



Welcome to Our New Look

The Melbourne Melanoma Project (MMP) has been considering a more inclusive name change for a while. After much consultation we are poised to officially convert to Melanoma Research Victoria.

Ever since Border Medical Oncology joined MMP in 2012 the MMP Governance Committee has questioned our metro-centric name. In 2014, when Dr Julia Lai-Kwon interrogated our patient postcodes we noted that 31% (282 patients) of our participant cohort were from rural Victoria. Now in 2018 we have screened the cohort postcodes again and found that the percentage of rural patients has increased to 33% (831 patients). Table 1 plots the postcode numbers. Interestingly Victoria's Cancer Statistics Registry data showed a similar trend with 37% of all melanoma diagnoses in 2016 being rural.

(<http://vcrdata.cancervic.org.au/vs/>)

The development of our new look began by seeking and engaging expertise. Davidson Branding led us through a very thorough consultation process with consumers, the Governance Committee, clinicians, researchers and members of the wider melanoma community. We worked through what MMP meant to us and our stakeholders and what we as a collaboration wished to represent and aim for in the future.

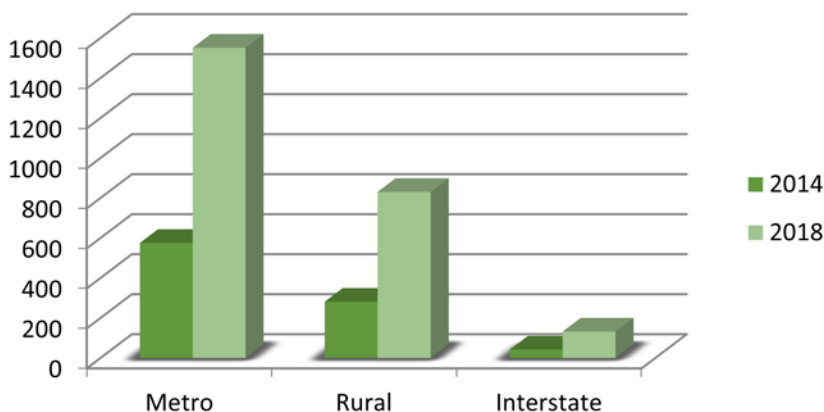
Our new logo is unique, fresh and exudes a positive vibe for a project that is truly achieving goals in melanoma research across Victoria. (See our achievements in Fast Facts.)

In June we are having our 2018 MMP Scientific Exchange Forum. If you would like to come and celebrate our new name/look please register via the invitation on the reverse side of this newsletter.

Fast Facts MMP Metrics

- >2500 Participants
- 831 Rural Participants
- 516 Postcodes
- 4 to 97 Years of Age
- 97% Caucasian
- 53% Blue Eyes
- 30% Red/Blond Hair
- 17% Deceased
- 9235 Surgery records
- 560 Radiation Therapy records
- 595 Systemic Therapy records
- 202 Clinical Trial records
- >2659 Blood Collections
- 35 Research Projects
- 181 Related Publications
- 270 Presentations
- 4 Community Awards
- 10 Public Forums
- 3774 Tweets
- 1036 Followers
- 625 Website Friends
- 197 Facebook Friends

MMP Participant Numbers by Postcode



Good Bye



MRV Update 2017 till Now

Although we have been quiet on the MMP research communication front we have not stopped working. If anything the project has blossomed rapidly. Several new projects have started, some with international collaborators. Many are looking at the body's immune cells and their responses to melanoma and the new treatments. The true value of all that our participants donate for research is being realised and is very much appreciated.

In January 2017 MMP/MRV was successful in obtaining additional funding from the Victorian Cancer Agency (VCA) to conduct two novel clinical trials and some related research studies. This is a new string in the ever expanding bow of the resource now known as MRV. The regulatory paperwork is happening!

Patient Reported Outcomes are becoming very popular in research and our Quality of Life data contains many measurable items. So please keep filling in the QOL surveys as they are becoming very valuable for social wellbeing studies as well as health economics.

// Congratulations to Paul White, Chair of the MMP-CRG, for his award: Outstanding Patient Advocate for 2017 //

MMP has been awarded three National Melanoma Awards: Outstanding Medical Professional of 2015 (Professor Grant McArthur); Excellence as a Not For Profit in 2016

(MMP); and now Outstanding Patient Advocate for 2017. Congratulations to Paul White, the Chair of the MMP/MRV Consumer Reference Group (MRV-CRG). Paul's voluntary dedication to fighting this disease and advocating for research is to be commended.

MMP has been recognized as an excellent example of co-production in research/health. A video about our project is now used as a teaching example in the consumer-integration courses offered by the Health Issues Centre. If you are interested in becoming a MRV patient (consumer) advocate please feel free to contact us. sonia.mailer@petermac.org

One of our highlights in recent times was the contribution of MMP clinical data to be used in the development of the new AJCC guidelines for staging melanoma. These international guidelines (CA Cancer J Clin 2017;67:472-492) are now in action in clinics all around the globe. It seems that patients are having better outcomes simply because of the more accurate staging and therefore more appropriate treatments.

Two of our eminent Professors are retiring from the MMP Governance Committee. John Kelly and Ian Davis were key members of the original project applications and have played major roles in the evolution of the research and the cohort resource. We thank them and wish them all the best in their ongoing clinical work. Four new members have joined the Governance Committee (Prof Mark Shackleton, Dr David Gyorki, Dr Victoria Mar and Dr Shahneen Sandhu) and we look forward to working with them to continue the advancement of Melanoma Research Victoria.

Invitation 2018 Scientific Exchange Meeting

Please join us at the MMP/MRV Scientific Exchange Meeting to hear what our researchers have been working on, what our plans for the future are and to help us celebrate our new look.

When: Thursday 21 June 2018

Time: 6pm – 9pm

Where: Oliva Newton-John Cancer, Wellness & Research Centre, Seminar Room 5B, Level 5, 145 Studley Road, HEIDELBERG, 3084

Topics: Artificial Intelligence and Melanoma Diagnosis; Adjuvant Immune and Targeted Therapy; Research Vignettes

Celebratory refreshments will be served after the meeting

RSVP:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2018-scientific-exchange-meeting-tickets-46270661795>



MMP Researchers: Stephen Wong PhD, Dr Nikki Adler and Dr Victoria Mar.
Photography: Chris Kapa



<http://melbournemelanomaproject.com/>



info@melbournemelanomaproject.com



Melbourne Melanoma Project



@Melanoma_MMP

Please note that these social media sites will be changing to match our new name and look in the near future.



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