

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

CENTRE FOR PRECISION HEALTH

Our research is improving patient outcomes through the ethical application of biological data to inform and enhance personalised healthcare.

Centre for Precision Health STRATEGIC RESEARCH CENTRE



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ABOUT THE CENTRE FOR PRECISION HEALTH

The Centre for Precision Health (CPH) is a Strategic Research Centre at Edith Cowan University (ECU). It consists of a multidisciplinary group of researchers focusing on key health priorities of cancer, neurological conditions, and global and suboptimal health.

Precision Health offers the promise of moving from a 'one-size-fits-all' approach to more effective, personalised solutions to improve the health and well-being of an individual. Precision Health considers an individual's unique biology, such as genetics, in combination with their lifestyle and the environment around them. Our combined knowledge and expertise across Genomics, Glycomics and Proteomics are applied to these health conditions with the ultimate goal of improving patient outcomes and quality of life.

This is all undertaken in a supportive research environment that will facilitate the professional and scientific development of all of our members to ensure sustainable ongoing research excellence.



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



This year was, without doubt, a success... I am confident things can only get better in 2023 and that this time next year, I will be stating all the success of 2023 and writing about what 2024 will hold. The second year of the Centre for Precision Health has raised some very high bars in almost every metric. It is impossible in such a short message to cover all the highlights, so I mention a few, but every single CPH member has contributed to the success of 2022. Our Centre Higher Degree by Research (HDR) completions continue to rise, now sitting at 7 with 3 in 2022 and another 5 theses submitted for examination. Likewise, so does our research funding grow – well above all expected Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and Returns On Investment (ROI). We have increased our research outputs from 2021 with over 90 publications in 2022, impressive being that nearly 90% are in Q1 journals and over a quarter of these are led by HDR students.

The highly impactful research at the CPH has gained significant media attention – including one being awarded a high commendation at the ECU media awards. This research by Dr Emmanuel Adewuyi was the second biggest research media "campaign" at ECU in 2022, reaching more than 920 million people and worth an estimated \$8.5 million in advertising spend to ECU. This media attention drew the attention of the American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) and the Centre was showcased as part of their *Thought Leadership Film Series* at the ASHG Conference in Los Angeles in late October.

I am also thrilled with the launch of our new website landing page this year, and continued community engagement that our Centre engages in – particularly highlighting the work of Monique Garcia and the SPIN research team.

"The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team."

– Phil Jackson

I continue to be particularly proud of the CPH initiatives that we carried through into 2022, including the HDR student grants and our ongoing professional development workshops, the latter having a strong focus on the research journey and engaging with essential service centres of ECU.

I am delighted to see the HDR student leads drive an initiative that has developed an HDR Student resource that will help students from start to finish along their research journey – so a massive thanks to these 2022 HDR leads; Shane Fernandez, Neha Pulyani and Zhiyuan Wu.

Finally, I am over the moon with the success of our new Summer Vacation Scholarships initiative. We doubled the amount we planned to give out and still could only fund just over 50% of those who applied, with 13 awarded. This allows prospective HDR students to experience research and get a jump start on their research journey working with our awesome Early-to-Mid-Career Researchers (EMCRs).

"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn." – Benjamin Franklin

A final highlight of 2022 was the absolute success of the 2022 CPH End of Year Showcase, with a fantastic turnout of over 70 attendees who were treated to the research highlights of 2022 and presentations by HDR and EMCR members of the Centre. This year we had Associate Professor Michelle Lupton as keynote speaker flying across from the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute in Brisbane to not only present but spend a day building research collaborations. We introduced EMCR and HDR poster prizes judged and awarded by DVCR Professor Caroline Finch; and a publication award presented by Emeritus Professor John Finlay-Jones.

This year was, without doubt, a success – and to inaccurately quote Professor Brian Cox (in his former non-science role), I am confident *Things can only get better* in 2023. I am confident that this time next year, I will be stating all the success of 2023 and writing about what 2024 will hold.

Professor Simon Laws Director, Centre for Precision Health

2022 AT A GLANCE



AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR HUMAN GENETICS ANNUAL MEETING

CENTRE FOR PRECISION HEALTH SHOWCASED AT THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR HUMAN GENETICS ANNUAL MEETING

The Centre for Precision Health had a starring role at the American Society of Human Genetics, the world's biggest human genetics and genomics meeting, held in Los Angeles recently, attracting more than 7000 industry professionals from 84 countries.

The CPH's multidisciplinary work in improving diagnosis, treatment and prevention of cancer, neurological conditions, and suboptimal health saw it approached to take part in ASHG's *Thought Leadership Film Series*, an offer extended to only a select number of global institutions.

ASHG says the series aims to "raise the international visibility of those that are striving to revolutionize biomedical research, transform medical care, and improve the lives of people across the globe through education, innovation, research, and the formulation of healthcare policy".

It saw ASHG produce a short film profiling the ECU Centre and its ground-breaking work, which was showcased live at the event and can be viewed below.

Number of Views: >1.5K

You Tube

CPH director Professor Simon Laws said the select invitation showed how the Centre's reputation was gaining global recognition, due to research such as optimizing lung cancer treatment and establishing a genetic link between gut disorders and Alzheimer's Disease.

"This acknowledgment from one of the world's leading genetics societies is wonderful recognition of our work and comes off the back of the growing awareness and implementation of our research around the world this year," Professor Laws said.

"I am very proud of the excellent impactful research that the Centre has and continues to undertake." – Professor Laws



FEATURED RESEARCH PROJECTS

TRAILBLAZING A NEW FIELD OF RESEARCH

"Life requires more than nucleic acids and proteins; sweet sugar molecules could be another life code beyond the central dogma of molecular biology"

There are four equally important major building blocks of life: nucleic acids (DNA and RNA), proteins, carbohydrates (glycans), and lipids.

Nucleic acids and proteins are also known as the first and second alphabets of biology, following the principle of the "central dogma" of transcription (DNA to RNA) and translation (RNA to protein). However, glycans and lipids, are missing from biology's central dogma.

Regarding communication between glycans and lipids, there may be a yet-to-be-discovered law: Does a paracentral dogma exist?

The commentary by Professor Wang published in *Engineering*¹ focuses on glycans, the third alphabet of life, and their role in the sociomateriality of the cell, which provides a novel dimension of medical science – glycomedicine. This is an allied new discipline that employs glycomics approaches with the aim of better targeting disease diagnostics, as well as drug discovery, prescription choice, and dosing based on individual glycomics profiles to enable preventive, predictive, and precision medicine.

"Glycans are directly involved in the pathophysiology of every major disease...Unraveling of the sugar code will chart a robust future for glycomedicine and its application potential for personalised medicine." Prof Wang said.

"Glycans are directly involved in the pathophysiology of every major disease...Unraveling of the sugar code will chart a robust future for glycomedicine and its application potential for personalised medicine." – Professor Wang



¹ Wang, W. Glycomedicine: The Current State of the Art. *Engineering* (2022)

Genetics and other factors influence glycosylation, which in turn can affect whether glycoproteins will elicit an anti-inflammatory or pro-inflammatory response. It is important to underscore these processes when considering the use of glycoprotein moieties as an indication of disease presence, progress, or response to therapeutics, as well as when considering the therapy itself. In addition, glycomedicine provides a clinical-translational platform for glycomic studies.

The commentary highlights that there is a lot of work to be done in this incipient field. Most glycomics analytical tools are unable to detect glycan concentration on a microscale level. Heterogeneity and the complexity of glycan structures make glycome analysis difficult, warranting the need for a new glycan analytical platform and automated glycobioinformatics resources. Moreover, only a few laboratories with advanced tools and expertise are able to analyse glycan structures, which poses another challenge for clinical application.

The lessons learned from the unravelling of the sugar code, and the innovative advances highlighted in the publication are instructive in charting a robust future for glycomedicine and its application potential in medicine.

"Glycomedicine" is an academic term that has been coined by Prof Wang's team. Para-central dogma-supporting the central dogma with sugar codes – has also been proposed by the team.



Pictured: Professor Wei Wang (Left), Dr Ivan Li, Yulu Zheng, Zheng Guo and Monique Garcia

PREDICTING THERAPY TOXICITY IN LUNG CANCER PATIENTS

Lung cancer is the deadliest form of cancer, accounting for an estimated 1.8 million deaths worldwide. Treatment for the condition has improved in recent years – and a new study at the CPH has found how to make it even more effective.

Immunotherapy has emerged as a major weapon in the battle against non-small cell lung cancer, which makes up 80-85 per cent of all lung cancer diagnoses. Unfortunately, immunotherapy can also result in severe side effects for patients: at least 74 per cent of those treated will experience immune-related adverse reactions. Up to 21 per cent will develop grade three or four toxicity, which can lead to lifelong complications affecting the skin, gut, liver or endocrine system.

Research by PhD candidate Afaf Abed and the Cancer Stream team have made a critical breakthrough. These adverse reactions can result in cancer treatment having to be discontinued, which risks allowing the disease to progress further. But, somewhat contradictorily, people who experience these immunotherapy side effects tend to have more positive results with their cancer progression than those who don't.

Research by PhD candidate Afaf Abed and the Cancer Stream team have made a critical breakthrough. The study was published in the *European Journal of Cancer*¹.

"Our research shows for the first time that certain genetic features predispose cancer patients to develop side effects or toxicities to anti-cancer therapy", Dr Abed said.



Pictured: Dr Afaf Abed

¹ Abed, A., Law, N., Calapre, L., et al. Human leucocyte antigen genotype association with the development of immune-related adverse events in patients with non-small cell lung cancer treated with single agent immunotherapy. *European Journal of Cancer*, 172, 98-106 (2022).

"This discovery would benefit all non-small cell lung cancer patients, regardless of whether they were genetically predisposed to adverse reactions to immunotherapy or not."

- Dr Abed

The key to the research are human leukocyte antigens, or HLAs, which are markers found in most cells in the body. The immune system uses HLAs to determine which cells do and don't belong in your body and are part of the alarm system which detects viruses, infections – and cancer.

The research team examined the HLAs of 179 non-small cell lung cancer patients and found a strong link between the genetic makeup of the HLAs and whether the person was likely to develop side effects from immunotherapy.

"This discovery would benefit all non-small cell lung cancer patients, regardless of whether they were genetically predisposed to adverse reactions to immunotherapy or not". "If someone is found to not be at risk of side effects, doctors can ramp up the treatment and be more aggressive in fighting the disease. If they are found to be at a higher risk, doctors can take it easier with the treatment, monitor it and intervene before patients develop grade 3 or 4 toxicity," said Dr Abed, who is also an oncology consultant.

Either way, biomarkers that predict the risk of these immune-mediated adverse events among patients may reduce the risks associated with these treatments.



ALZHEIMER'S BREAKTHROUGH: GENETIC LINK TO GUT DISORDERS CONFIRMED

Alzheimer's Disease (AD) destroys memory and thinking ability and is the most prevalent form of dementia. It has no known curative treatments and is expected to affect more than 82 million people and cost US\$2 trillion by 2030.

People with gut disorders may be at greater risk of developing AD. A world-first study at the Centre for Precision Health (CPH) has confirmed the link between the two, which could lead to earlier detection and new potential treatments.

Previous observational studies have suggested a relationship between AD and gastrointestinal tract disorders, but what underpins these relationships had been unclear – until now.

Research at the CPH has now provided new insights into these relationships by confirming a genetic link between AD and multiple gut disorders. The study analysed large sets of genetic data from AD and several gut-disorder studies – each of about 400,000 people. Research lead Dr Emmanuel Adewuyi said it was the first comprehensive assessment of the genetic relationship between AD and multiple gut disorders. The team discovered people with AD and gut disorders have genes in common - which is important for many reasons.

"The study provides a novel insight into the genetics behind the observed co-occurrence of AD and gut disorders," Dr Adewuyi said.

"This improves our understanding of the causes of these conditions and identifies new targets to investigate to potentially detect the disease earlier and develop new treatments for both types of conditions."

"The study provides a novel insight into the genetics behind the observed co-occurrence of AD and gut disorders."

- Dr Adewuyi



Centre for Precision Health Director and study supervisor Professor Simon Laws said whilst the study didn't conclude gut disorders cause AD or vice versa, the results are immensely valuable.

Dr Adewuyi said abnormal levels of cholesterol were shown to be a risk for both AD and gut disorders. "Looking at the genetic and biological characteristics common to AD and these gut disorders suggests a strong role for lipids metabolism, the immune system, and cholesterol-lowering medications," he said.

"Whilst further study is needed into the shared mechanisms between the conditions, there is evidence high cholesterol can transfer into the central nervous system, resulting in abnormal cholesterol metabolism in the brain.

"There is also evidence suggesting abnormal blood lipids may be caused or made worse by gut bacteria (H.pylori), all of which support the potential roles of abnormal lipids in AD and gut disorders. "For example, elevated cholesterol in the brain has been linked to brain degeneration and subsequent cognitive impairment."

The cholesterol link could prove vital in treating AD in the future. While there are currently no known curative treatments, the study's findings suggest cholesterol lowering medications (statins) could be therapeutically beneficial in treating both AD and gut disorders.

"Evidence indicates statins have properties which help reduce inflammation, modulate immunity and protect the gut," Dr Adewuyi said.

However, he said there was a need for more studies and patients needed to be assessed individually to judge whether they would benefit from statin use.

The research also indicated diet could play a part in treating and preventing AD and gut disorders.

'A large-scale genome-wide cross-trait analysis reveals shared genetic architecture between Alzheimer's disease and gastrointestinal tract disorders' was published in *Communications Biology*[#].



Pictured: Dr Emmanuel Adewuyi

[#] Adewuyi, E.O., O'Brien, E.K., Nyholt, D.R. et al. A large-scale genome-wide cross-trait analysis reveals shared genetic architecture between Alzheimer's disease and gastrointestinal tract disorders. *Commun Biol 5*, 691 (2022).

SUPPORTING RESEARCH

CPH HAS INVESTED IN KEY STRATEGIC AREAS TOWARDS GROWING RESEARCH QUALITY AND CAPACITY







HDR STUDENT PROJECT AWARDS

2022 (\$33,653) 2021 (\$34,985)



Awarded

Awardees not featured: Neha Pulyani and Yulong Lan



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SUMMER VACATION RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

IN 2022

Awardees not featured: Artika Kirby, Del Pereira, Eleanore Daines, Fiston Kalau, Tim Lewis-Carroll, Nicholas Stritof, Karyn West, Phoebe Carr, Isaac Barry, and Hermes Rodriguez







ATTRACTING RESEARCH SUPPORT

RESEARCH FUNDING IN 2022

\$1,964,236*

- Cat 3 Philanthropy (77%)
- Cat 3 Industry (10%)
- Cat 3 USA NIH/DoD (5%)
- Cat 1 **(8%)**

* Proportion of the total funding received by ECU

Active projects

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Boosting Dementia Research Grant Professor Simon Laws – *E*–DADS: Early Detection of Alzheimer's disease Subtypes

NHMRC International Joint Call

Professor Wei Wang – N-glycan profiling as a risk stratification biomarker for type 2 diabetes (NHMRC)

NHMRC/MRFF – Genomics Health Futures Mission Associate Professor Elin Gray – Integrated multimodal precision liquid biopsy to enhance MElanoma and NSCLC Treatment (IMPLEMENT)

NHMRC Ideas Grant

Professor Simon Laws – *Imaging, fluid and genetic* markers of Alzheimer's disease

NHMRC Project Grant

Professor Simon Laws – Genetic and lifestyle susceptibility and resilience factors affecting rates of change in preclinical Alzheimer's disease

Department of Health WA Near Miss Merit Award Dr Tenielle Porter – *Defining genetic, epigenetic and transcriptomic profiles of progression in preclinical Alzheimer's disease*

Department of Health WA Near Miss Merit Award Dr Tenielle Porter – *The interaction of genetic and lifestyle factors affecting progression in neurodegenerative disorders*

Department of Health WA Future Health Research & Innovation Fund – Biobank Interim Support Associate Professor Elin Gray – Cancer Blood Biomarkers Study – Biobank

ANZ Gynaecological Oncology Group

Associate Professor Elin Gray – *Circulating tumour DNA* as a biomarker of treatment response for patients with advanced high grade serous ovarian cancer receiving neoadjuvant chemotherapy with and without durvalumab and tremilimumab

Australian Alzheimer's Research Foundation – PhD Projects

Professor Simon Laws – Investigating changes in DNA Methylation age in Alzheimer's disease

Australian Melanoma Research Foundation Dr Pauline Zaenker – Early Career Researcher Grants Scheme

Cancer Council of WA Collaborative Cancer Grant Dr Weitao Lin – *Exploring therapeutic targets for the treatment of metastatic uveal melanoma*

Cancer Council of WA Fellowship

Associate Professor Elin Gray – Developing blood tests to guide treatment of melanoma

Cancer Council of WA Research Project Grant

Associate Professor Elin Gray – *Circulating melanoma cells* as predictive biomarkers of response to immune checkpoint blockade

Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health

Professor Simon Laws – *Genetic contributions to Alzheimer's disease risk and progression in the AIBL cohort*

International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer Fellowship Award

Dr Afaf Abed – Genomic HLA and pre-treatment TCR repertoire as biomarkers of response to immunotherapy in advanced non-small cell lung cancer patients

Multiple Sclerosis Society of WA (MSWA)

Professor Simon Laws and Dr Travis Cruickshank – *MSWA:* Systematic Profiling in Neurological Conditions (SPIN) Research Program

National Institutes of Health (NIH) U.S grant Professor Simon Laws – Alzheimer's dementia and progression in international cohorts

Oncomine Clinical Research Grant – ThermoFisher Associate Professor Elin Gray – *TCR repertoire in combination with HLA and TMB as predictor of response to immune checkpoint blockade in melanoma and lung cancer*

Perron Institute for Neurological and Translational Science Dr Travis Cruickshank – *The effectiveness of a 12-week remote-delivered green-blue light therapy intervention on daytime sleepiness, fatigue, work productivity and quality of life outcomes in individuals following traumatic brain injury*

Shantou University Medical College, China – PhD Program Professor Wei Wang – Shantou Cooperative Research in Medical Sciences and Health Service Delivery

WA Cancer and Palliative Care Fellowships

Associate Professor Elin Gray and Dr Pauline Zaenker – Autoantibodies as Biomarkers of Onset of Immune-related Adverse Events in Cutaneous Melanoma Patients

THE FOLLOWING GRANTS WERE AWARDED TO STAFF IN CPH IN 2022:

CATEGORY 1

NHMRC/MRFF – Dementia, Ageing and Aged Care Mission

• **Professor Simon Laws** – Getting to the heart of healthy ageing: a behaviour change program to promote dietary pattern changes, Amount awarded: \$507,000 (\$466,065 ECU portion)

CATEGORY 3 – PHILANTHROPY

MSWA

• Professor Simon Laws and Dr Travis Cruickshank – Systematic Profiling in Neurological Conditions (SPIN) Research Program, Amount awarded: \$940,000 funding extension grant

Spinnaker Health Research Foundation – Janine Chalwell Gift

Associate Professor Elin Gray and Dr Adnan Khattak – Multimodal liquid biopsy to predict response to melanoma to Immuno-Oncology, Amount awarded: \$50,000

Spinnaker Health Research Foundation – Innovation Grants

• Dr Lydia Warburton and Dr Aaron Beasley – Extracellular vesicles profiling as a signature of response to immunotherapy, Amount awarded: \$24,610

Cancer Council of WA – Research Project grant

• Associate Professor Elin Gray and Dr Lydia Warburton – Developing a blood test for predicting the response to treatment with immunotherapies in melanoma patients, Amount awarded: \$96,483

MSWA and Perron Institute for Neurological and Translational Science

• **Professor Simon Laws and Dr Travis Cruickshank** – *Joint funding for establishing a Neuro Hub Data Registry*, Amount awarded: \$300,000 (\$150,000 ECU portion)

CATEGORY 3 – INTERNATIONAL

US Department of Defense – Melanoma Research Program Team Science Award

 Associate Professor Elin Gray and Professor Michael Millward (adjunct) – Multimodal Precision Liquid Biopsy to predict the risk of Melanoma Recurrence, Amount awarded: \$180,095 – ECU portion

ECU INTERNAL GRANTS

Edith Cowan University - Early to Mid-Career Researcher Kickstart project

• Dr Ivan Li – Developing a tool to predict the likely occurrence of stroke, Amount awarded: \$39,571

Edith Cowan University - Early to Mid-Career Researcher Kickstart project

 Dr Aaron Beasley – Predicting prognosis using circulating tumour DNA in uveal melanoma, Amount awarded: \$36,312

COMMUNICATING OUR RESEARCH FINDINGS

2022 PUBLICATIONS



We are actively collaborating with researchers and organisations around the world on precision health related projects and consortiums.

- <u>*Abed, A.</u>, Law, N., Calapre, L., Lo, J., Bhat, V., Bowyer, S., Millward, M., & Gray, E. (Sept 2022). HLA genotype association with the development of immune related adverse events (irAE) in patients with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) treated with single agent immunotherapy. *European Journal of Cancer, 172*, 98-106, doi: 10.1016/j.ejca.2022.05.021
- *Acheampong E, Abed A, Morici M, Spencer I, Beasley A, Bowyer S, <u>Asante D</u>, Lomma C, Lin W, Millward M, Gray ES. (Mar 2022). Evaluation of PD-L1 expression on circulating tumour cells in small-cell lung cancer. Translational Lung Cancer Research, 11(3): 440-451, doi.org/10.21037%2Ftlcr-21-819
- *Acheampong, E., Morici, M., Abed, A., Bowyer, S., Asante, D., Lin, W., Millward, M., Gray, E., Beasley, A. (28 July 2022). Powering single-cell genomics to unravel circulating tumour cells subpopulations in non-small cell lung cancer patients. Journal of Cancer Research and Clinical Oncology, doi:10.1007/s00432-022-04202-y
- *Adewuyi E, O'Brien E, Nyholt D, Porter T, Laws SM. (18 Jul 2022). Cross–trait analysis of Alzheimer's disease and gastrointestinal tract disorders identifies shared loci highlighting immune-related and statin pathways. *Communications Biology, 5*, Article number 691, doi.org/10.1038/s42003-022-03607-2

[**bold**] CPH members [*] Q1 journal

[underlined] HDR students

[#] paper with an international collaborator

- *Adewuyi, EO, O'Brien, EK, Porter, T., & Laws, SM. (19 Dec 2022). Relationship of cognition and Alzheimer's disease with Gastrointestinal Tract Disorders: A large-scale Mendelian Randomisation Analysis. *International Journal of Molecular Sciences, 23*(24): 16199, doi.org/10.3390/ ijms232416199
- *#Adua, E., Afrifa-Yamoah, E., Pepra-Yamoah, E., Anto, E., <u>Acheampong, E.</u>, Awuah-Mensah, K., & Wang, W. Multi-block data integration analysis for identifying and validating targeted N-glycans as biomarkers for type II diabetes mellitus. *Scientific Reports*, 12, Article number 10974, doi.org/10.1038/ s41598-022-15172-z
- *#Anto, E., Coall, D., Akomanin Asiamah, E., Afriyie, O., Addai-Mensah, O., Wiafe, Y., Owiredu, W., Obirikorang, C., Annani-Akollor, M., Titiloye, N., Adua, E., <u>Acheampong, E.</u>, Adu, E., Anto, A., Tawiah, A., Wang, Y., & Wang, W. (21 March 2022). Placental lesions and differential expression of pro-and anti-angiogenic growth mediators and oxidative DNA damage marker in placentae of Ghanian suboptimal and optimal health status pregnant women who later developed preeclampsia. *Plos One*, 17(3), e0265717, doi. org/10.1371/journal.pone.0265717
- #Anto EO, Ofori Boadu WI, Opoku S, Senu E, Tamakloe V, Tawiah A, Ankobea F, <u>Acheampong E</u>, Anto AO, Appiah M, Wiafe YA, Annani-Akollor ME, Obirikorang C and Addai-Mensah O. Prevalence and Risk Factors of Preterm Birth Among Pregnant Women Admitted at the Labor Ward of the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, Ghana. *Front Glob Womens Health*. 2022; 3:801092 10.3389/ fgwh.2022.801092
- *#Arance, A., de la Cruz-Merino, L., Petrella, T., Jamal, R., Ny, L., Carneiro, A., ... <u>Khattak, M.</u>, ...& Long, G. Phase II LEAP-004 Study of Lenvatininib Plus Pembrolizumab for Melanoma with confirmed progression on a programmed cell death protein-1 or programmed death Ligand 1 inhibitor given as monotherapy or in combination. Journal of Clinical Oncology, DOI: 10.1200/JCO.22.00221



- *Akosile, W., & Adewuyi, E. Genetic correlation and causality assessment between post-traumatic stress disorder and coronary artery disease-related traits. (30 Oct 2022). Gene, 842, Article 146802, 10.1016/j. gene.2022.146802
- 11. *Beasley AB, Isaacs T, Chen FK, Gray ES. Future Perspectives of Uveal Melanoma Blood Based Biomarkers. (21 Feb 2022). Br J Cancer, 126, 1511-1528, doi.org/10.1038/s41416-022-01723-8
- *Brown B, de Frutos Lucas J, Porter T, Frost N, Vacher M, Pfeiffer JJ, Laws SM. (Aug 2022). Moderating effects of age, sex, genetics on the relationship between physical activity and brain volume: A UK Biobank study. Journal of Alzheimer's Disease, 88(3):1091-1101 doi: 10.3233/JAD-220114
- *#Bhave, P., Ahmed, T., ... Khattak, A., ... & Carlino, M. (Jul 2022). Efficacy of anti-PD-1 and ipilimumab alone or in combination in acral melanoma. J Immunother Cancer, 10(7): e004668, doi: 10.1136/ jitc-2022-004668
- 14. *#Cadby G, Giles C, Melton PE, Huynh K, Mellett NA, Duong T, ... Laws SM, Porter T, Vacher M, Bush AI, Rowe CC, Villemagne VL, ... & Moses EK. (6 June 2022). Comprehensive genetic analysis of the human lipidome identifies novel loci controlling lipid homeostasis with links to coronary artery disease, Nature Communications, 13, Article number 3124, doi.org/10.1038/s41467-022-30875-7

- 15. *#Cai, Y., Liu, M., <u>Wu, Z.</u>, <u>Tian, C.</u>, Qiu, S., Li, Z., Xu, F., Li, W., Zheng, Y., Xu, A., Xie, L., & Tan, X. (Dec 2022). Diagnostic accuracy of autoverification and guidance system for COVID-19 RT-PCR results. EPMA J, 1-11, doi: 10.1007/s13167-022-00310-4
- 16. *#Chino B, Cuesta P, Pacios J, de Frutos-Lucas J, Torres-Simon L, Doval S, Marcos A, Bruna R and Maestu F. Episodic memory dysfunction and hypersynchrony in brain functional networks in cognitively intact subjects and MCI: a study of 379 individuals. Geroscience. 2022; 45(1), 477-489, 10.1007/s11357-022-00656-7
- 17. *#Chino B, Zegarra-Valdivia J, de Frutos-Lucas J, Paredes-Manrique C and Custodio N. Impact of Sociodemographic Features and Lifestyle on Cognitive Performance of Peruvian Adults. J Alzheimers Dis. 2022; 90(2):599-608 10.3233/JAD-220428
- 18. *#Cruickshank, T., Flores, M., Tuesta, M., & Reyes, A. (30 Apr 2022). Reproducibility of maximum respiratory pressure assessment: A systematic review and metaanalysis. Chest Journal, 162(4), 828-850, doi.org/10.1016/j.chest.2022.04.144
- 19. *#de Bruyn, D., Beasley, A., Verdijk, R., van Poppelen, N., Paridaens, D., de Keizer, R., Naus, N., Gray, E., de Klein, A., Brosens, E., & Kilic, E., on behalf of the Rotterdam Ocular Melanoma Study Group. (2022). Is Tissue Still the Issue? The Promise of Liquid Biopsy in Uveal Melanoma. Biomedicines, 10(2), 506, doi. org/10.3390/biomedicines10020506
- 20. Dyke, J., Calapre, L., Beasley, A., Gray, E., Allcock, R., & Bentel, J. Application of multiplex ligation-dependent probe amplification (MLPA) and low pass whole genome sequencing (LP-WGS) to the classification/characterisation of low grade glioneuronal tumours. Pathol Res Pract, 229, 153724, doi.org/10.1016/j.prp.2021.153724
- 21. #Eggermont, A., Ascierto, P., Khushalani, N., Schadendorf, D., Boland, G., Weber, J., ... Khattak, A... & Diab, A. (Mar 2022). PIVOT-12: a phase III study of adjuvant bempegaldesleukin plus nivolumab in resected stage III/IV melanoma at high risk for recurrence. Future Oncology, 18(8): 903-913, doi: 10.2217/fon-2021-1286

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COMMUNICATING OUR RESEARCH FINDINGS BEYOND PUBLICATIONS



Media exposure in 2022 was testament to the increasing recognition of the Centre's work and expertise. This year the Centre also launched a much-improved <u>website</u> <u>landing page</u>. Google Analytics reported 7,191 page visits in 2022, with a peak in visits aligned with the launch of the new web landing page in September. Our social media channels are evolving, and the Centre distributes a monthly newsletter to update members and stakeholders of centre activities and achievements.

Conference presentations by HDR students





Pictured: Professor Simon Laws receiving an award from Professor Caroline Finch (DVCR). Prof Laws and Dr Emmanuel Adewuyi received the Highly Commended Award at the 2022 ECU Media Awards



Shane Fernandez, Symposium for WA Neuroscience



Sanjay Adhikari, Thomas Ashworth CTC & Liquid Biopsy Symposium



Monique Garcia, Sydney International Forum on Quality and Safety in Healthcare

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

Co-design of an educational resource for people with MS and concussion

Lab visits by community groups and philanthropists

Community representatives across all three research streams and regular consumer meetings

Co-design of an online self-management tool with the neurological community (>2000 contributions)



Parliamentary Friends of People with Rare and Undiagnosed Diseases

Over 20 educational talks to community groups

Engagement in Sun awareness community outreach activities

Participation in community fundraising events: MSWA Step-up, MSWA Ocean Ride and Melanoma March



Desiree Sexauer (left) and A/Prof Elin Gray (right) with Amanda Rowe (centre) from melanomaWA







Members of the SPIN Program participating in the Step Up for MSWA event



Dr Lois Balmer (left) and Monique Garcia (2nd left) with Premier Mark McGowan and Ministers

CONTRIBUTING TO RESEARCH CULTURE

CENTRE FOR PRECISION HEALTH SEMINAR SERIES – 7 SEMINARS HELD

FEBRUARY

Guest: Dr Syed Afaq Ali Shah – *ECU School* of Science – Artificial Intelligence and its applications in the medical field

CPH speaker: Dr Pauline Zaenker – *Multimodal biomarkers in cutaneous melanoma*

MAY

Guest: Professor Gareth Baynam – Medical Director, Rare Care Centre – Getting precise about the common cause of suffering and death in kids

CPH speaker: Monique Garcia – *Improving the lives* of children and families living with rare diseases

JULY

Guest: Maria Grammenou, Centre for Human Performance, SMHS – *Total Score of Athleticism; How much can it tell us for the recovery status of our athletes?*

CPH speaker: Prof. Simon Laws – Personalised intervention studies in practice

SEPTEMBER

Guest: Prof. Nina Tirnitz-Parker, Curtin Health Innovation Research Institute – *Developments and challenges for precision medicine approaches in chronic liver disease and cancer*

CPH speaker: Dr Weitao Lin – Cell-to-cell communication in liver metastases of uveal melanoma

2022

MARCH

Guest: A/Prof. Giuseppe Verdile – *Curtin Health Innovation Research Institute – From Alzheimer's disease to Cancer: Important roles for the gamma secretase enzyme in disease*

CPH speaker: Dr Tenielle Porter – Understanding the genetic architecture of Alzheimer's disease risk and progression, single variant to polygenic risk score approaches

JUNE

Guest: Professor Michael Millward, UWA Linear Clinical Research – *Cancer: Molecular Profiling and Personalized Treatment*

CPH speaker: Dr Aaron Beasley – *Liquid biopsies in the era of Precision Oncology*

AUGUST

Guest: Yanshan Zhu, University of Queensland – Ancestral SARS-CoV-2, but not Omicron, replicates less efficiently in primary pediatric nasal epithelial cells

CPH speaker: Dr Hao Wang, CPH HDR alumni, Beijing Friendship Hospital – *China Screening multi-omics biomarkers for suboptimal health status*

CPH PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS





CPH HDR students and researchers at a goal setting workshop

END OF YEAR SHOWCASE EVENT



The Annual Centre for Precision Health Showcase event was held on 6 December 2022 and celebrated achievements for the year as well as highlights of the exciting research happening across the Centre. The event was opened with a welcome by Professor Simon Laws and featured the official launch of the CPH Film, created as part of the American Society of Human Genetics Thought Leadership Series.

We were delighted to welcome our interstate Keynote speaker, Associate Professor Michelle Lupton from the QIMR Berghofer Institute of Medical Research in Queensland. A/Prof Lupton provided an inspiring talk about her research on genetic epidemiology in Alzheimer's disease and the use of genetic risk prediction. A highlight of the day was the Poster Presentations session held in the foyer during the morning tea break, where attendees could view the CPH HDR and EMCR research posters and vote on



Introducing Keynote Speaker, Associate Professor Michelle Lupton



Dr Lois Balmer and Dr Eleanor O'Brien

the people's choice winner. We were also honoured to have Professor Caroline Finch, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) attend as our official Judge of the poster prizes. Following the morning break was the EMCR and HDR presentation session. Thank you to our presenters: Dr Aaron Beasley, Manjot Singh, Dr Eleanor O'Brien, Lidija Milicic, Zhiyuan Wu and Dr Xingang Li on their excellent presentations of their work. The day finished with the award of certificates to our Summer Vacation Scholarship awardees, publication and poster prizes.



Emeritus Professor John Finlay-Jones with Yulu Zheng receiving a publication prize



Associate Professor Elin Gray





HDR Student Publication Prize Winner Dr Afaf Abed (Clinician PhD student)



HDR Student Publication Prize Runner-Up Yulu Zheng (PhD student)



Shane Fernandez with his winning HDR poster



HDR Student Poster prize Shane Fernandez



Early-Mid-Career Researcher Poster prize Dr Weitao Lin



People's Choice Poster prize Yulu Zheng



Professor Caroline Finch presenting the EMCR Poster prize to Dr Weitao Lin



Yulu Zheng (People's choice poster winner)

GOVERNANCE

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



THE 2022 SCIENTIFIC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Leadership Group



Professor Simon Laws

Professor of Translational Genomics Director / Neurological conditions Stream Lead



Dr Tenielle Porter

Strategic Research Fellow Neurological conditions Stream Deputy Lead

EMCR Representatives



Assoc. Professor Elin Gray

CRT Fellow / CCWA Research Fellow Deputy Director / Cancer Stream Lead



Dr Pauline Zaenker

Vice-Chancellor's Research Fellow Cancer Stream Deputy Lead



Professor Wei Wang

Professor of Public Health Sub-optimal Health Stream Lead



Dr Lois Balmer

Senior Lecturer Sub-optimal Health Stream Deputy Lead



Dr Travis Cruickshank

HDR Representatives



Mr Shane Fernandez



Ms Sharon Middleton Research Support Officer



Dr Aaron Beasley



Dr Ivan Li



Ms Neha Pulyani





Dr Weitao Lin Postdoctoral Research Fellow Cancer Stream Deputy Lead (Acting)

EXTERNAL ADVISORY BOARD

The Centre for Precision Health External Research Advisory Board (ERAB) meets quarterly and held four meetings in 2022.

The ERAB provided significant advice into the strategic directions of the CPH, data management issues, the communication of our research, as well as assistance with shaping the CPH Business Plan and Terms of Reference.

In the second half of 2022 we welcomed two new members to the Board:

Professor Gareth Baynam as our Department of Health/ Clinical representative. Gareth is a clinical geneticist and holds numerous leadership positions in the rare diseases field, including being Medical Director of the new Rare Care Centre at Perth Children's Hospital.

Ms Annie Cordingley as our Consumer representative. Annie has been the consumer advisor for the Melanoma research group for many years and brings a wealth of experience as a member of the WA Consumer Reference Group.



Professor John Finlay-Jones

Inaugural Chair, Emeritus Professor, SMHS Former ECU DVCR



Professor Ryan Lister

Genome Biology and Genetics Program Head, UWA / HPMRI



Dr Kelly White National Sales Manager, Thermo Fisher Scientific



Ms Annie Cordingley

Consumer Representative and Member of WA Health Consumer Reference Group



Dr Carolyn Williams Former CEO, Centre for Entrepreneurial



Professor Gareth Baynam

Clinical Genomics Policy Advisor at WA Health, Medical Director of the Rare Care Centre at PCH "In 2015 I had 5 brain aneurysms ... I am very honoured to be part of the SPIN research team. Being Indigenous, we miss out on a lot. I want to be a part of it, I want my DNA on the system, so if I ever have another incident or issues with my heart one day, or Alzheimers, or dementia, they structure personal care that specifically targets the criteria that you're going through. They understand how to help you and support you as a person. That's pretty cool."

Joanne, research consumer representative

SPIL

FURTHER INFORMATION

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Find us at



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