

Annual Report
2020-21



Promising Futures

AN OPEN LETTER



'Research saves lives, and ultimately, it saved mine.'

I first realised something was wrong when I was walking to work one day in Sydney and was unable to cross the Darling Harbour pedestrian bridge without stopping to catch my breath every 40 metres. A blood test discovered severe anaemia and more shockingly a chest X-ray discovered a lesion in my lung. Without warning and out of nowhere, I was facing a shocking and terrifying diagnosis of Stage IV melanoma (unknown primary). The diagnosis came just three months after my aunt had passed away from mucosal melanoma, so you can imagine the shock.

That day remains etched in my mind, and three years later, I can honestly say it has been an arduous road, filled with lows and highs, and everything in between.

During the course of over two years I had many difficult conversations, multiple surgeries and hospitalisations, months of treatment off and on, have had to deal with severe adverse effects and resistance to drugs, and have endured physical and emotional upheaval (from exhaustion to jubilation). Throughout this, I also chose to create the best possible environment in my body, and mind, to give the drugs the best chance to do their job. I cherished sleep, ate well, kept active, did yoga, sought psychological support, and took up daily meditation to help me remain grounded and balanced. I also surrounded myself with loved ones who saw me as someone living, rather than someone dying. All of this led me to this point.

Together with my world-leading team at Melanoma Institute Australia (MIA), we kept trying. And thankfully, I'm in the best position possible, having heard the words that every patient wishes to hear, 'Complete Metabolic Response'. It's difficult to put into words what this means to me - my appreciation, gratitude and relief. My hope for the future is that this remains the case and my outlook is extremely promising.

Coming back from this diagnosis, for me, has taken incredible mental fortitude and discipline, a commitment to healing and importantly, a whole lot of luck. The best way that I can show my thanks to those who have assisted me is by living well and by helping to support the conversation regarding melanoma awareness and leading a sun-safe lifestyle to reduce melanoma risk. I am also a proud supporter of Melanoma March, as fundraising underpins MIA's life changing research. Research saves lives, and ultimately, it saved mine.

The impact of my diagnosis and outcome has irrevocably changed my life. I will never forget the role that MIA has, and continues to play in my life and the lives of all of us in the melanoma community.

Forever grateful.

Josephine Gluhak (Stage IV melanoma patient)



SUPPORTIVE CARE FOR PROMISING FUTURES...



'To witness the growth that takes place in the lives of my patients is an honour.'

- Page 9



'The seeds of clinical care and research in supportive care have been planted.'

- Page 11



'To read the stories of people who have been helped by the program is very uplifting to me.'

- Page 12

Contents

Despite the many challenges of the last year, our quest to create promising futures for all melanoma patients has continued unabated. We are proud to detail our many achievements and advances, and also shine the spotlight on our growing focus area of supportive care and survivorship.

Chair and CEO's Report	4
Co-Medical Directors' Report	5
Our COVID Response	6
Awards & Publications	7
Laboratory & Applied Research	8
Supportive Care	9
Clinical Trials	10
Research Infrastructure	12
Education	14
Our Community	16
Acknowledging Our Generous Donors	18
Partners	19
Concise Financials	20
Governance	22



'I am hugely grateful for the incredible generosity of the donor who has funded Skye's position.'

- Page 15



'It is a safe space to discuss feelings without being judged.'

- Page 19



'Our patients now have access to a psychological counselling service.'

- Page 21

CHAIR AND CEO'S REPORT

We are proud to report on the activities and achievements of Melanoma Institute Australia during what was another complex and challenging year. We joined the rest of the world in hoping that 2020/21 would see life return to some degree of normality, however that wasn't to be. Just as the pandemic disrupted the early part of 2020, its impact continued to be felt for the ensuing 12 months.

Once again, MIA remained flexible and agile, enabling us to maintain patient facing services for the duration of the pandemic and associated lockdowns. Our clinical teams implemented and adhered to strict COVIDSafe guidelines, and our non-patient facing staff worked remotely wherever possible. We sincerely thank all staff for their commitment, and also thank our patients and families for their cooperation and understanding.

As was the case in 2019/20, our Board focused on ensuring financial stability during the extended lockdown and we are pleased to report this was again successful, providing MIA with a strong financial base for the coming years.

Despite the challenging year, our research advances continued unabated under the leadership of our Co-Medical Directors Professor Georgina Long AO and Professor Richard Scolyer AO. We were delighted when Professor Scolyer's stellar career was recognised with him appointed an Officer (AO) of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. And just as this Annual Report went to print, Professors Scolyer, Long, and our former Executive Director Professor John Thompson AO were named by *expertscape* as amongst the world's top

10 melanoma experts. In the Australian rankings, Professors Long, Scolyer and Thompson were the top three melanoma experts, with seven other MIA Faculty members also making the top 20.

The support of our melanoma community over the past year, in spite of the many challenges faced, buoyed us all. From the heartfelt messages posted as part of our virtual *Melanoma March* campaign, and those proudly wearing *Game On Mole* shirts, to our many community fundraisers who dealt with postponements, cancellations and modified events – the spirit of our patients, families, community and corporate supporters was unrivalled. We extend our warm thanks to you all and look forward to seeing you face to face when we return to our much-loved physical events, including our local *Melanoma March* events, next year.

As we save more lives from melanoma, creating promising futures for a growing number of our patients, supportive care and survivorship will become an increasingly important focus area for us. We are proud to share in this report some personal insights into our work in this space. We hope you enjoy reading these heartfelt stories, and we thank you once again for your ongoing support.



Grant King
Chair



Matthew Browne
CEO

Our 2021 impact



\$17.2m

raised to fund our mission (excluding COVID Govt input)



1500

new patients added to our world's largest melanoma research database



805

new patients donated samples to our Biospecimen Bank



98

research projects fuelled by our patient data



202

research papers published, 20 in top 1% high impact journals

CO-MEDICAL DIRECTORS' REPORT

Despite COVID making for a year like no other, we are proud of the progress we continued to make towards our mission of zero deaths from melanoma.

Our many achievements this year were due in no small part to the commitment and passion shown by the entire MIA team – from our Faculty and specialist Committees, to our clinical trials teams, our research groups and our infrastructure division. Under the leadership of our Board and CEO, and with expert guidance from Professor Angela Hong as Chair of our Clinical Committee, our teams worked collaboratively to navigate the many COVID challenges. Coupled with ongoing support from our community, our donors and our corporate partners, we maintained our momentum in melanoma research, clinical care and awareness.

Significant research advances of the past 12 months were detailed at the Australasian Melanoma Conference, hosted by MIA in the days before this report went to print. Based around the theme 'Promising Futures', the virtual conference provided an opportunity for meaningful collaboration between researchers and clinicians, as well as valuable education for patients and carers. We are grateful to all who participated and contributed to our collective learnings, and detailed coverage will be included in next year's Annual Report.

We are also excited by the upcoming release of the Melanoma State of the Nation Report, due in early 2022.

This will represent a wonderful platform and framework for governments across Australia to hone and allocate resources for melanoma prevention and early detection, as well as treatments and research across all stages of the disease.

This year saw many MIA research breakthroughs once again in the international spotlight, including a study published in the prestigious *Nature Medicine* showing drug treatment before surgery to be effective in preventing deadly spread of melanoma. MIA researchers and patients also featured in clinical trial results presented at the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) Congress, which showed that giving high-risk Stage II patients the same immunotherapy drugs approved for advanced melanoma patients reduced the risk of their disease returning or death by 35%.

This report details some of our many other research advances over the last year, including the focus of our clinical trials unit, the opening of our first clinical trial in Wagga Wagga, and the work of two of our talented PhD students. We are also proud to introduce you to our Senior Clinical Psychologist, Dr Skye Dong, whose work is already having a positive impact on our patients, and our new Associate Professor of Surgical Oncology, Alexander van Akkooi.



Professor Georgina Long AO
Professor Richard Scolyer AO
Co-Medical Directors

We would like to thank all in the MIA family – our patients, our donors, our supporters and our staff – for your resilience, loyalty and determination in the face of many challenges over the past year. It is this collaboration which keeps us focused on the road ahead, and fuels us in our endeavours to provide 'promising futures' for all melanoma patients.

We are so proud of the impact the MIA team has made in 2021, for the benefit of all melanoma patients.



16

new clinical trials opened (including the first in Wagga Wagga) and 261 patients recruited



Oversight, consultation and development of State of the Nation – A Report into Melanoma



Establishment of new psychology support service at The Poche Centre for our patients

Melanoma specific 7-year survival rate for advanced melanoma increasing to >??%

OUR COVID RESPONSE

The planning and safeguards that we had put in place to navigate the shutdowns of last year meant we were well prepared to respond quickly and efficiently when COVID impacts continued this year. Our Clinical Committee, chaired by Professor Angela Hong, met fortnightly during the recent Sydney shutdown to oversee and direct our patient and staff safeguards.

Our clinical teams were able to continue uninterrupted even during the height of the 2021 Sydney lockdown. Strict entry and infection control protocols enabled our clinics to continue seeing patients at The Poche Centre, with telehealth services also available. The majority of our non-patient facing staff worked remotely for the duration of the lockdown, working creatively and collaboratively to still deliver critical projects and campaigns.

Our events were once again hardest hit. Due to regular lockdowns across the country in the early part of 2021, we decided there was too much uncertainty to plan for our traditional physical *Melanoma March* events, so we instead opted for a virtual campaign. We were buoyed by the support of our generous community which bought virtual footprints and dedicated them to loved ones, raising vital funds for research in the process. However, nothing compares with the passion and spirit of our local *Melanoma March* events, and we look forward to returning to physical events next March.

Other cancellations this year included the Nurses Conference, our SunSafe Student Ambassador Program for the second year running, and devastatingly, two cancellations of the already re-scheduled 10th Anniversary Amie St Clair Ball. After first being cancelled in 2020, the Ball was rescheduled for late June 2021 but was cancelled just hours prior to guests arriving when regional restrictions were imposed. The Ball was re-scheduled for September, before being cancelled for a third time.

We thank staff, patients and their families for their ongoing cooperation and understanding over the past 18 months, particularly in terms of the ever-changing entry requirements to The Poche Centre and our Wagga Wagga site and the disruption to planned events and activities. Your vigilance and assistance enabled us to maintain our patient facing services throughout the pandemic, and keep our wider community safe.

We are proud to confirm that staff vaccination levels across the

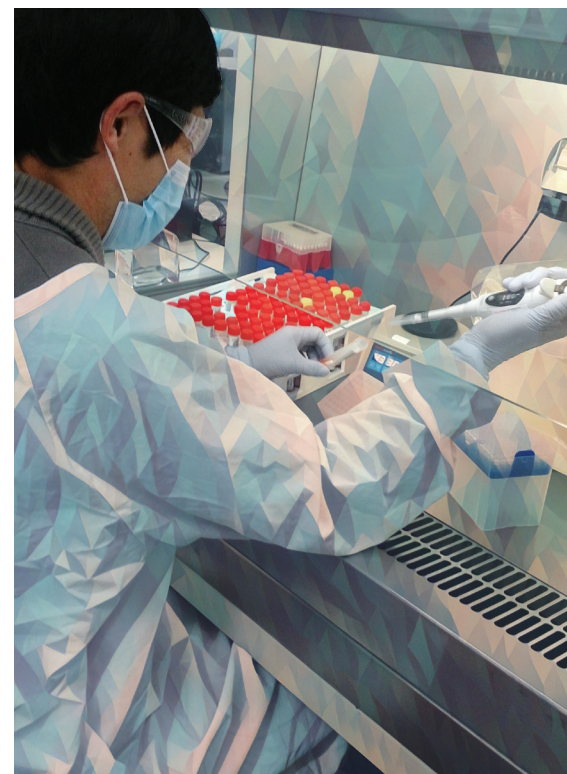
organisation are 99%, and we are well underway with the booster program. While MIA has commenced a staggered return to work for non-patient facing staff at The Poche Centre, we remain cautious in our approach.

We were proud to have MIA staff members utilise their professional expertise on the COVID front line this year. Ping Shang, lead molecular biologist in our translational research laboratory at the Charles Perkins Centre, University of Sydney, temporarily moved into NSW Health's COVID testing team. Ping's lab expertise was critical as the team worked to process record numbers of daily tests at the height of NSW's second wave.

As the vaccination drive reached full steam, Annette St Clair from our Wagga Wagga team joined a local immunisation hub. Annette used her nursing skills to assist in vaccinating locals, as the state pushed towards the 80% double vaccination goal.

BELOW LEFT: Annette St Clair working at a Riverina vaccination hub

BELOW RIGHT: Ping Shang working with NSW Health's COVID testing team



AWARDS & PUBLICATIONS

Clinicians and researchers from Melanoma Institute Australia continue to be recognised and awarded for leading global advances in melanoma research and treatment.

Queen's Birthday Honour for Professor Richard Scolyer AO

Congratulations to MIA Co-Medical Director, Professor Richard Scolyer, who was appointed an Officer (AO) of the Order of Australia (General Division) for distinguished service to medicine, particularly in the field of melanoma and skin cancer, as a clinician, researcher and educator, and to national and international professional organisations.

Professor Scolyer is the world's most published scientist in the field of melanoma pathology, and for two decades has been at the forefront of virtually all major advances in melanoma, resulting in vast improvements in survival of melanoma patients.

'Professor Scolyer's pioneering research, underpinned by his talent, passion and determination, has changed the face of melanoma diagnosis, treatment, and survival and saved many thousands of lives from melanoma,' said fellow MIA Co-Medical Director, Professor Georgina Long AO.

Each year, Professor Scolyer receives more than 2,000 of the most difficult cases from around the world for review and diagnosis, and he has co-authored more than 700 peer reviewed publications/book-chapters including in prestigious journals such as *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Lancet*, and *Nature*.

'It was a proud day for all of us at Melanoma Institute Australia who see first-hand Professor Scolyer's life-saving contribution to cancer diagnosis and treatment,' added MIA CEO Matthew Browne.

2020 NSW Premier's Awards for Outstanding Cancer Research

MIA's world-leading researchers were recognised at the *2020 NSW Premier's Awards*, with **Professor Richard Scolyer AO** taking out the top honour - **Outstanding Cancer Researcher of the Year**. Professor Scolyer was awarded for his pioneering melanoma research which has made a worldwide difference to the assessment, management and survival of people with melanoma. In accepting his award, Professor Scolyer said, 'We have an amazing team of people doing world leading melanoma research and it's a huge honour to be leading that team and to be recognised in this way.'

Also awarded was MIA's **Dr James Wilmott** who received the **Wildfire Highly Cited Publication Award**. Dr Wilmott led a collaboration across Melanoma Institute Australia, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute and University of Sydney to produce the 'Whole genome landscapes of major melanoma subtypes' paper. First published in *Nature* in 2017, the research has been cited over 360 times globally and led to over 509 new research papers.

Other Key Awards & Honours

Co-Medical Directors
(JULY 2020 TO JUNE 2021)

PROFESSOR GEORGINA LONG AO

- ▶ AAHMS 2021 Medal for Outstanding Female Researcher
- ▶ Clarivate Analytics 2020: Highly Cited Researcher – Clinical Medicine

PROFESSOR RICHARD SCOLYER AO

- ▶ The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA): Distinguished Fellow Award 2020
- ▶ Clarivate Web of Science Group: Highly Cited Researcher 2020

Publications

THE MEASUREMENT OF RESEARCH OUTPUT

	Number of papers published	Publications in top 25% journals	Publications in top 10% journals	Publications in top 1% journals
2021 (as of 16 Nov '21)	202	162	106	20
2020	180	151	112	22
2019	149	115	98	23
2018	183	151	125	25
2017	162	131	114	27
2016	123	94	83	6

LABORATORY & APPLIED RESEARCH



The work carried out in MIA's laboratories helps build knowledge and understanding of melanoma, and fuels global advances in prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

MIA's translational research team, led by MIA's Co-Medical Directors Professor Georgina Long AO and Professor Richard Scolyer AO, provides ground-breaking research to benefit clinical practice. The main laboratory is located at The University of Sydney's Charles Perkins Centre.

We are proud to profile the work of two PhD students from our translational research lab, who have dedicated the past year to complex bodies of research which look set to impact patient treatment pathways.

Spotlight on - Grace Attrill

Grace's work has enabled the identification of patients likely to recur following adjuvant treatment with immunotherapy.

MIA's translational research group, and our biostatistics, surgical, pathology and oncology teams, have been studying the tumour killing T-cells in patients' melanomas. PhD student Grace Attrill has been studying melanoma patients who have had their melanomas removed and then had adjuvant immunotherapy to reduce the risk of the disease returning.

T-cells are immune cells that can specifically target and kill cancer cells. This tumour-killing activity can be boosted with immunotherapy as a treatment for melanoma. However, with many T-cells unable to properly target tumour cells, it is vitally important to identify those T-cells which can.

Through in-depth analysis of the T-cells within a patients' melanoma, this study



identified a T-cell subset that was increased in patients who responded well to immunotherapy. Conversely, the study enabled identification of patients who didn't have a high proportion of this T-Cell subset and so were likely to have their melanoma recur and thus require additional therapies. This newfound knowledge about the different subsets of T-Cells will be used to develop future immunotherapies which could potentially be more effective and less likely to cause harmful side effects.

Spotlight on - Rebecca Simpson



Rebecca's work has identified how gut bacteria affects a melanoma patient's response to immunotherapy.

The microbes in our gut (microbiome) influence immune processes throughout the body. This includes how patients respond to immunotherapies which aim to reactivate a patient's own immune system to recognise and kill tumours.

PhD student Rebecca Simpson's research has been examining the role of the gut microbiome during immunotherapy. Specifically, it has been focusing on how diet and intestinal microbes influence the efficacy and safety of treatment. As diet can alter the microbiome, thereby impacting gut 'leakiness' and the inflammatory state of the immune system, the research hypothesised that changes to diet could beneficially alter the microbiome to improve the effectiveness and safety of therapy.

Understanding the interactions between diet, the microbiome and the immune system will inform the feasibility and design of dietary interventions in the clinic. It is hoped this will further reduce the number of patients who develop immunotherapy resistant disease or severe side effects.



MIA's translational research team at the Charles Perkins Centre

SUPPORTIVE CARE



As we make progress towards achieving MIA's mission of zero deaths from melanoma, patients' survivorship and supportive care needs are becoming an increased focus in both research and clinical care.

With the overall mission of embedding psychosocial support into routine clinical care, Associate Professor Robyn Saw and Dr Iris Bartula are leading research into these important issues melanoma patients and their loved ones are facing as a result of their diagnosis and treatment.

They are currently overseeing seven studies that aim to help us better understand the issues important to melanoma patients. Two of these trials are implementing interventions to better recognise and support patients who are struggling. An additional trial, which will provide support with fear of cancer recurrence in early-stage melanoma patients, is due to open in early 2022.

Patients may be approached to participate in these studies via mail, email and through discussion with their treatment team.

In order to truly integrate psychosocial support into routine clinical care of melanoma patients, in 2021 and with generous philanthropic support, we appointed Dr Skye Dong, Senior Clinical Psychologist. Dr Dong has already become an integral part of multidisciplinary melanoma care and patients are finding her support invaluable. This service is free of charge to MIA patients and can be accessed through consultation with the medical team.

Currently, Dr Dong's service is two days a week. Further funding would allow this vital support service to increase and be available to more of our patients.



'The seeds of clinical care and research in supportive care have been planted and will require nurturing with resources, both personnel and financial.'

Associate Professor Robyn Saw

'This is already proving beneficial to the psychological wellbeing of our patients, families and carers as they navigate their melanoma journey.'

Dr Iris Bartula

DR SKYE DONG – CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST



'I feel privileged to play a role in melanoma patients' journeys of care, which are often filled with so much psychic pain, even if they are not aware of it at the time. I feel honoured to hear incredible stories of loss, trauma, and hardship across their melanoma trajectories. Yet what I also witness is the resiliency of the human spirit, regardless of gender or age, their struggles to create meaning and purpose out of loss, the power of grieving, and the transformative nature of post-traumatic growth. To be allowed to witness the growth that takes place in the lives of my patients is an honour and something which I'm grateful for each day.'



CLINICAL TRIALS

COVID impact

When COVID hit, MIA's clinical trials team acted quickly to protect this vital patient service and to ensure unimpeded access to clinical trials for our patients. The implementation of several COVID-safety measures paid off, as demonstrated by high trial participation rates throughout the pandemic.



Advances in Advanced Melanoma (Stage IV) - RELATIVITY 047 Trial

Immunotherapy treatments have revolutionised treatment of advanced melanoma (Stage IV) over the past decade. The anti-cancer effects of immune-boosting medicines are increased when two types of drugs are combined (anti-PD1 and anti-CTLA4 inhibitors) when treating patients with advanced melanoma, however this combination treatment can lead to increased side effects. Additionally, 50% of patients either do not respond to, or develop resistance to, these treatments. Therefore clinical trials testing new treatments remain vital.

The RELATIVITY 047 trial investigated whether a new type of immunotherapy, using a LAG-3 inhibitor (relatlimab), combined with an existing anti-PD1 inhibitor (nivolumab), would lead to improved effectiveness whilst reducing side effects. Results of this trial, conducted at Melanoma

Institute Australia and presented at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting in June 2021, showed that in previously untreated advanced melanoma patients, combining relatlimab with nivolumab doubled the time patients remained free of melanoma progression compared to the use of nivolumab alone. Additionally, at one year almost 50% of patients receiving the immunotherapy combination had no disease progression, whereas nearly two-thirds of patients on single therapy had progressed. Importantly, the combined therapy was associated with far less side effects. Results of the RELATIVITY 047 trial will be used to seek Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) approval of relatlimab and nivolumab combination immunotherapy so it can be accessed by all Australian patients with advanced melanoma.

Advances in Early Melanoma (Stage II) - KEYNOTE 716 Trial

Stage II melanoma is early melanoma which has not spread beyond the original primary location but has a high risk of spreading to lymph nodes and organs in the months and years following the initial diagnosis and surgery.

The aim of the KEYNOTE 716 trial was to study whether a course of immunotherapy after surgery for Stage II melanoma would successfully prevent melanoma recurrence. Patients on this trial received 12 months of adjuvant treatment with either pembrolizumab (anti-PD1 inhibitor) or placebo. The term adjuvant therapy refers to the use of drugs following surgery to reduce, and ultimately prevent, the risk of cancer recurrence.

At the time of the KEYNOTE 716 trial there were no proven adjuvant drug treatments for patients free of cancer after treatment with surgery for Stage II melanoma. Instead, Stage II patients were monitored very closely for cancer recurrence. Thus, the role of placebo (intended to look the same as the real treatment but with no effect and no active ingredients) was to allow an unbiased comparison between the new treatment with pembrolizumab and the current 'watch and wait' surveillance approach. Results of the trial, presented at the 2021 European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) Congress, showed that pembrolizumab reduced the risk of melanoma recurrence by 35%.



LEFT: Clinical trial nurse Jo Dalton has been at the forefront of MIA's clinical trial advances during her 17 years with the organisation.

Pembrolizumab is already approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration as an adjuvant treatment after Stage III melanoma and an active treatment against Stage IV melanoma, so it is hoped the results of this important trial will lead to the first Australian regulatory approvals of adjuvant immunotherapy with pembrolizumab for Stage II melanoma patients.

Non-Melanoma Skin Cancers – Merkel Cell Carcinoma

Though 30 times less common than melanoma, Merkel Cell Carcinoma (MCC) is rare and aggressive. It is similar to melanoma in that it is likely to spread to other parts of the body if not treated early, making it an equally dangerous type of skin cancer. Whilst melanoma is generally associated with a changing mole on the surface of the skin, MCC often appears as a painless raised bump that is pink, red, or purple in colour. It often first appears in parts of the body that are exposed to the sun and is normally treated with a combination of surgery and/or radiotherapy when diagnosed in the early stages. Given its aggressive nature, local treatment with either surgery and/or radiotherapy alone is not always effective to prevent MCC from recurring.

MIA's IMAT trial aims to study the use of adjuvant immunotherapy after the initial MCC primary, including any involved lymph nodes, has been treated. Patients receive a course of treatment with either avelumab or placebo, after local treatment, for six months.

As is the case with Stage II melanoma, since there are no proven preventative drug treatments for MCC once the primary is eradicated, placebo is used in this trial to determine whether the new treatment is better than the current close surveillance approach.

Avelumab is an anti-PDL1 immunotherapy already shown to be very effective in treating MCC that has spread to distant parts of the body. If successful, the IMAT trial will be the first demonstrating the effectiveness of adjuvant immunotherapy in preventing MCC recurrence.

Supporting Clinical Trial Access for Rural Patients

One third of patients participating in clinical trials at MIA travel more than 100km for their treatment. The merger of Melanoma Institute Australia and Amie St Clair (ASC) Melanoma in Wagga Wagga provided opportunity to enable greater clinical trial access in rural centres. In partnership with Riverina Cancer Care Centre, MIA (including ASC) opened its first tele-trial in the region. The tele-trial model works by using MIA's existing structure and skin cancer clinical trial expertise to oversee the running of MIA clinical trials within a rural centre, using local infrastructure and services. The CheckMate 76k trial, investigating adjuvant immunotherapy treatment with nivolumab for Stage II melanoma, was the first trial to open in Wagga Wagga, providing a model for further tele-trials in other rural centres across NSW and Australia.



What is IMMUNOTHERAPY?

Our immune system prevents illness by fighting infection, but it can also fight cancer. Immunotherapy works by boosting the body's own immune system to kill cancer cells. Many cancers have an ability to evade the immune system but immunotherapy medications 'reboot' the immune system to recognise and attack the 'hiding' cancer cells.

ASSOC PROFESSOR ROBYN SAW

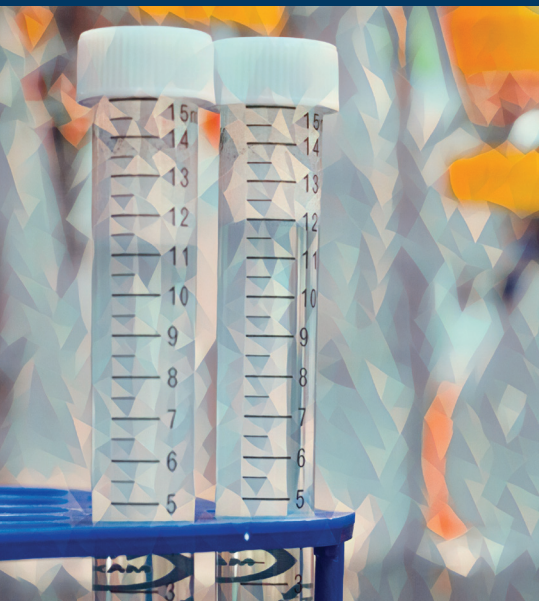


'Supportive care provision and research have lagged behind treatment issues in melanoma patients. More importance needs to be placed on considering how well patients live, and how they cope with the diagnosis of melanoma, in addition to how long they live. MIA has made this a research priority in the last three years. Crucial to this is the coordination of supportive care to patients who require assistance, which has not traditionally been done well and therefore also provides a rich ground for further research. The seeds of clinical care and research in supportive care have been planted and will require nurturing with resources, both personnel and financial, to see outcomes that will benefit melanoma patients of all stages of disease.'



RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

Biospecimen Bank



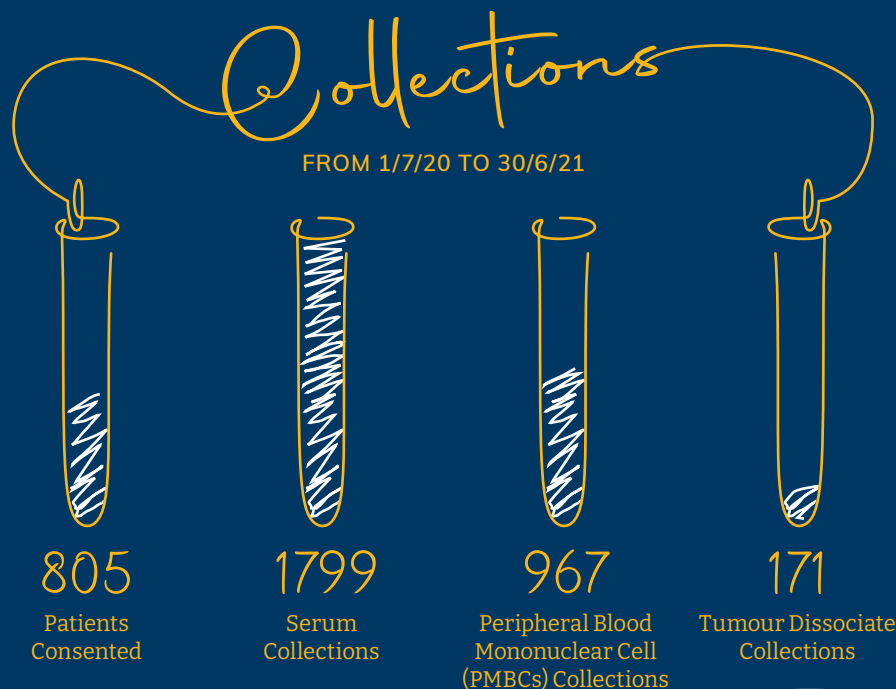
All MIA patients have the opportunity to contribute samples to our Biospecimen Bank which hosts the largest collection of melanoma samples in the world. Samples from the Bank are used in research programs internationally, meaning our patients play a vital role in progressing global understanding of melanoma as well as diagnostic and treatment advances.

Major projects supported this year by our Biospecimen Bank included a frozen tumour pilot to test the feasibility of conducting future tumour infiltrating lymphocyte (TIL) clinical trials at MIA. This is a new cellular therapy where the patient's own TILs are extracted from their tumour and expanded in the lab, before being injected back into the patient to hopefully target the tumour and ultimately

drive tumour regression. Only a few labs worldwide are able to generate TILs therapy. MIA was involved in a study addressing the difficulties of supplying and transporting these samples to international labs. We sent tumour samples to the United States using two different protocols to see if the tumours would survive, enabling the lab to extract and expand the necessary cells for the therapy.

Our Biospecimen Bank at The Poche Centre was also upgraded this year, to allow for added capacity and increased research output. Three new ultra low temperature freezers (-80 degrees) were installed, with capacity to store an additional 180,000 sample vials. This equates to between 15,000 - 22,500 individual patient blood collections.

'Samples from the Bank are used in research programs internationally, meaning our patients play a vital role in progressing global understanding of melanoma as well as diagnostic and treatment advances.'



ROBERT PURVES AM - DONOR



'Being told you have Stage IV melanoma late on a Friday afternoon, alone thanks to COVID restrictions, made for a rough day. The wonderful doctors who work with Prof Georgina Long did their best to support me but they are not trained psychologists. This led to a longer conversation about patient, and equally importantly, primary carer support around that critical time of diagnosis. Whilst MIA had been considering this, they weren't in a position to fund the program. To read the stories of people who have been helped by the program is very uplifting to me, as a fellow recipient of the fabulous work of MIA and as a philanthropist. I admire the dedicated staff of MIA and am very happy to support them.'





MRD2 CONTAINS THE RECORDS
OF MORE THAN 50,000 PATIENTS



98 RESEARCH PROJECTS WERE FUELLED
BY DATA FROM MRD2 THIS YEAR

PATIENT CONSENT IS
NOW EASIER THAN EVER



Single Consent
Form



Melanoma
Specimen



Biospecimen
Bank



Patient
Record



MRD2

Research Database MRD2

MIA's Research Database drives development of new clinical trials and treatment pathways and supports research projects and scientific collaboration both nationally and internationally. Known as MRD2, it contains the records of more than 50,000 patients.

98 research projects were fuelled by data from MRD2 this year, including:

1. *Clinical models to define response and survival with anti-PD1 antibodies alone or combined with ipilimumab in metastatic melanoma.* MRD2 has provided 622 metastatic melanoma patients treated with PD1 alone or combined with ipilimumab to build risk prediction tools for treatment response and survival outcomes.
2. *Quantifying the prognosis value of sentinel node results in terms of patients' long term survival.* This involved using data from 5644 MRD2 patients who underwent sentinel node biopsy. The study was the first of its kind to provide such measurement and was published in the *Annals of Oncology*.

Project TEAL

This past year has seen significant strides in the development of a bespoke program to provide linkage between the capture of data in clinic and the efficient transfer of data for research. Known as Project Teal, this data transfer program was in 2018 identified as a priority by MIA's external scientific review panel to ensure the speed of data transfer could keep pace with MIA's research output well into the future.

The program is an important conduit between data captured daily by clinicians in guiding their patients through their treatment, and researchers seeking latest information for their ground-breaking projects.

Version 1 of Project Teal has now been rolled out in MIA's WA and Wagga nursing clinics as well as our Poche Centre psychology clinic. Other clinics will also soon come online, with future versions already scoped to include artificial intelligence, voice recognition and prognostic tool integration.



EDUCATION

Patient Education

Providing educational resources is an important step in empowering patients on their healthcare journey. We significantly expanded our patient resources this year, including updating Patient Guides for newly diagnosed patients with wellbeing and supportive care information and creating brochures on specific topics like procedures and exercises following surgery. We also collaborated on a comic book for children to help them understand more about melanoma and their parents' melanoma journeys in an age-appropriate way.

Community Education

Prevention is fundamental to reaching our goal of zero deaths from melanoma. Although there have been major improvements in reaching the community with sun safe messaging in recent decades, it is still difficult to reach teenagers, so this is where we have focused our attention.

Our SunSafe Student Ambassador Program was due to be held in September 2020 and again in September 2021, but both were postponed due to COVID. To ensure vital sun safety education continued in some form, we worked with Cancer Institute NSW on their 'Sun and UV at School' interactive skin cancer prevention resources.

Melanoma Patients Australia

We also continued our important partnership with Melanoma Patients Australia (MPA). This included MIA proudly supporting MPA's informative *Melanoma Symposium Series*, a series of four webinars which provided information and support to melanoma patients and their carers. MIA also provided direct funding to allow expansion of the facilitation of MPA's vital patient and carer support groups and the tele-health nursing services undertaken through Ms Brooke Kelly.

Importantly, we also partnered with MPA on the development of Australia's first ever landmark melanoma report: *State of the Nation – A Report into Melanoma*. To inform the report, MIA and MPA collaborated on a ground-breaking survey of melanoma patients and their carers and we thank all those in the community who participated. The *State of the Nation* report is due to be released in early 2022.

Clinical Education



We are passionate about translating our latest research findings into the everyday clinic setting to ultimately improve patient care across Australia and beyond. We do this primarily through online education developed by our multidisciplinary experts and hosted on the Melanoma Education Portal (melanomaeducation.org.au). With the website having almost 3,000 members— mostly GPs, nurses and specialists – we are continuing to see an increasing number of clinicians accessing our educational content.

A number of educational events (including our annual Nurse Conference and the 2020 Australasian Melanoma Conference) were postponed due to COVID restrictions.

ABOVE: A/Prof Jonathan Stretch AM, Dr Bruna Gouveia, Dr Adrian Quek

However, as a silver lining, this resulted in an increase in our clinicians sharing their expertise via online webinars, podcasts and virtual conferences with partnering organisations, ensuring that vital medical education continued.

Working closely with MIA's researchers, we also added a number of clinical tools to the Portal, such as a Hospital Support Services Directory and a link to the Melanoma Risk Prediction Tools website (melanomarisk.org.au) which has evidence-based calculators to guide informed discussions between clinicians and their patients about melanoma prevention, prognosis and follow up.

 Bristol Myers Squibb



 MSD

Neutrogena

 NOVARTIS

 Pierre Fabre

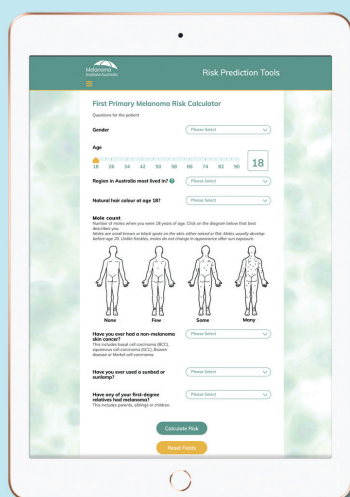


Melanoma Risk Tools

Over the last year, the Melanoma Risk Prediction Tools website continued to grow in scope and number of users. We now have a tool to estimate the risks of local, regional and distant recurrences for up to 10 years following a diagnosis of a thin melanoma (up to 1mm thickness). This is important as around two thirds of melanomas are in this group and therefore account for the majority of recurrences despite the overall prognosis for the cohort being excellent. With this tool, the small proportion of patients who are likely to develop recurrences can be better identified than previously.

The total number of users to the site per quarter is now over 8,600, with around half of these based in Australia. Around half the users are returning users.

Visit melanomarisk.org.au



Fellows

(FEB 2021 - CURRENT)

Dr. David Coker
Poche Surgical Fellow

Dr. Dina Sak
Poche Surgical Fellow

Dr. Alec Winder
Breast and Surgical Oncology Fellow

Dr. Amelia Taylor
Medical Oncology Fellow

Dr. Julia Lai-Kwon
Cameron Medical Oncology Fellow

Dr. Elizabeth Paver
Jani Haenke Melanoma
Pathology Fellow

Dr. Alison Potter
McMurtrie Cancer Pathology Fellow

Dr. Rodrigo Schwartz
Goodridge Foundation
Dermatology Fellow

REGISTRARS AND ADVANCED TRAINEES

MIA also provided significant Registrar and Advanced Trainee support in the clinical specialties of Medical Oncology, Pathology and Surgery.

Dr Timothy Fielder
Anatomical Pathology
(Melanoma) Registrar

Dr Natasha Prosser
Anatomical Pathology Registrar

Dr Fiona Ray
Anatomical Pathology Registrar

Dr Donya Tohidi-Esfahani
Anatomical Pathology Registrar

Dr. Jessica Xin Xu
Surgical Registrar

Dr. Kathleen Batty
Medical Oncology Advanced Trainee

Dr. Lauren Gray
Medical Oncology Advanced Trainee

Dr. Catriona Harvey
Medical Oncology Advanced Trainee

Dr. Alex Yuile
Medical Oncology Advanced Trainee

CATHERINE VIDLER – MELANOMA PATIENT



'Being diagnosed with melanoma has impacted all areas of my life including my mental health. Having lost two beloved aunts to melanoma, I have experienced renewed grieving since my diagnosis as well as much fear and anxiety for the future. I have always been a very anxious person and dealing with the uncertainties accompanying my diagnosis has felt very hard to bear at times. My sessions with Skye are absolutely transformative. They help so much. To sit and talk with Skye is to experience a profound comfort. Skye is so attentive in her listening and also gives such amazing insights. She makes me feel stronger in myself in facing both present challenges and those which lie ahead. I am hugely grateful for the incredible generosity of the donor who has funded Skye's position at MIA. What a life-changing gift.'

Our Community

Unfortunately, COVID lockdowns once again impacted many of our valued Community Fundraising events. Some went virtual, others were cancelled - we look forward to these events returning bigger and better in 2022 in every state and territory.

GAME ON MOLE

Our summer awareness campaign *Game On Mole*, targeting young Aussies with sun safety and early detection messages, returned for its second year in 2020. With new t-shirt designs and Olympian Cate Campbell once again fronting the campaign, we reached a whole new audience to start life saving discussions about skin health. Channel 9's Peter Overton threw his support behind the campaign after his own melanoma surgery, as did author Kathy Lette, Australian netballer Caitlin Bassett and thousands of everyday Aussies.



MELANOMA MARCH

We went virtual for *Melanoma March*, and whilst it was not how we had expected to celebrate our 10th anniversary of the national campaign, Australia stepped up and got on board! We covered Australia in virtual footprints, all carrying heartfelt messages to loved ones. From 105-year-old Bert to 7-year-old Hayden – melanoma patients of all ages and their families joined in to support the campaign, as did corporates including Weetbix, Suncorp, Myer and Tasman Holiday Parks. We thank our volunteer *Melanoma March* committees for their understanding and ongoing support and look forward to returning to physical events in 2022.

10
YEARS

I've left my footprint on melanoma



"Research into melanoma is changing lives for many families including ours, so please contribute by purchasing digital footprints supporting the Melanoma March campaign, if you can."
- NATHAN & LIZA PRICE



HAYDEN PRICE
8-year-old melanoma patient



AMBASSADORS



We welcomed a new ambassador this year, Ninja athlete and Olympian Olivia Vivian who lost her dad to melanoma. Olivia nominated MIA as her charity on Ch 9's *Celebrity Apprentice Australia* and then joined Olympic champion Cate Campbell, rugby great John Eales and Shannan Ponton in promoting 'Game On Mole' and *Melanoma March*. We remain indebted to

our high profile ambassadors who continue to donate their time and share their personal melanoma stories to help us raise awareness and funds for research.



JALEN'S BIG HAIRCUT

Jalen is an amazing young fundraiser from Perth who grew his hair for three years in honour of his beautiful mum who had Stage IV melanoma. Sadly, Jalen's mum passed away in June. Jalen cut off his long locks and raised an incredible \$62,000 for MIA's vital research. Our thoughts are with Jalen and we are so grateful to him and his supportive family and community.



ROTTNEST CHANNEL SWIM

A massive thanks to 'Team Just Keep Swimming' (Tania, Tammie, Anna and Kiara) and solo swimmer Flavia for their incredible efforts during the South32 Rottneest Channel Swim in March. Despite gruelling conditions in the water, the swimmers raised an incredible \$8,510.

During National Skin Cancer Action week, we held a four day activation around melanoma prevention and early detection, which included complimentary spot checks.

Our sincere thanks to all participants of our annual *Mission for melanomaWA* two-day off road bike event which raised \$57,000 for WA melanoma nursing services. We also gratefully acknowledge the ongoing support of The Brady Cancer Support Foundation.

ELLEKER RUNNING FESTIVAL

Heather O'Donnell and her daughters Phoebe (aged 9) and Emma (aged 6), participated in the 25th Elleker Running Festival in memory of their loving husband and father, Mark O'Donnell. Mark passed away from melanoma in 2020, aged 42. Heather hopes that sharing Mark's story will help save lives and raise funds for vital research. With the support of the entire Denmark community in WA, Heather, Phoebe, and Emma raised \$9,145 and are planning more fun runs in the future.

Melanoma
Institute Australia

INCORPORATING
melanomawa

Amie St Clair
Melanoma

PART OF
Melanoma
Institute Australia

COVID restrictions heavily impacted our fundraising and awareness activities in Wagga Wagga and the Riverina. The postponement, then cancellation of our 2020 and 2021 Gala Balls was very disappointing, as was the postponement of our inaugural regional Nurses conference. Despite the restrictions, our community support through donations continued, and we were able to still hold our annual Golf Day in a COVIDSafe way. Thank you to our generous community and volunteers for all of your continued support and we are all excited and optimistic about events and awareness activities resuming in 2022.

The past year saw the expansion of our WA team, with a Melanoma Community Support Nurse and a Community Engagement and Fundraising Officer joining us. We continued our focus on developing our support services throughout WA's South West region via monthly support meetings, and held a successful Melanoma Community Forum at the Cancer Wellness Centre. Keynote speakers, patients, family and friends discussed melanoma research and treatment developments.

QLD



RUNNING FOR GIRLS EDUCATION CHALLENGE

St Hilda's School on the Gold Coast launched the challenge as part of their 2021 Non Nobis Solum ('not for ourselves alone') program. 52 students from Grades 7 to 12 each ran 100km. Each year the school sponsors free education for two female students at The School of St Jude's in Tanzania. The students exceeded their fundraising goal and MIA was chosen as an additional beneficiary, with Leon and Tamra Betts accepting a cheque for \$4,000 on our behalf.

QLD



AVEO DURACK MORNING TEA

Beryl Betts hosted a fancy morning tea at the Aveo Durack Retirement Village. Some 100 guests enjoyed a delicious high tea with a range of home-made goodies baked by Beryl and fellow resident and retired chef Trevor Webb. Guests were also entertained by the talented duo, Harvey and Harvey, who generously donated their services. Beryl raised \$3,520 to support MIA's vital research.

QLD

GOLD COAST MARATHON

15 people registered to *Run For Melanoma* in the Gold Coast Marathon before the physical event was cancelled due to COVID. A special shout out to our top three fundraisers: Emma Shaw and her dad John, Kristy Crockett, and Danielle Korn.

QLD



HEAD SHAVE

Sue Plant shaved her head in memory of her mum who passed away last year, a friend who shaved her head due to a melanoma, and for all other melanoma patients. Sue's big shave raised over \$900 for MIA.

QLD



5K A DAY IN MAY

Having lost his great-grandfather, grandfather and father to melanoma, Rodney Anderson challenged himself to #5KaDayInMay. A few friends and family joined Rodney along the way as he raised awareness about prevention and early detection. By the end of the month Rodney had covered over 160km and raised \$6,475! What an incredible achievement!

NSW



WALK FOR GAZ

In support of one of their colleagues, EY Port Jackson partners organised *Walk for Gaz*, a 25km walk from the Sydney CBD to the Spit Bridge. A huge thank you to the *Walk for Gaz* committee who pulled this event together within weeks and raised a phenomenal \$110,510 for vital melanoma research.

NSW



LA BELLE VIE FRENCH MARKET

Melanoma patient Karine Tobin held a stall at La Belle Vie French Market where she sold her delicious home-made baked goods. Karine sold out, and raised over \$700 for melanoma research. Merci Karine!

NSW

ALAN KIEFER GOLF DAY

After many attempts to reschedule, the annual Alan Kiefer Golf Day was cancelled. Registrants kindly donated \$1,230 to support MIA

NSW

BAYVIEW GOLF CLUB

The Bayview Ladies Committee moved their Annual Charity Day to an online fundraiser, and even though they couldn't get together physically for a round, they still exceeded their target and raised \$2,110!

NSW

CITY2SURF

It was the 50th anniversary of the *Sun-Herald City2Surf* and while the physical event was cancelled, we still had nine MIA charity superstars take part virtually, collectively raising over \$26,000.

NSW



ERIK MATHER SWIM

Our first annual event to return in 2021 was The Erik Mather 2, 4, 6km Swim hosted by the Balmoral Beach Club. Despite the rain, conditions were perfect for ocean swimming and even MIA's Co-Medical Directors Prof Georgina Long AO and Prof Richard Scolyer AO, CEO Matthew Browne and Prof Anne Cust donned their wetsuits to swim. A huge thank you to the entire club and Monika Mather for raising over \$50,000 to support MIA's Erik Mather PhD Scholarship program.

NSW



REDLANDS MELANOMA AWARENESS DAY

There was sun safety all round at Redlands School when student Charlie organised a crazy hat day. It provided the young students with valuable hands on lessons about sun safety and raised over \$2,500 to support our research. Go Charlie!

IN MEMORY

Deb Guion lost her husband Omri Godijn to melanoma shortly after his 46th birthday. Deb believes MIA's research was instrumental in extending Omri's life by at least 18 months, and so set up a fundraising page in his memory. An enormous thank you to Deb and all Omri's family and friends for raising over \$14,000.

We also sincerely thank other families and friends who collectively raised \$5,833 by creating fundraising pages for loved ones lost to melanoma - Remembering Mahendra; In Loving Memory of Robert Comito; In Loving Memory of Laki; Shirley Duke Tribute Page; Remembering David Holland; and In Memory of Josh Cronin.

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR GENEROUS DONORS

MIA major donors at time of printing

PRINCIPAL BENEFACTOR

Greg Poche AO and Kay Van Norton
Poche AO

LIFE GOVERNORS

Cameron Family
Reg Richardson AM and Sally Richardson
Peter and Sally Doherty (CP2)
Apex Foundation
The Melanoma Foundation
Friends of the Mater Foundation
CLEARbridge Foundation
Len Ainsworth AM – The Ainsworth
Foundation
David Macintosh AM - The Macintosh
Foundation
Deborah McMurtrie
and John McMurtrie AM

GOVERNORS

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Fellowship
H and N Moore
Perpetual Foundation

BENEFACTORS

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Lady (Mary) Fairfax Charitable Trust

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The Charity Challenge
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The Late Professor Geoffrey White AM
Norman Green
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David H Emanuel
Peter and Margaret Medlicott
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a giving fund in APS Foundation

CUSTODIANS FOR A CURE (ESTATES)

The Estate of the Late Zara Splayford
The Estate of the Late Ann Margaret Campbell
The Estate of the Late Sydney Donald Smith
The Estate of the Late Brett Arthur Gardiner
The Estate of the Late Sandra Margaret Taylor
The Estate of the Late John Lethe
The Estate of the Late Mary Elizabeth Brodie
The Estate of the Late Peter Hammond
The Estate of the Late Helen McKinnon
The Estate of the Late Peter Freilich
The Estate of the Late Alan Johnson
The Estate of the Late Catherine Dwan
The Estate of the Late Arthur Bryce
The Estate of the Late June Taylor
The Estate of the Late Betty Lorraine Brabazon
The Estate of the Late John Brian Whittle
The Estate of the Late Beverley Lyla Hodges
The Estate of the Late Craig Michael Standing
The Estate of the Late Nigel John Parkin
The Estate of the Late Mena Valerie Good
The Estate of the Late Valerie Gloria Grummet
The Estate of the Late Peter Mitchell
The Estate of the Late Gary Perret
The Estate of the Late Mark McLellan
The Estate of the Late Anthony Van De Putte

PARTNERS

Collaboration is at the heart of everything we do.



HALL CHADWICK

CLAYTON UTZ



Our loyal donors large and small, our passionate community fundraisers, our generous corporate sponsors, our committed volunteer speakers and our enthusiastic event participants all play a critical role in helping us reach our mission of zero deaths from melanoma.

We thank each and every one of our partners for your continued support.

BELINDA GORSEVSKI – MELANOMA PATIENT



'I'm so happy that I decided to listen to my nurse who suggested that I see Skye. I was trying to convince myself that I would be okay or I could do it on my own but really what I needed was for someone to listen and actually hear what I was saying. Even though I have a loving network of family and friends who are very supportive, unless you have experienced trying to live day to day with cancer their advice can often not be so helpful. I actually look forward to seeing Skye, she is so personable and very easy to talk to. I feel like it is a safe space to be able to discuss feelings without being judged. She has an innate ability to understand how I'm feeling and her sound advice has been so beneficial.'



Melanoma Institute Australia Statement of Comprehensive Income

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

► During 2020/21, MIA solidified its financial position, having successfully restructured operations in response to the impact of COVID-19 recorded in the previous year. We are particularly grateful to our many donors for their wonderful philanthropic support, which increased by over 9%, despite the limitations of community fundraising events such as *Melanoma March*.

Our world class researchers secured an increase in funding to underpin MIA's mission of achieving zero deaths from melanoma and is strong recognition of our researchers' high standing within the scientific community, both nationally and internationally. This has enabled MIA to open new clinical trials and conduct numerous research projects and activities in each of our mission pillars of research, education and clinical care.

Financial support was received from the Federal Government through the JobKeeper and Cash Flow Boost Programs. This funding offset loss in revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

MIA's personnel costs of \$10.5 million relate mainly to staff employed directly on research, education, clinical care and supportive care activities. We maintained a reduced administration, fundraising and communications team to support these mission-based projects.

REVENUE

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Donations	5,952,219	5,444,107
Education & Patient Advocacy	501,504	524,864
Government Support - COVID-19	1,676,750	487,500
Investment Income	377,988	616,505
Poche Centre Income	832,977	885,509
Research Income	8,362,367	6,586,286
Other Income	94,833	125,108
Change in Fair Value Through Profit & Loss (FVTPL) on financial assets	1,112,452	(688,655)
Total Revenue	18,911,090	13,981,224

EXPENSES

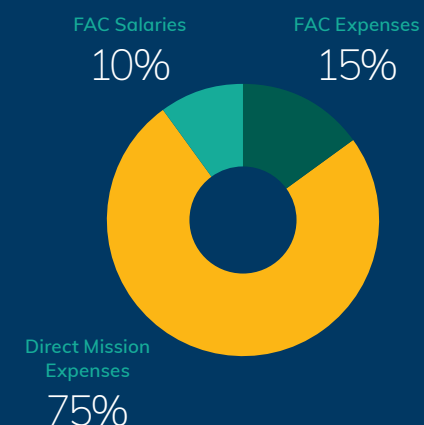
Audit	(15,000)	(30,000)
Personnel Costs	(10,582,286)	(10,410,376)
Conference/Functions	(10,504)	(17,981)
Administration Costs	(779,170)	(800,430)
IT Support	(204,555)	(322,308)
Utilities	(190,213)	(197,850)
Fundraising	(143,642)	(518,158)
Cleaning	(102,388)	(101,366)
Building Operations	(285,638)	(290,337)
Education & Patient Advocacy	(563,600)	(520,807)
Depreciation Expense	(842,171)	(760,523)
Bank & Investment Fees	(54,263)	(75,732)
Research Expense	(2,997,156)	(2,780,359)
Total Expenses	(16,770,586)	(16,826,227)
Profit/(Loss) for the year	2,140,504	(2,845,003)
Total comprehensive income/(loss)	2,140,504	(2,845,003)

Melanoma Institute Australia Statement of Financial Position

AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

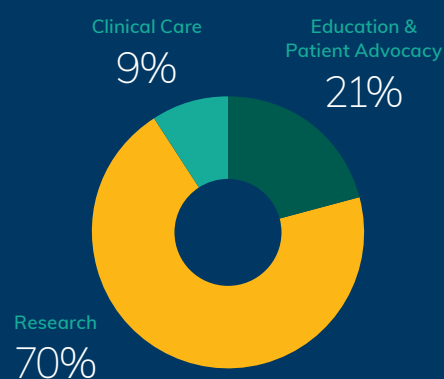
	2021 \$	2020 \$
Total Current Assets	24,919,146	18,651,854
Total Non-Current Assets	2,255,255	2,393,027
TOTAL ASSETS	27,174,401	21,044,881
Total Current Liabilities	11,142,801	7,189,046
Total Non-Current Liabilities	746,955	711,694
TOTAL LIABILITIES	11,889,756	7,900,740
NET ASSETS	15,284,645	13,144,141

- MIA's net assets total \$15.2 million, a significant recovery from the impact of COVID-19 the previous year. This provides financial capability and capacity to drive its research projects, education, clinical care and supportive care towards achieving our mission.



In addition to the liabilities shown, MIA has quarantined a further \$2.9 million for research projects the subject of specific donors' wishes.

FAC: Fundraising, administration and communications



MIA has increased its percentage expenditure against mission to 75% and a record expenditure on its missions pillars of \$12.5 million.

DR IRIS BARTULA - PSYCHOLOGIST



'With new and more effective drug therapies resulting in promising futures for increasing numbers of patients, there is a growing focus on supportive care and survivorship aspects of melanoma. As part of our increased research and services in this area, our patients now have access to a psychological counselling service at the time when they need it most. The appointment of Senior Clinical Psychologist Dr Skye Dong was only made possible through generous philanthropic support, and is already proving beneficial to the psychological wellbeing of our patients, families and carers as they navigate their melanoma journey.'



GOVERNANCE

MIA is a company limited by guarantee with deductible gift recipient status. MIA is governed by a Board of Directors and advised by Faculty, led by the Co-Medical Directors. Faculty is advised on clinical, research and education matters by Committees.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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BSc, PhD, MBBS, FRACP

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FRCPath, FAHMS

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Sally Doherty
BA, GAICD

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A/Prof Robyn Saw

Dr Annika Smith

Ex-officio

Professor Georgina Long AO

Professor Richard Scolyer AO

Matthew Browne

Danielle Fischer

Emeritus Faculty

Professor Rick Kefford AM

Professor Graham Mann

Other Poche Centre Clinicians

Dr Bruna Gouveia

Dr Edward Hsiao

Dr Rony Kapoor

Chief Executive Officer

Matthew Browne

Susan Elder was MIA's Company
Secretary during the financial year

Please see melanoma.org.au
for full bios.

Membership at time of printing

INTRODUCING ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ALEXANDER VAN AKKOOI

We are delighted and proud to introduce A/Professor Alexander van Akkooi, Melanoma Institute Australia's new A/Professor of Surgical Oncology and Clinical Academic Medical & Surgical Oncology, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

Commencing in early 2022, A/Professor van Akkooi will lead the melanoma surgical oncology team at MIA, the role left by Emeritus Professor John Thompson AO when he retired last year. He is relocating with his family from The Netherlands where he is the current Chair of the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) melanoma group.

A/Professor van Akkooi has collaborated with MIA on many of our important research projects and clinical trials and has published over 150 peer reviewed papers, many in high-impact journals including *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Lancet*, *Lancet Oncology*, *Cell* and *Nature Medicine*. He is a member of both the prestigious Society for Melanoma Research (SMR) and the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO).

'This is truly a great appointment for us at MIA, taking over from the incredible work of Professor Thompson, and we are looking forward to Alex's arrival and him hitting the ground running with his melanoma clinical and research expertise,' said Professors Georgina Long AO and Richard Scolyer AO.

We welcome A/Professor van Akkooi and his family to Australia and know that he will strengthen further the incredible scientific and clinical activities at MIA.



'This is truly a great appointment for us at MIA, taking over from the incredible work of Professor Thompson, and we are looking forward to Alex's arrival and him hitting the ground running with his melanoma clinical and research expertise.'

BELOW: A/Professor Alexander van Akkooi (far left) at The Netherlands Cancer Institute in 2015, with several members of MIA Faculty



Melanoma Institute Australia recognises the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work, and is proud to include traditional country names in all our site addresses.

Cammeraygal Land – The Poche Centre, Sydney

Gadigal Country – The University of Sydney

Wiradjuri Land – Wagga Wagga

Nyoongar Boodjar – Perth, Western Australia

We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which Melanoma Institute Australia works, and their Elders both past and present, and acknowledge the deep, continuing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to the land, waters, and sky.



Melanoma Institute Australia

The Poche Centre, Cammeraygal Land, 40 Rocklands Road Wollstonecraft NSW 2065

P: 1300 882 353 E: info@melanoma.org.au W: melanoma.org.au

ABN: 35 123 321 148 CFN: 20341