

Project title	Catching immune cells in the act of fighting bowel cancer
Recipient	Dr Chidozie Anyaegbu
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Research description	<p>Every year in Australia, more than 4,000 people die from bowel cancer. To reduce the number of people dying from this disease, better ways are needed to identify patients at high risk of their cancer returning after surgery and chemotherapy, and better ways are required to treat them. White blood cells (immune cells) are important for controlling cancer growth. Dendritic cells (DCs) are a special group of immune cells that coordinate the body's immune responses, instructing other immune cells on when to attack and when not to.</p> <p>This study will look at whether the type of DCs in bowel cancer samples helps to identify these 'high-risk' patients who may not respond well to chemotherapy. Cancers removed from 215 patients will be examined for different types of DCs interacting with cancer-killing cells called CD8+ T cells, and study any associations with treatment response. Data from this study will also help to identify patients who may benefit from drugs that boost the performance of DCs or CD8+ T cells.</p>
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