

Project title	Testing a method for genetic characterisation of the cells that spread melanoma within the body
Recipient	Mr Andre Vieira
Institution	Edith Cowan University
Research description	<p>Over 1600 Australians die annually due to melanoma that has spread throughout the body and progressed into a treatment resistant cancer. Melanoma spreads by sending tumour cells through the bloodstream (Circulating Tumour Cells or CTCs), seeding tumours throughout the body. Thus, the study of these cells is critical to understand biology and diversity of melanomas. The ECU Melanoma Research Group has substantial expertise in the isolation and analysis of melanoma CTCs.</p> <p>This study will further develop this expertise by testing the ability of a frontline technology, recently available in WA, to detect melanoma cells in a large background of normal blood cells through the analysis of their genetic makeup. This will determine the efficiency of this technology and enable future studies into the diversity of melanoma CTCs to understand their role in cancer spreading.</p>
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