AUSTRALIAN MELANOMA RESEARCH FOUNDATION

AMRF I 2023

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.

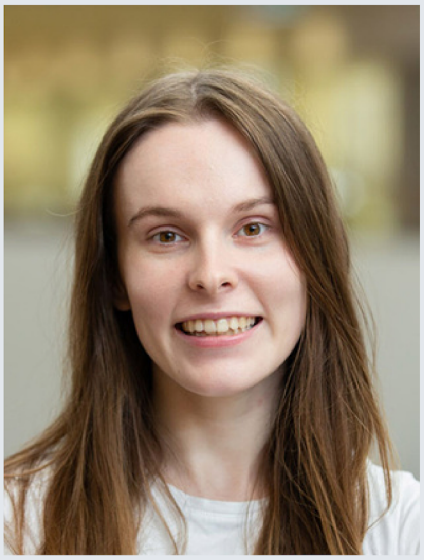
Congratulations
2023 AMRF Grant Recipients

We are delighted to announce the AMRF grant recipients for 2023.

Melanoma incidence is set to rise over the next 10 years. More than 200,000 Australians are expected to be diagnosed with melanoma before 2030.

The survival rate from advanced melanoma has improved from 10% to 50% over the last decade – largely due to improvements in detection and treatment. 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 includes two external experts, has selected five young Australian researchers for grants in the 2023 round.

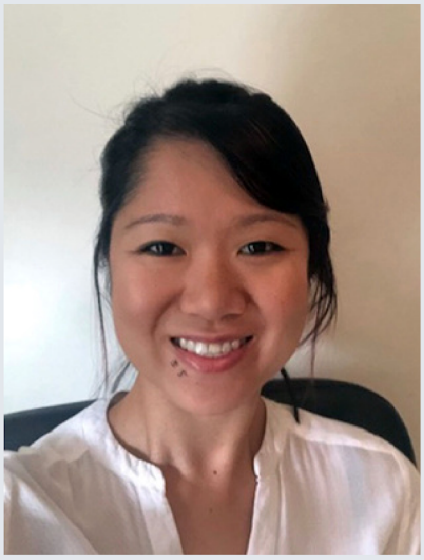
We are also delighted to announce the recipients of the Warren Meanwell Melanoma Research Grant and the LEK Consulting Melanoma Research Grant for 2023.



Grace Attrill
The University of Sydney, NSW
Early Career Research Scientist and Warren Meanwell Melanoma Research Grant recipient for 2023

Project: Identifying the gene expression signatures of tumour-specific CD8+ T cells in adjuvant anti-PD-1 treated stage III melanoma patients

"I feel very fortunate to receive the Warren Meanwell Melanoma Research Grant for 2023 for this exciting new study, which we hope will lead to more effective therapies for melanoma patients. Thank you very much!"



Dr Rachel Teh
The University of Sydney, NSW
Early Career Research Scientist and LEK Consulting Research Grant recipient for 2023

Project: Research into the identification of protein signatures and the use of scarless skin biopsies to achieve more reliable diagnoses through proteomic analysis

"I'm grateful and honoured to be awarded by the AMRF. This means that I can continue my research towards improving the way we diagnose melanoma and develop a diagnostic tool which will help underserved communities. Thank you, AMRF."

To see a full summary of these research projects go to www.melanomaresearch.com.au/research/2023-research-grants/

Dr Pauline Zaenker
Edith Cowan University, Perth, WA
Early Career Research Scientist Grant recipient for 2023

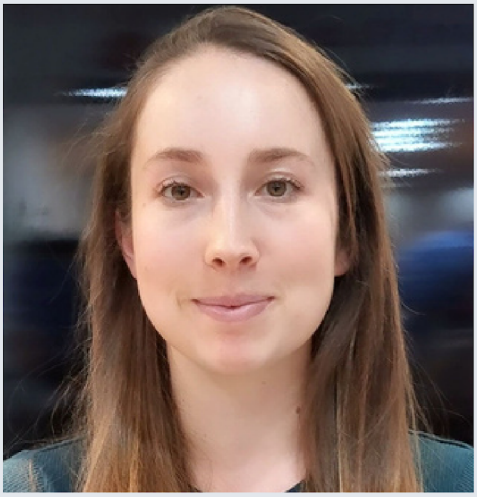
Project: IgG and IgA autoanti-bodies as predictive biomarkers of immune-related adverse events (irAEs) and survival in cutaneous melanoma patients on immune checkpoint inhibitors

"I am passionate about the development of tests that can serve as additional tools to improve the diagnostic and prognostic certainty of cancer surveillance. The AMRF Early Career Research Scientist grant enables me to validate research findings to further the translation of my research into the clinic."

Dr Tatiane Yanes
The University of Queensland, QLD
Early Career Research Scientist Grant recipient for 2023

Project: Assessing behavioural impacts of receiving personalised risk scores for melanoma

"I want to thank AMRF for its support towards our research. We really value the contribution. The grant will be used to help provide personalised melanoma risk information to our study participants, which is being assessed as part of the study."



Catherine Zilberg
The University of Sydney, NSW
Post Graduate Research Grant recipient for 2023

Project: Immunosuppression and the tumour microenvironment in advanced melanoma

"This grant will allow me to undertake much needed research into a high-risk group of patients. Hopefully, this research will lead to improved melanoma outcomes for immunosuppressed patients. Thank you AMRF!"

Updates

2022 LEK Consulting Melanoma Research Grant
Dr Prachi Bhave

Congratulations to Dr Prachi Bhave on winning the 2022 Young Victorian Melanoma Researcher of the Year. The prize was presented at Melanoma Research Victoria's Scientific Annual Meeting (November 2022 at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre). Dr Bhave's prize winning research was on efficacy of checkpoint inhibitors in acral melanoma (melanomas that occur on soles of feet, palms, nails and the most common melanoma in people with darker skin). Congratulations also to the runners up: Dr Claire Felmingham (improving skin cancer management with artificial intelligence); and Ms Peinan Zhao (genomic comparisons).

2022 Early Career Researcher Grant Recipient
Dr Sara Alavi

Immunotherapy with antibodies that block immune checkpoint receptors on lymphocytes has become a leading treatment of melanoma. Immune checkpoints act like switches that turn off an attack by immune cells on the cancer. When checkpoints are blocked, the immune response against cancer is boosted and results in regression of the cancer and prolongation of patient survival. Despite these advances, not all patients will respond, and 40-60% of patients will relapse by 2-3 years on such treatments. Importantly on-treatment relapse may be caused by development of a T cell dysfunctional state caused by prolonged antigen exposure, called T cell exhaustion (TEx). TEx cells express multiple inhibitory receptors and demonstrate low cytotoxicity and diminished production of cytokines like IFNg and IL-2.