

Project title	Novel methodology for detecting tumour derived material in blood to aid melanoma diagnosis
Recipient	Mr Daniel Walker
Institution	Edith Cowan University
Research description	<p>Melanoma is the most deadly type of skin cancer, and one of the most common cancers affecting the Australian population. The presence of melanoma can be detected through a blood test by extracting free floating DNA fragments (circulating tumour-DNA) from the patient's blood and looking at changes that are specific to the tumour.</p> <p>The Edith Cowan University Melanoma Research Group is one of the pioneers in the study of circulating tumour-DNA in melanoma. Building on their expertise, this project aims to detect circulating tumour-DNA by identifying a specific pattern (or methylation site) common to melanoma, with the aim of developing a test to identify this pattern using novel laboratory techniques.</p> <p>This will be the first steps towards developing a sensitive method for reliably detecting tumour specific methylation patterns in circulating DNA. This may allow detection of melanoma in its early stages, before it has spread throughout the body and it still easier to treat.</p>
Funding from CCWA	\$3000
Fully supported	In the name of Le Messurier Charitable Trust