

# NEWS LETTER



Issue 4

November 2014

## Melbourne Melanoma Project (MMP)

### NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

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Hello to all. MMP has been busy setting up its new research platforms and getting all of the appropriate approvals to start our next exciting chapter of research. We look forward to telling you about our future results. Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Our MMP social media sites continue to try and keep you up to date with melanoma research and some local community activities. Please note that most articles are obtained via Google Alerts and do not necessarily reflect the views of MMP.



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## Congratulations

Congratulations to Professor Grant McArthur, MMP's Chief Investigator, who became the Inaugural Lorenzo Galli Chair of Melanoma & Skin Cancers at the University of Melbourne in August 2014.

## How do Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Meetings help patients and facilitate better research?

Has your doctor ever mentioned attending a MDT meeting, where doctors and health professionals of all different specialities meet to discuss medical cases? In a melanoma MDT you might find plastic surgeons, oncology surgeons, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, dermatologists, trainee doctors, nurses and clinical trial personnel. These meetings are incredibly valuable: they ensure top quality care for patients; amazing training for medical staff; a great forum to identify key medical needs requiring research; a dedicated time to report and debate new research results; and an important opportunity to identify patients for clinical trials. They are of course all conducted with a total respect for personal information and more importantly with the best interests of the patient at heart. In reality MDTs are the



only way you can have several Professors and specialists review your individual treatment plan in one room at one time!

Many MMP patients have been identified via MDT meetings. Their participation in the project has created an incredible resource that is now well utilised by melanoma researchers, who are in turn reporting their results back to the MDTs and beyond. An awesome achievement by everyone!

## Consumer Corner

The MMP Consumer Reference Group is interested in knowing what the melanoma community think about clinical trials in Australia. To understand your thoughts about this they have devised a five minute survey which you can find via the following link:



[www.surveymonkey.com/s/QMV8FCH](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QMV8FCH)

If you would prefer to receive a hard copy to fill out please contact Sonia Mailer on 9656 5248. Your input is really important to us and helps the entire MMP team to focus on what the Victorian melanoma community want. Your thoughts regarding rural vs metro access to clinical trials will be included in the Scientific Exchange panel discussion – so please fill in the survey asap. The survey will close at 5pm on Tuesday 9th December.

## MMP Invitation

Please join us at the annual MMP Scientific Exchange Meeting where patients, scientists, clinicians and the melanoma community meet to share ideas. The evening will begin with a Christmas drink followed by a brief update on MMP and its research, including the circulating cancer markers project suggested by our 2013 audience.

The remainder of the meeting will be spent discussing rural vs metro differences for melanoma patients. Come and listen to our panel and be part of the interactive session.

FACULTY OF  
MEDICINE  
DENTISTRY  
& HEALTH  
SCIENCESCancer  
Research  
Domain**When:**

6-8pm Thursday 11th December 2014

**Where:**

Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, Theatre 1 (basement), 207 Bouverie St, The University of Melbourne, 3010

**RSVP:**sonia.mailer@petermac.org  
or 9656 5248

This function is being held in conjunction with the University of Melbourne under the auspices of the Inaugural Lorenzo Galli Chair in Melanoma.

## Melanoma Support

**1 CANCER COUNCIL VICTORIA**  
**Helpline:** 13 11 20  
<http://www.cancervic.org.au/how-we-can-help/find-a-support-group>

**2 MIA GROUP**  
**When:** 7.30pm, second Wednesday of each month.  
**Where:** Carey Baptist Grammar School (Donvale campus) 9 Era Crt Donvale  
**Contact:** Nathan Jones, 0418334524,  
[Nathan.Jones@carey.com.au](mailto:Nathan.Jones@carey.com.au)

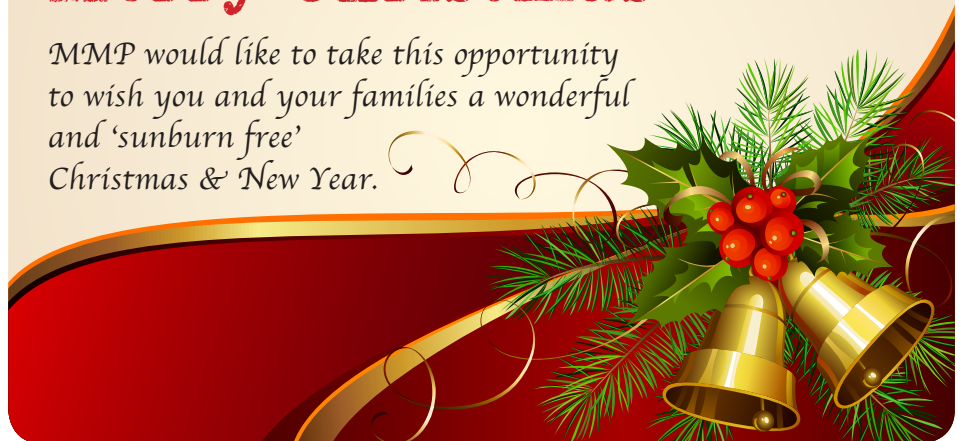
**3 MPA GROUP**  
**When:** 7.30pm, first Thursday of each month. **Where:** Docklands Library – Victor Harbour Promenade Community Room – Level One  
**Contact:** Alison Button-Sloan  
[buttonloan@bigpond.com](mailto:buttonloan@bigpond.com) 0410 623 794

## MMP Fast Facts

Participants	1710
Investigators	21
Collaborators	22
Molecular Tests	2500

## Merry Christmas

*MMP would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a wonderful and 'sunburn free' Christmas & New Year.*



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.