



Clinical Research Fellowship

2009

Commencing January 2009

Grant Title: "Molecular grade as prognostic indicator in invasive breast cancer"

Description: Major advances in early detection and treatment of breast cancer have created a need for more accurate methods to identify patients who can safely forego chemotherapy after a breast cancer diagnosis. Drawing on our recent research, we propose a novel approach that will improve the accuracy of breast cancer prognostication by identifying low-risk breast cancer within the context of different disease types. This new method has been designed for practical application in a routine clinical setting and may improve management of individual patients.

The Fellowship Grant was awarded to:

- Dr Rosemary Balleine

Administering Institution: University of Sydney

Research Location(s): Westmead Millennium Institute

Grant Reference: 08/CRF/1-04

\$ 577,151 over 3 years

Title: "Epigenetic changes in gliomas"

Lay Summary: This project will examine DNA changes associated with gene silencing in specific chromosomal regions of human primary brain tumours. Using new technology we will produce a comprehensive 'map' of the regions commonly silenced, which will identify genes which have been consistently 'switched off', and hence are likely important in tumour formation. This may provide new ways of diagnosing brain tumours as well as new targets for brain tumour treatment in the future.

The Fellowship Grant was awarded to:

- Dr Michael Edward Buckland

Administering Institution: St Vincent's Clinical School

Research Location(s): St Vincents Hospital

Grant Reference: 08/CRF/1-05

\$ 754,453 over 3 years

Title: “Molecular Markers of Diagnosis, Outcome and Therapeutic Response in Malignant Adrenal Tumours.”

Lay Summary:

Adrenocortical cancer (ACC) and malignant pheochromocytoma (MPC) are devastating cancers arising within distinct regions of the adrenal gland. They affect young patients (less than 50 years) and despite successful surgery, often spread with survival rates of less than 20% at 5 years. Successful adjuvant therapies are urgently required. This proposal focuses on developing molecular markers (biomarkers) which may be used in clinical practice to aid in identifying patients with malignant adrenal disease, forecasting outcomes in these patients and offering alternative molecular tailored therapies to improve survival following successful surgery.

The Fellowship Grant was awarded to:

- Associate Professor Stan Sidhu

Administering Institution: University of Sydney

Research Location(s): Kolling Institute of Medical Research

Grant Reference: 08/CRF/1-06

\$564,126 over 3 years
