



Clinical Fellowships

2009

Title: “Clinical and biomarker correlates of melanoma chemosensitivity.”

Lay Summary: Although melanoma is considered resistant to treatment with chemotherapy, a small group of patients respond to treatment with drugs like dacarbazine. The aim of this research on ‘clinical and biomarker correlates of melanoma chemosensitivity’ is to identify on a cellular level, within melanoma, molecules and pathways that are both prognostic and predictive of a response to chemotherapy. The ultimate aim is to delineate the different types of melanoma on a molecular level and find targeted therapies against them.

The Clinical Fellowship was awarded to:

- **Dr Georgina Long**, Professor Rick Kefford, Professor Richard Scolyer (Supervisors)

Administering Institution: Sydney South West Area Health Service

Research Location(s): Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and Westmead Hospital

Grant Reference: 08/CLF/1-03

\$163,480 over 14 months

Title: “Building capacity in resource allocation decision-making: Using evidence based models and local data to inform the funding of high cost medicines.”

Lay Summary: Doctors play a critical role in deciding which cancer treatments should be made available to patients. Therefore, it is essential they have the appropriate tools and skills to make these critical decisions. The proposed project supports an oncology Fellow to improve their knowledge of the approaches used to allocate limited medical resources, gives them practical exposure to develop decision-making tools for local hospitals and collecting important data on the costs of cancer care to input into these models. The development of these tools will make sure that high cost cancer treatments are distributed fairly among patient groups.

The Clinical Fellowship was awarded to:

- **Dr Patricia Bastic**, Professor Robyn Ward, Dr Sallie-Anne Pearson (Supervisors)

Administering Institution: South Eastern Sydney Illawarra Area Health Service

Research Location(s): Prince of Wales Hospital

Grant Reference: 08/CLF/1-08

\$163,490 over 24 months

Title: “Clinico-pathological characteristics and the current management of Cystic Premalignant Neoplasms of Pancreatic Cancer in NSW.”

Lay Summary: Pancreatic Cancer is the fourth leading cause of cancer death in our society. Pancreatic cancer usually presents at an advanced stage and as a consequence the overall 5 year survival is only 5%. The treatment of precursor lesions of cancers of other organs such as the breast, colon and cervix has led to

improvements in overall outcomes for these cancers. The natural history and the way precursor lesions of pancreatic cancer are managed in NSW are poorly understood. The NSW Pancreatic Cancer Network has accrued clinico-pathological treatment and outcome data for over 450 premalignant neoplasms of the pancreas which will provide valuable insights into the current management of these lesions and better define the risk of malignancy for an individual patient.

The Clinical Fellowship was awarded to:

- Associate Professor Neil Merrett, Associate Professor Andrew Biankin (Supervisors)

Administering Institution: Sydney South West Area Health Service

Research Location(s): Bankstown Hospital

Grant Reference: 08/CLF/1-09

\$163,490 over 12 months
