

NEWS LETTER

January 2016

Issue 6

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND BEST WISHES
FOR A SUNBURN FREE SUMMER.



Melbourne Melanoma Project (MMP)

We are pleased to bring you the 6th MMP newsletter and hope that you find it of interest.

All photos courtesy of MMP.

MELANOMA NEWS SUBSCRIPTION

Subscribe to our MMP news feed to receive regular updates regarding melanoma research and local events.

Subscribe Now



www.melbournemelanomaproject.com
Click on the **Subscribe Now** button on our website to receive regular updates



info@melbournemelanomaproject.com



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



[Melbourne Melanoma Project](https://www.facebook.com/MelbourneMelanomaProject)

Our MMP social media sites aim to keep you up to date with all 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.

MMP Invitation

MMP has recruited its 2000th patient and would like to celebrate this milestone and the generosity of all our patients at our next Scientific Exchange meeting.

Join us for a brief update on MMP research followed by celebratory refreshments.

When:

6-8pm Wednesday 3rd February 2016

Where:

Olivia Newton-John Cancer & Wellness Centre
Seminar Room 5B, Level 5
145 Studley Road, Heidelberg, Vic 3084

RSVP:

sonia.mailer@petermac.org or 03 9656 5248

Save the Date/s

MMP are planning a **rural melanoma forum** in Wodonga in autumn 2016. We would love to see you there if you live in the district. Details will be advertised on our website and e/mailed to our country cohort.

The **Melanoma March, Melbourne** is celebrating its 10th year and promises to be bigger and better than before. Join the Skin & Cancer Foundation in conjunction with the Melanoma Institute of Australia for a walk around Melbourne's Tan Track on Sunday 6th March. The money raised will be used to support a national melanoma research project.

<http://melanomamarch2016-locations.gofundraise.com.au/cms/melbourne>

MMP Researcher: Dr Victoria Mar



Dr Victoria Mar is dermatologist with a particular interest in early stage melanomas. She completed her PhD in 2014 and is now heading up several new MMP projects. She is interested in improving the management of patients with Lentigo Maligna, an early stage melanoma which does not cause a large number of deaths, but carries a heavy morbidity burden due to the location of lesions on the head and neck which often require multiple surgeries to clear. Imiquimod (Aldara) cream has been used to treat some Lentigo Maligna cases with variable response. She is currently using gene expression analysis to understand why some patients respond to this topical immunotherapy treatment, whilst others do not. This may help determine predictive biomarkers of response so that patients can be selected for non-surgical treatments more appropriately.

Another project focused on early stage disease involves understanding more about patients who develop multiple primary melanomas. A personal history of primary cutaneous melanoma is the strongest risk factor for developing another. The clinical and molecular characteristics of the tumors that arise in patients with multiple primary melanomas are not yet well-established. There is some evidence that patients who develop multiple primaries have improved survival. This study aims to better define groups of patients who are more likely to develop multiple primary melanomas and to understand the mutational profile of melanomas within these groups. Findings from this project will improve our understanding of the complexity of melanomagenesis and has the potential to facilitate future research regarding genetic risk factors that may predispose to multiple primary melanomas.

Victoria is also interested in how the mutational profile of the tumor as well as other patient and tumor characteristics might determine different pathways of metastatic disease. Now that MMP has enrolled over 2000 patients, with a significant follow-up period, she will investigate how molecular information helps us predict how the tumor might spread.

Cancer Council Victoria Statistics

In 2014 "Melanoma was the fifth ranking new cancer in Victoria (2,466 cases, 8% of total) and was the eleventh cause of cancer death (279 deaths, 3% of total). Mortality rates are stable, and incidence rates have been declining since 2006. Rates continue to increase in older Victorians, but have decreased for younger age groups who have lived during the SunSmart era."

If you would like to read more the document titled 'Cancer in Victoria: Statistics & Trends 2014,' Cancer Council Victoria, Melbourne 2015, can be downloaded at:

<http://www.cancervic.org.au/downloads/cec/cancer-survival-victoria-2014pdf>

Melanoma Support

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>1 CANCER COUNCIL VICTORIA
 Helpline: 13 11 20
 http://www.cancervic.org.au/how-we-can-help/find-a-support-group</p> | <p>2 MIA GROUP
 When: 7.30pm, second Wednesday of each month (from Feb.)
 Where: School gymnasium, St. Charles Primary School, 222 Serpells Road, Templestowe
 Contact: Nathan Jones, 0418 334 524, n.jones.learning@gmail.com</p> | <p>3 MPA GROUP
 When: 7-9pm First Thursday of each month (from Feb.)
 Where: Bentleigh Bayside Community Health, 2A Gardeners Rd, Bentleigh East 3165
 Contact: Alison Button-Sloan buttonloan@bigpond.com 0410 623 794</p> |
|--|---|--|

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.