

<b>Project title</b>	<b>Early Detection of Cancer spread and treatment of ocular melanoma</b>
Recipient	Mr Aaron Beasley
Institution	Edith Cowan University
Research description	<p>Uveal melanoma (UM) is the most common cancer of the eye. Approximately, 50% of UM patients are at high risk of incurable disease spread and due to lack of effective treatments, 92% will die within 2 years. Research shows that UM spreads to other organs via the release of Circulating Tumour Cells (CTCs) into the blood stream. Previously, I developed a blood test, which allows me to capture and analyse CTCs to accurately identify high risk UM patients.</p> <p>In collaboration with the Lions Eye Institute, I now aim to validate this blood test in a large cohort of patients and establish its utility in the clinic. I also aim to create UM mouse models and screen potential drugs that can be used to prevent the spread of disease.</p> <p>This research will drive the clinical use of a safe blood test to identify high risk UM patients and identify drug candidates to impede disease spread, which will ensure rigorous patient surveillance and improved patient outcomes.</p>
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