

AMRF | 2022 RESEARCH UPDATE

"Thank you for sharing our vision and supporting research that will make the future brighter for patients with melanoma.

We know melanoma research is saving lives.

Ten years ago, patients with advanced melanoma had less than 1% survival rate. Today it is over 50%. Our hope for the future, is that this figure continues to improve.

You are helping achieve this."

Marisa Chilcott
CEO AMRF

Congratulations 2022 AMRF Grant Recipients

We are delighted to announce the AMRF grant recipients for 2022.

It is only through the support of our partners and donors that this support is available. Thank you for making a difference. Our Research Committee, which included two external experts, has awarded support to four outstanding young researchers. This year AMRF has doubled the number of researchers and funding support. We are also delighted to showcase two inaugural grants. The Warren Meanwell Melanoma Research Grant and the LEK Consulting Melanoma Research grant.



Dr Bruna Melhoranse Gouveia
Inaugural Warren Meanwell Melanoma Research Grant
Melanoma Institute Australia and Sydney University NSW

Project: The Lentigo Maligna Project that hopes to aid daily clinical practice by helping experts identify invasive lesions with better accuracy

"It is an honour to be awarded this grant. We hope our work will make a real difference that will ultimately improve outcomes for melanoma patients."



Dr Prachi Bhawe
Inaugural LEK Consulting Melanoma Research Grant
Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre VIC

Project: Unlocking the melanoma tumour micro-environment through novel spatial transcriptomics methodologies

"With the support I will be able to carry out a detailed analysis of early-stage melanoma using novel spatial transcriptomics technology to determine the factors responsible for melanoma recurrence after surgery and progression."



Isobel Leece
Post Graduate Research Grant
Monash University VIC

Project: Investigating spatial interactions of melanoma and cytotoxic cells within lymph nodes

"This grant means amazing opportunities, for myself, for research into lymph node metastasis, and hopefully for patients. Thank you AMRF for this support."



Dr Sara Alavi
Early Career Researcher Grant
Centenary Institute NSW

Project: Testing Nicotinamide as a metabolic adjuvant to increase efficacy of immunotherapy in melanoma

"This grant allows me to continue my research interest and become closer to being an independent in research."

Thank you

About Warren Meanwell



Warren Meanwell was a wonderful sportsman, adventurer, business entrepreneur and passionate campaigner for sun safety.

As an electrician working at the mines in WA, Warren became alarmed by the devastating affects of skin cancer in the mining community. In 1994, Warren and wife Kerry started a sun protection clothing company to provide high quality, stylish clothing for people who worked or like to enjoy in the great outdoors.

Their work's focus became deeply personal when, in 2006, Warren was diagnosed with malignant melanoma. A bronzed Aussie, Warren had spent his young years surfing and sailing wearing nothing but board shorts.

Warren lost his brave battle in December 2010. He was 49.

A devoted son, brother, husband and father. Warren left behind a daughter Lara and son Mathew. Mathew now works at **Sun Protection Australia**.

This grant will ensure Warren's mission to save Aussie lives continues.



LEK Consulting have held two successful Invitational Golf days. AMRF Board Member Mark Streeting is a Partner at LEK and also a melanoma survivor. Mark knows only too well the importance of research and the difference it has made to the survival rate of melanoma patients.

Updates

2021 Grant Recipient - Rebecca Simpson

My research looks at how diet and intestinal microbes influence the efficacy and safety of treatment. The pilot study was successful and allowed us to establish a model to study subclinical toxicities. Thank you to AMRF and the donors who supported my work.

2021 Early Career Researcher -Dr Pouya Faridi

We used Peptide PCR technology and confirmed the presence of 10 spliced peptides derived from melanoma antigen in tumour biopsies from melanoma patients. In addition, validated peptides have been used in 1 patients in a clinical study on dendritic cell-based vaccines and cancer immunotherapy. The patient received the vaccine, and his immune system responded to our antigens. We are doing a follow-up on this patient and exploring the next patient.

*Thank you
for your support.*

Previous Grant Recipients



2021 Early Career Research Grant
Dr Pouya Faridi
Monash University Vic
Study the microenvironment and immunological makeup of melanoma



2021 Post Graduate Student Grant -
Rebecca Simpson
MIA & University of Sydney
Investigating the effectiveness of diet in altering-systemic immune function during immunotherapy



2020 Post Graduate Student Grant
Jordan Conway
University of Sydney
Research into liver metastases from melanoma primary



2020 Post Graduate Student Grant -
Aaron Beasley
Edith Cowen University WA
Early Detection (Uveal) Eye Melanoma



2020 Early Career Scientist Grant
Dr Pauline Zaenker
Edith Cowen University WA
Development of diagnostic blood tests



2019 Post Graduate Student Grant -
Samantha J. Watson
University of South Australia
Research into Endosomal Biomarkers to define Melanoma Cancer



2013-18 Associate Professor Brendon Coventry
University of Adelaide
Improving Melanoma therapy using timed coordinated vaccine and chemotherapy delivery

