

Melbourne Melanoma Project Update

Welcome to the inaugural Melbourne Melanoma Project Newsletter. This newsletter is designed to keep you informed about the melanoma research being undertaken by our research collaboration.

We hope you find the newsletter of interest and invite you to sign up to our email newsletter and website updates. Simply go to our website, click on the

'Subscribe Now' button on our Newsletter Subscription advert and fill in your details.

Thank you for your support

– Melbourne Melanoma Project

The MMP team can be contacted on:

Email:

info@melbournemelanomaproject.com


Twitter: [Twitter@Melanoma_MMP](https://twitter.com/Melanoma_MMP)

Website:

www.melbournemelanomaproject.com

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

Subscribe to our Newsletter for regular updates, news and information on the Melbourne Melanoma Project.

Subscribe Now 

Melbourne Melanoma Project Showcase

We cordially invite you to attend the MMP Showcase. Come and hear the highlights of our achievements in melanoma research. This collaboration of medical professionals, scientists and consumers has much to celebrate, including the consenting of our 1000th patient.

Seats are limited so RSVPs are essential to attend this event.

When: *Thursday 21st March 2013*

Time: *5pm for a 5.30pm start to 7pm*

Where: *Jack Brockhoff Theatre Level 3,
Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre
12 St Andrews Place
East Melbourne 3002*

RSVP: *5pm Friday 15th March 2013 to
Claudia.Poppe@petermac.org
or call Sonia Mailer on 03 9656 5248*

Fast Facts

About the Melbourne Melanoma Project:

- Project began in 2009
- Major scientific collaboration
- 4 collection sites
- Over 1150 primary melanoma samples
- Oldest patient is 100 years
- Youngest patient is 18 years
- 63% are Melbourne patients
- 33% are rural Victoria patients
- 4% are interstate patients
- 46% have blue eyes
- 55% have blonde or fair hair
- 52% have experienced severe sunburn
- 8% have used solaria
- 51 publications
- 102 presentations
- Linked to 8 clinical trials

“ Jason was very happy to donate his primary melanoma tissue after the surgery ”

1000th Patient Celebration

We recruited recently our 1000th patient, making the Melbourne Melanoma Project one of the largest resources of melanoma tissue and blood samples in the world.

The 1000th patient to take part in the Melbourne Melanoma Project was Jason Nielson, 44. He works as an aircraft engineer and spends a lot of his work

time on the outside. Jason is an active sportsman, having played tennis, golf and cricket for most of his life. He has green eyes and red hair and remembers that he was sunburnt a lot while growing up.

Jason was very happy to donate his primary melanoma tissue after the surgery, in an effort to support the research to fight this horrible disease.

Scientific Exchange 2012

Courtesy of Jerry Galea Photography

In August 2012 the MMP team gathered at the Olivia Newton-John Cancer and Wellness Centre for its Annual Scientific Exchange Meeting to hear the latest scientific and consumer group achievements. MMP is a true collaboration; engaging scientists, medical professionals and consumers across multiple locations to better understand melanoma.

The meeting heard about research advances in: melanoma gene sequencing; tissues screening for marker antigens; prognostic animal models; bioinformatics analyses; cancer stem cells and more. Advocacy and Awareness advances included the outcomes of the "Tissue is the Issue" Forum



and consumer involvement in scientific project reviews. The mixture of disciplines and skills present in the room provided some interesting questions and seeded several new ideas.

A number of key platforms support MMP work and the team efforts of many from the Alfred Hospital, the Ludwig Institute,

Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Border Oncology, WEHI, VCB, MIA and numerous affiliates were acknowledged at the meeting. Every MMP project is of course underpinned by the MMP database and the tissue collection which is essential for MMP research into melanoma.

Australian Melanoma Consumer Alliance

The AMCA has developed in close collaboration with the Melbourne Melanoma Project Consumer Reference Group. It is represented

by individuals who have an interest in melanoma personally or from a carer's perspective. The group is augmented by representation from organisations around the country including; Melanoma Patients Australia (MPA), Melanoma Institute of Australia (MIA), Australia and New Zealand Trials Group (ANZMTG), Melbourne Melanoma Project (MMP) and Melanoma WA.



The AMCA aims to become a national voice on behalf of melanoma consumers and provide an overall umbrella forum (alliance) for individual support group organisations.

The principal functions of the AMCA include:

- Representing the interests of consumers
- Advocating on behalf of consumers to ensure that their voice is heard by researchers, policy makers and governments
- Providing input on how consumers may think and feel about certain issues relating to melanoma research

- Contributing to consumer experiences
- Ensuring MMP recognises consumer concerns
- Establishing a protocol for consumer review of melanoma based scientific research
- Contributing to and reviewing patient-oriented resources and tools for clinical trials occurring at MMP and other melanoma research sites.
- Contributing to and reviewing content for the MMP consumer website, social media and newsletters
- Connecting with other consumer groups to ensure that information is appropriately disseminated.

The Melbourne Melanoma Project is supported by the Victorian Government through the Victorian Cancer Agency Translational Research Program. The Victorian Cancer Agency had a responsibility for building cancer research capacity and capability across Victoria. One of its main functions is to align and support clinical, academic and research organisations involved in cancer research to maximise patient outcomes.