 2024.

www.melanoma2024.com Results will be shared on MRV’s social media platforms after the meeting.



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



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