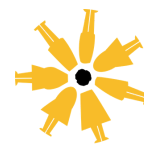


Your support drives research



AUSTRALIAN
MELANOMA
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION

For 20 years, the Australian Melanoma Research Foundation has been committed to advancing melanoma research, with a focus on prevention, early detection and treatment.

Melanoma is Australia's third most common cancer, with survival rates of advanced melanoma at just 55%. But research is changing what is possible.

With your support, we fund Australia's next generation of scientific leaders, helping accelerate research and turn discoveries into better outcomes for people affected by melanoma.

Melanoma in Australia



One in three Australians will develop a skin cancer. The most dangerous is melanoma.



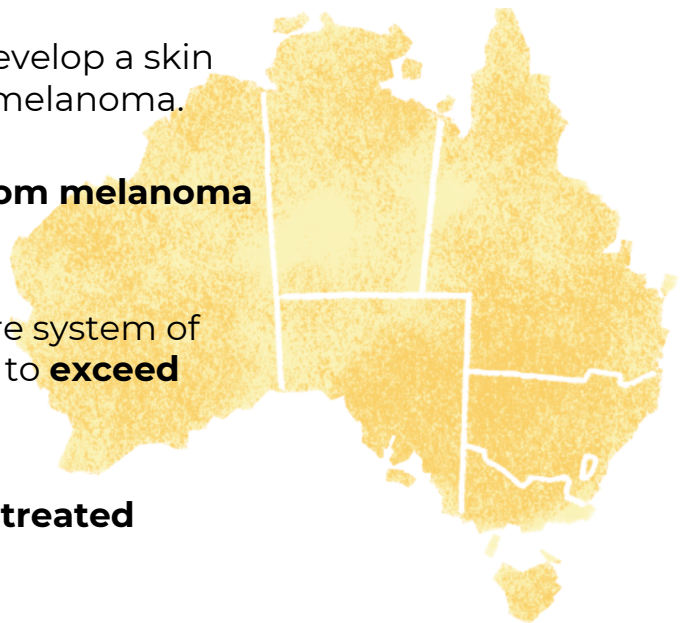
In Australia, **one person dies from melanoma every 6 hours.**



The direct cost to our health care system of treating melanoma is expected to **exceed \$3b** before 2030.



Over 90% of melanoma **can be treated successfully** if detected early.



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I am honoured and grateful to the Australian Melanoma Research Foundation for supporting this research. We hope this research brings us one step closer to our shared goal of zero deaths from melanoma by helping identify patients at the highest risk of recurrence earlier, enabling more personalised care and ultimately improving patient outcomes.

Suzanah Boyd
*Maureen Ellen James Memorial Award
Recipient, 2026*



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Funded Research

2026



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Multimodal Precision Liquid Biopsy to Predict Risk of Melanoma Recurrence in Early Stage IIB and IIC Disease

Suzanah Boyd – Macquarie University

Our aim is to develop a highly sensitive blood test, known as a liquid biopsy, that can detect signs of residual disease before melanoma recurrence becomes clinically apparent. The study will integrate these molecular markers with established clinical factors to improve the accuracy of recurrence prediction. Combined, these biomarkers could help clinicians intervene earlier when needed while reducing unnecessary treatment for lower-risk patients.



How all cells in the tumour microenvironment respond to treatment with MAPK inhibition with or without AR blockade

Dr Douglas Gaskarth – Monash University

While targeted therapy has significantly improved outcomes for people with advanced melanoma, biological males remain less likely to respond to treatment and to display poorer survival outcomes than females. This project investigates why these differences occur by examining the role of the androgen receptor – a protein activated by male sex hormones such as testosterone – in driving resistance to MAPK inhibitors, a common targeted therapy for melanoma.



Defining the DNA Methylation Landscape of Neoadjuvant Immunotherapy Response in Stage III Melanoma

Laura Smith – Melanoma Institute Australia

This project will investigate how DNA methylation, an epigenetic process that regulates gene activity, influences response and resistance to immunotherapy given before surgery (neoadjuvant immunotherapy) in people with stage III melanoma. The study aims to identify epigenetic signatures linked to treatment outcomes, improve our understanding of how melanoma evades the immune system, and identify candidate biomarkers and therapeutic targets.



Investigation into the mechanisms behind CD15s upregulation on human T cells and confirm its impact on anti-PD-1 therapy

Rachael Stone – Adelaide University

This project will investigate a specialised population of cancer-fighting immune cells known as cytotoxic CD8 T cells and explore how a molecule called CD15s helps these cells migrate from the bloodstream into tumours. Previous research has shown that patients with higher levels of CD15s on their T cells are significantly more likely to respond to immunotherapy and experience longer survival.

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