

NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre (C



COGNO ASM 2023 INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS

Prof Melanie Hayden Gephart



Melanie Hayden Gephart is a brain tumor neurosurgeon, treating patients with primary and metastatic brain tumors. As Professor of Neurosurgery at Stanford, she directs the Brain Tumor Center and the Brain Metastasis Consortium, collaborative unions of physicians and scientists looking to improve our understanding and treatment of brain tumors. Her laboratory studies how rare cancer cell populations survive and migrate in the brain, inadvertently supported by native brain cells. Her team has developed novel cell free nucleic acid biomarkers to track brain cancer treatment response, relapse, and neurotoxicity, and brought novel treatments from the lab into clinical trials for patients with malignant brain tumors.

Prof Mustafa Khasraw



Mustafa Khasraw is a neuro-oncologist, Professor of Medicine and Deputy Director of the Center for Cancer Immunotherapy at Duke University, U.S. His research interests include biomarker development and design of innovative clinical trials to improve outcomes for patients with primary and metastatic cancers of the central nervous systems. At Duke, he is tasked with speeding up clinical research and translation for scientists across all departments and tumor sites. Mustafa Khasraw is leading several clinical and translational programs with significant laboratory collaborations and is the Principal Investigator on first-in-human phase I immunotherapy clinical trials in solid tumors. He is a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, an Elected Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (UK) and an Honorary Professor at the University of Sydney where he was the clinical lead for COGNO 2014-2019, prior to moving to Duke University in the U.S.

Prof Martin Taphoorn



Martin Taphoorn obtained his MD at Leiden University and subsequently specialized in clinical neurology in Amsterdam VU Medical Center, where he also wrote his PhD thesis "Treatment of Primary and Metastatic Brain Tumours; Beneficial and Adverse Effects". He further specialised in clinical neuro-oncology at University Medical Center, Utrecht and during a sabbatical leave visited MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston Texas (Dr Levin) and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York (Dr DeAngelis). From 2003 to 2022 Martin combined working as a neurologist/ neuro-oncologist at Haaglanden Medical Center, The Hague, where he was head of the residency program of neurology, with academic clinical research, initially as Professor in Neuro-oncology at The Free University in Amsterdam (2007-2015) and subsequently at Leiden University (from 2015 onwards). From 2009-2011 Martin was president of the Netherlands Society of Neurology. At present Martin is still actively involved in both the EORTC Brain Tumor Group, EORTC Quality of

Life Group, as well as in EANO and SNO and has authored over 300 peer-reviewed articles. As Professor of Neuro-oncology, his research activities at Leiden University Medical Center are focused on clinical outcomes in neuro-oncology (cognition, epilepsy, imaging, health-related quality of life, end-of-life). Martin leads the international Response Assessment in Neuro-Oncology (RANO) Patient-Reported Outcomes initiative and is Editor in Chief of Neuro-oncology Practice since 2021.

Prof Justin Lathia



Justin Lathia is a distinguished researcher at the forefront of cancer stem cell studies, heading a translational laboratory at the Cleveland Clinic's Lerner Research Institute and holding key roles at the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center. His research explores the regulation of stem cells in advanced cancers, leading to notable achievements like a Phase 1 clinical trial targeting glioblastoma. With over 235 co-authored publications, Prof Lathia's work receives support from numerous National Institutes of Health grants and foundation grants. He actively contributes as a peer reviewer to over 150 journals and serves on editorial boards for Cell Reports, Cancer Research, and Neuro-Oncology. Prof Lathia's influence extends to organising cancer stem cell meetings in Cleveland, attracting hundreds of attendees from various states and countries, highlighting the global significance of his research endeavors. As a respected co-editor of a cancer stem cell textbook, he continues to shape and advance cancer therapeutics through his impactful contributions to the field.



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Prof Stephen Price



Stephen graduated in medicine from Bart's Medical College in 1994 and did his basic surgical training in the East Midlands. He trained in neurosurgery in Nottingham and Romford before starting the Cambridge training scheme. Stephen was made Clinical Lecturer in 2005 and was appointed consultant neurosurgeon with a special interest in managing brain tumours in 2008. He is currently the network lead for brain tumours at the Anglian Cancer Network and clinical lead for surgical neuro-oncology. Stephen introduced 5-ALA fluorescence guided surgery to Cambridge to help maximise tumour removed and, with colleagues, regularly teach other surgeons how to use these methods. His practice is largely based around the surgical management of malignant brain tumours (gliomas and metastases).

In 2010 he was awarded a NIHR Clinician Scientist Fellowship and currently balances his clinical practice with research. His research interest involves using advanced imaging methods to study the effects of tumours on the normal brain surrounding brain tumours. This work aims to better outline the invasive margin of these tumours and understand the effect of these tumours and treatment on the

functioning of the normal brain. Stephen is keen to see if we can use these methods to individualise treatments. In 2016 he developed the Cambridge Brain Tumour Imaging Laboratory – UK's first dedicated brain tumour imaging analysis laboratory. He has been a member of the NCRI Brain Tumour Study Group and the Neuro-oncology Clinical Study Group and was the chair the Imaging and Technology Sub- Group. He is a Bye-Fellow of Queens' College and is the Director of Studies of Clinical Medicine.

COGNO ASM 2023 AUSTRALIAN SPEAKERS

Prof Matt Dun



Matt Dun is Professor of Paediatric Haematology/Oncology Research at the University of Newcastle and Deputy Director of the Precision Medicine Research Program at Hunter Medical Research Institute, Matt is currently a National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Investigator, Emerging Leader, also supported over recent times by a ChadTough Defeat DIPG New Investigator Grant. Professor Dun leads the Cancer Signalling Research Group which focuses on childhood/adolescent brain cancer and acute leukaemia research. In his career, Matt has been decorated by 33 national and international awards for his paediatric cancer research. Notably, in 2019, he was named the NSW Premier's Outstanding Cancer Research Fellow, and in 2020 received an Australian Institute of Policy and Science Young Tall Poppy Award. In 2022 he received an International DIPG 'Big Hero' Award (presented in Washington D. C.) and was named as the University

of Newcastle, College of Health, Medicine, and Wellbeing, Mid-Career Researcher of the year. This year Matt was named the Lake Macquarie Ambassador, awarded the ChadTough Defeat DIPG 'Spirit Award' (presented in Ann Harbor, Michigan), the Pacific Neuro-Oncology Consortium 'Basic Science Trailblazer' award (presented in San Francisco) and the International DIPG Symposium 2023 'Innovator Award' (presenting in Lexington). The research of Matt's lab underpins the international clinical trial for patients diagnosed with diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma - DIPG (NCT05009992) – a combination therapy strategy targeting the unique and emerging features of DIPG, with each drug targeting critical hallmarks discovered by the research of his laboratory. Today, more than 140 children worldwide have received the therapies he discovered for DIPG in his lab, all thanks to the NHMRC, generous philanthropic support, and the brave and selfless donations of tumour cells/tissue by the families of children diagnosed with brain cancers and leukaemias.

Dr Michael Rodriguez



Dr Michael Rodriguez is a neuropathologist based in Sydney. After completing his anatomical pathology training in Sydney and post fellowship training in neuropathology in Western Australia he spent the next decade in the USA, for 5 years as a research fellow with Prof Elias Lazarides in the Division of Biology at Caltech working on possible animal models for Alzheimer's disease and subsequently at USC School of Medicine as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Research Pathology, as a Clinical Fellow in Pathology at Harvard Medical School and as a Research Fellow in Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital characterizing brain degeneration mutants in the developing zebrafish brain. While in the US he also completed training and board certification in anatomical pathology and neuropathology. He subsequently returned to Sydney and until recently worked as a neuropathologist for the Department of Forensic Medicine. He is currently a consultant neuropathologist at St Vincent's Hospital, Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney Children's Hospital and Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology. He is a Clinical Senior Lecturer at Macquarie University and an Honorary Associate of the University of Sydney. Michael is passionate about fostering high quality diagnosis in surgical and autopsy neuropathology and has collaborated in

tissue-based research projects in a number of fields including human neurogenesis, SIDS research, neurovirology, neuromuscular disorders, neuro oncology and neurodegenerative diseases. He is a member of the NSW neuro-oncology group and serves on a number of committees including the RCPA Anatomical Pathology Advisory Committee and the NSW Tissue Resource Centre Management Committee.

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Dr Jamie Drummond



Dr James Drummond studied Oriental Languages at Oxford University before attending medical school at The University of New South Wales, graduating MBBS in 2008. He completed prevocational training at RPA and his radiology training at Royal North Shore Hospital, attaining FRANZCR in 2016. James undertook a year of advanced training in Nuclear Medicine and PET at RNSH, followed by fellowship in Neuroradiology at Mt Sinai Hospital in New York. James returned to RNSH and North Shore Radiology in 2017. He is a Staff Specialist in Radiology at RNSH and a visiting specialist in the department of Radiation Oncology. James is the inaugural Radiology Chief of the Brain Imaging Laboratory, Department of Radiation Oncology which is supported by the Brain Cancer Group. Dr Drummond has a mixed clinical / academic research appointment at RNSH and is actively involved in multiple clinical trials. James's areas of expertise include all aspects of Neuroradiology, including brain and spine. He has particular interest in Neuro-oncology and MRI research, including machine learning and use of AI in radiology.

A/Prof Lindy Jeffree



A/Prof Lindy Jeffree was inspired to specialise in surgery of brain tumours by working with Prof Andrew Kaye at the Royal Melbourne Hospital and Dr Charlie Teo in Sydney. Her research experience includes glioma research at the University of Sydney, an MSc in electrophysiology at the University of Montreal and a B Med Sci year in the Physiological Laboratory at the University of Cambridge. Currently she works full time at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, where she is privileged to collaborate with a fabulous multidisciplinary neuro-oncology team, and with translational scientists working on glioma and on metastatic brain tumours.

A/Prof Hao-Wen Sim



A/Prof Hao-Wen Sim is a consultant Medical Oncologist based at The Kinghorn Cancer Centre and Chris O'Brien Lifehouse in Sydney. In addition, he is a Clinical Lead at the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre and Chair of the COGNO International Clinical Research Subcommittee. A/Prof Sim contributes his subspecialty expertise and leadership in neuro-oncology and biostatistics. He received his medical degree with Honours from The University of Melbourne, being awarded the James Stewart Bequest for Surgery and inducted to the Margaret Whyte Honour Board. He completed his Master of Biostatistics from The University of Sydney, being awarded the Biostatistics Collaboration of Australia Star Graduate Award, Judy Simpson Biostatistics Scholarship, Les Irwig General Epidemiology Award and Australasian Epidemiological Association Top Student Prize. He also completed neuro-oncology fellowship at The Princess Margaret Cancer Centre in Toronto, Canada. His research focus is the development and operationalisation of innovative neuro-oncology trials. He has received multiple research awards and peer-reviewed national funding.

Prof Hui Gan



Prof Hui Gan graduated from Melbourne University with a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBBS). He is a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. He completed a Fellowship in Drug Development at the Princess Margaret Hospital (Toronto, Canada). He obtained his PhD from Melbourne University focusing on the development of a novel class of tumour-specific anti-EGFR antibodies. Currently, he leads the following programs at Austin Health: head and neck cancer, primary brain tumours and Phase 1 clinical trials. Since 2016, he has been the head of the Cancer Clinical Trials Unit at Austin Health (Melbourne, Australia).

In 2018, he became both the Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee of COGNO and the VCCC Research Lead and Education Lead for Brain Cancer. Since 2019, he has been the Co-Director of the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute (ONJCRI) Centre for Research Excellence in Brain Tumours. In 2020, he was appointed Clinical Research Lead across the ONJCRI. He is an

internationally recognized trial investigator. He has been involved with 10 drugs from ONJCRI that were successfully commercialised and continues to create and commercialise novel antibody therapeutics. In particular, he led the development of mAb806, subsequently developed into ABT-414, from the laboratory to registrational Phase 3 studies in GBM. He has led a total of 46 trials since 2009. Of these, 22 were industry Phase 1 studies and 14 were brain cancer trials. He has successfully conceived and/or funded 11 investigator studies. He has > 80 publications to date including in Nature, Journal of Clinical Oncology and Neuro-Oncology. He has had grant success in excess of 11 million dollars.

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A/Prof Haryana Dhillon



Associate Professor Haryana Dhillon (BSc MA PhD) is a Senior Research Fellow, who co-leads the Survivorship Research Group at the University of Sydney. They chair the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Psycho-Oncology Cooperative Research Group. Haryana has more than 25 years experience in cancer clinical research across a range of investigator-initiated cancer clinical trials. Their research interests are broad encompassing cancer survivorship, health literacy, and interventions for survivorship, symptom management, and psycho-oncology. Haryana is passionate about rigor in research, practical solutions to tricky problems, and doing what she can to help humans make it to the 22nd century.

Dr Jim Whittle



Dr James Whittle is a Medical Oncologist in Neuro-oncology at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and postdoctoral research fellow at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research. He qualified in medicine at the University of Western Australia, and subsequently undertook specialty training in Melbourne at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and Box Hill Hospital. He completed his PhD at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute focussing on understanding resistance to cell death in breast cancer. His clinical and research interests include drug development and novel clinical trial design. Dr Whittle has a particular interest in Adolescents and Young Adults Neurooncology where he collaborates closely with Paediatric Neuro-oncology colleagues. He is a Past Chair for the Young Oncologists Group of Australia (YOGA), and is currently Chair of the COGNO Outreach and Education Committee.

A/Prof Louisa Gordon



A/Professor Louisa Gordon is a health economist and Senior Research Fellow at QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute. Louisa holds a PhD in Public Health, a Master of Public Health, and a Bachelor of Economics. Louisa has 20 years of health economics experience performing economic evaluations, decision-analytic modelling, and applied economic research. She predominantly works in cancer economics and her current research is in the areas of cancer prevention, supportive care interventions for cancer survivors, genomic testing and the financial burden of cancer on families. During 2011-16, Louisa worked at Griffith University in their evaluation team on health technology assessments for industry submissions to MSAC and PBAC. She currently sits on the MSAC Evaluation Sub-Committee, which assesses new technologies for reimbursement for the Commonwealth Department of Health Australia. Louisa also serves as the Australian representative on the Scientific Committee of the International Agency for Research in Cancer.

Dr Laveniya Satgunaseelan



Dr Laveniya Satgunaseelan is a pathologist in the Department of Neuropathology at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney. Her main role is in the provision of molecular neuropathology services. Laveniya is an active member of the NIH Clinical Genome Resource, where she is co-chairs two international working groups in cancer genomics. Locally, Laveniya is the current secretary/treasurer of the Australia and New Zealand Society for Neuropathology. Laveniya is actually a Melburnian, and a Western Bulldogs tragic.



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Dr Ray Cook



Dr Raymond Cook is a visiting Neurosurgeon at Royal North Shore Hospital and North Shore Private Hospital, St Leonards, NSW. Dr Cook was born in Sydney, schooled at Newington College and studied/graduated in Medicine at the University of Sydney in 1982. His fellowship with the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in Neurosurgery was awarded in 1993 after 10 years of post-graduate training in Neurosurgery. He has been in practice as a Consultant Neurosurgeon since 1993 having trained in Sydney, Perth, London and Birmingham Alabama. He was senior registrar at Atkinson Morley's Hospital/The Children's Hospital at Great Ormond Street in London (UK) for two years and was a fellow in Neurosurgery at the University of Alabama (USA) before returning to Sydney to work at Royal North Shore Hospital and North Shore Private Hospital as a VMO for the past 25 years. Dr Cook is widely published in many fields of neurosurgery but focussed in neuro-oncology and functional neurosurgery (deep brain stimulation). These two subspecialties have been his main academic interests throughout his career. Dr Cook is experienced in surgery for brain tumours in adults (glioma/meningioma/pituitary tumour/ventricular tumours etc) and has been a referral surgeon for awake

tumour resection for tumours in eloquent brain regions throughout his career.

Dr Claire Phillips



Claire Phillips is Deputy Director of Radiation Oncology at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre Melbourne and a sub-specialist in NeuroOncology including Linac and Gamma Knife radiosurgery. Claire was TROG Co-Chair for the CCTG/EORTC/ TROG 'Elderly GBM' study and leads her investigator-initiated clinical trials; Local HERO, a study of radiosurgery and/ or neurosurgery for HER2+ breast cancer brain metastases and EYE, a study exploring vision preservation after stereotactic radiotherapy for choroidal melanoma. She is TROG or local PI for several studies including the EORTC Low Grade Glioma study, the BRAIN registry and FET-PET in Glioblastoma "FIG' study. Claire sits on several RANZCR committees including the Particle Therapy Working Group and is current member of the Peter Mac Clinical Research Sponsorship Committee, the Brain Peri-Operative Programme Steering Committee and TROG CNS Working Group.

Prof Richard Scolver



Professor Scolyer was appointed Co-Medical Director of Melanoma Institute Australia on 28 February 2017, along with Professor Georgina Long (refer above). Professor Scolyer is a Consultant Pathologist at MIA and Senior Staff Specialist, Tissue Pathology and Diagnostic Oncology, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, and Conjoint Professor at The University of Sydney. Richard has been chief investigator on 4 consecutive 5 year NHMRC program grants (2006-2027) and has received multiple personal Fellowships from the NHMRC and CINSW. He has also been an investigator/advisor on multiple phase 1, 2 and 3 clinical trials and a frequently sought-after advisor to industry. Professor Scolyer integrates his clinical practice with co-leading an award-winning translational melanoma research laboratory. Professor Scolyer has presented on more than 430 occasions at conferences throughout the world, and is co-author of more than 916 peer reviewed articles, books and book chapters on melanocytic pathology and related research. In 2006, he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Medicine by the

University of Sydney for his thesis of publications on melanocytic pathology, and has received many awards in recognition of his achievements including in June 2021, being appointed Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for distinguished service to medicine, particularly in the field of melanoma and skin cancer, and to national and international professional organisations by The Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia. Richard is an expert member of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Blue Books Editorial Board for the 5th edition of the WHO Classification of Skin Tumours series and was an editor of the 4th Edition of the World Health Organisation Classification of Tumours Skin Tumours volume in which he was the responsible editor for 3 of the 6 sections and authored/co-authored more than 30 chapters. He is Vice Chair of the Melanoma Expert Panel of the AJCC for the 8th & 9th editions of the AJCC Cancer Staging System, Senior Associate Editor of Pathology, an editorial Board member of the American Journal of Surgical Pathology, Modern Pathology, Histopathology and a number of other international journals. He is past President of the Australasian Division of the International Academy of Pathology and current Vice President of the International Academy of Pathology Executive Council.



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Prof Georgina Long



Professor Georgina Long AO, BSc (Hons1, UM) PhD MBBS (Hons) FRACP FAHMS, is Co-Medical Director of Melanoma Institute Australia (MIA), and Chair of Melanoma Medical Oncology and Translational Research at MIA and Royal North Shore Hospital, The University of Sydney. She leads an extensive clinical trials team and laboratory at MIA, with a focus on targeted therapies and immuno-oncology in melanoma. She is principal investigator on phase I, II and III clinical trials in adjuvant and metastatic melanoma, including trials in patients with active brain metastases. She is the chief investigator on NHMRC funded research into the molecular biology of melanoma, with a particular interest in clinical and tissue biomarker correlates of systemic therapy sensitivity and resistance.

In recognition of her ground-breaking research and work, Professor Long was recognized with the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences Outstanding Female Research Medal 2021 and

was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Australia (2020) and has received numerous awards, including Sydney Local Health District/Sydney Research 2022 Research Excellence Award (2022) the prestigious Ramaciotti Medal for Biomedical Research (2021), Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence Award for Outstanding Research (2021), University of Sydney (2021), Research Australia GSK Research Excellence Award (2018) and the Sir Zelman Cowen Universities Fund Prize for Discovery in Medical Research (2016). She has a number of CINSW Premiers Awards, including; the Outstanding Cancer Researcher (2018), the Excellence in Translational Cancer Research Award (2017), the Wildfire Award for the most highly-cited, original, peer-reviewed article published (2011, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 & 2020), and in 2013 she was named the Outstanding Cancer Research Fellow. She is also Clarivate highly-cited Researcher for 2017-2022. Her H index is 131 and in August 2023 she was ranked the world's 2nd melanoma expert in all fields and discipline (http://expertscape.com/ex/melanoma).

Prof Helen Rizos



Professor Helen Rizos is a cancer cell biologist and her work combines genetic analyses of tumours with functional cell biology in order to understand the role and regulation cellular pathways that influence the development and therapeutic response and resistance in cancer. Her research group is also interested in the clinical utility of liquid biopsies and is focused on the prognostic and predictive value of circulating tumour DNA in melanoma. Professor Rizos joined the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Human Sciences at Macquarie University in 2014. She is Principal Investigator of the Macquarie University Cancer Biobank, leads the Macquarie University Cancer Research Network and is Chair of the Melanoma Institute Australia, Research Committee.