



KCA 2022 Symposium on Cell therapies

A virtual symposium

Invited Speakers Biography



Prof Catherine Bollard, M.B.Ch.B., M.D., is the Director of the Center for Cancer and Immunology Research at the Children's National Research Institute, Director of the Program for Cell Enhancement and Technologies for Immunotherapy, a Professor of Pediatrics and Microbiology, Immunology and Tropical Medicine at the George Washington University and is the ACD for Translational Research and Innovation within the George Washington Cancer Center. As a distinguished hematologist, immunologist and immunotherapist Dr. Bollard's work expands our understanding of cancer, immune deficiencies and viral infections in pediatric and adult patients. She joined

Children's National in 2013 from the Baylor College of Medicine where she was a tenured professor in the Department of Pediatrics. She received a medical degree from Otago University Medical School in New Zealand. In these roles, Dr. Bollard leads clinical and research efforts to fight cancer and other inflammatory diseases using adoptive cell therapy. Her various accolades are being a past president of the International Society of Cellular Therapy, current president of the Foundation for the Accreditation for Cellular Therapy (FACT), and a member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI). Additionally, Dr. Bollard was a member of the Cellular, Tissues and Gene Therapies Advisory Committee of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) from 2015-2019 and completed a six-year term on NCI's Clinical Oncology (CONC) Study Section also in 2019. In 2019, she became a member of the Frederick National Laboratory Advisory Committee (FNLAC) for the NIH and an ad hoc member of the Pediatric Oncologic Drugs Advisory Committee (ODAC) for the FDA. She has been an Associate Editor for the journal *Blood* since 2014 and in 2020 was appointed Editor in Chief of *Blood Advances* (starting Fall 2021). Dr. Bollard has peer-reviewed more than 200 publications and has been continuously and independently NIH-funded for over a decade.



Prof Dario Campana is a Professor in the Department of Paediatrics and Senior Principal Investigator in the Cancer Science Institute at the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore, where he holds the Mrs. Lee Kong Chian Chair in Advanced Cellular Therapy. His main interest is translational research in oncology, focusing on immunotherapy. His laboratory developed the anti-CD19-41BB-CD3zeta chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) currently used in approved CAR-T cell therapy products worldwide, as well as other technologies to improve the anticancer activity of T and NK cells. Prof. Campana obtained his MD and PhD degrees in Italy, where he trained in hematology. He received

his laboratory training in immunology at the Royal Free Hospital in London, UK, before moving to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis TN, where he was Full Member in the

Departments of Oncology and Pathology, and Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Tennessee. He is an elected member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the Association of American Physicians. Recent awards include the Gabbay Award in Biotechnology and Medicine, and the Republic of Singapore President's Technology Award. He holds several patents and is the scientific founder of three biotechnology companies.



Prof John Anderson is a Professor of Experimental Paediatric Oncology and Honorary Consultant Oncologist at UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health, London, UK. His research laboratory has a primary focus on addressing the challenges of delivery of targeted immunotherapies to childhood solid cancers. They have evaluated a number of novel approaches for chimeric receptors in T cells including alternate antigenic targets, dual targeting, degrader technologies and the alternate cellular chassis of gamma delta T lymphocytes. Combination therapies have been forefront in the incremental improvements in survival of childhood cancer over the last 50 years and need to be used in a rationale focussed way with immunotherapies. To that end their lab collaborates widely to evaluate combinations in animal models that closely resemble the paediatric equivalent disease.

Implementation of new technologies in the clinic requires biomarkers that comprehensively interrogate the tumour microenvironment and evaluate local and metastatic tumour response. To that end he co-leads local and national efforts to use plasma and post treatment biopsies to evaluate treatment responses.



Dr Tessa Gargett is an immunologist and cell therapy specialist working at the Centre for Cancer Biology, UniSA and the Royal Adelaide Hospital. In 2019 she received a SA Cancer Council Beat Cancer Early Career Fellowship to advance phase 1 clinical trials testing CAR-T therapy in patients with solid cancers. She is the Scientific Lead for the CARPETS trial, which is assessing CAR-T therapy in patients with metastatic melanoma, and she is also responsible for manufacturing autologous CAR-T products at SA Pathology. As co-investigator she was recently granted Clinical Trials Approval from the TGA to conduct a CAR-T therapy trial in adult patients

with glioblastoma (RAH, PI Michael Brown) and paediatric patients with Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (SCH, PI David Ziegler). In recognition of her expertise in cell and gene therapy she is third-term member of the Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee to the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator.



Dr Fernando Guimaraes was the first student to graduate from the International PhD Program at Institute Pasteur (Paris, France) in 2012. During his PhD and postdoctoral training at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, Prof. Guimaraes contributed to the areas of cancer immunoediting and immunotherapy with publications in top tier journals including Cancer Immunol Res, JEM, PNAS, Nat Comms and Nat Immunol (total 78 papers since 2009 including 20 as first author, and 18 as corresponding author). Dr Guimaraes attracted >\$4M in peer-reviewed funding as chief investigator A: an NHMRC ECF Peter Doherty Fellowship, an NHMRC New Investigator Project Grant, a National Breast Cancer Foundation Fellowship, three Cure Cancer Australia (CCA) PdCCRS Project Grants, and US DoD Breast Cancer Breakthrough Award; and was awarded the 2019 Researcher of the Year by CCA, 2020 QLD Young Tall Poppy Science Award, a 2020 UQDI Rising Star Award and more recently a 2022 American Association of Immunology – Minority Award. The work in the identification of new regulators of optimal in vivo NK cell function has earned peer recognition in the field. Current projects as a group leader at the University of Queensland Diamantina Institute aim to identify and translate the role of NK cells and develop novel immunotherapy approaches for different diseases.



A/Prof Nicholas Vitanza is an Associate Professor at the University of Washington and a pediatric neuro-oncologist at Seattle Children's, where he also directs the Vitanza Lab in the Ben Town Center for Childhood Cancer Research. He serves as Seattle Children's CNS CAR T cell Lead and DIPG Research Lead. Dr. Vitanza completed his pediatric oncology fellowship under the mentorship of Dr. Bill Carroll and Dr. Elizabeth Raetz at NYU. Next, he completed a neuro-oncology and post-doctoral fellowship under the mentorship of Dr. Michelle Monje at Stanford. There he focused on

combinatorial targeted therapy for DIPG, which was published in Science Translational Medicine and Cancer Cell. In 2016, he joined Seattle Children's where he has written and directed 3 CNS CAR T cell trials that have delivered over 275 intracranial CAR T cell doses to children with recurrent CNS tumors and DIPG - with preliminary findings published in Nature Medicine. Through his collaborative laboratory and clinical research programs, Dr. Vitanza aims to optimize epigenetic and immunotherapeutic targeting of pediatric CNS tumors with a goal to rapidly translate findings to the clinic and improve the lives of affected children.



Dr Gaurav Sutrave is a Staff Specialist Haematologist and Transplant and Cell Therapies Physician at Westmead Hospital, as well as the Medical Director for the Westmead T cell Therapies Laboratory. He is a dual fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and Royal College of Pathologists of Australia and has completed a 2 year Transplant and Cell Therapies Fellowship at Westmead Hospital. In 2019 he was selected as a scholar to attend the biennial "ISCT – ASTCT Cell Therapies Training Course" at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, which was followed in 2021 by the award of his PhD. His research interest includes exploring the development of novel adoptive cell therapies for the treatment of infectious post-allogeneic stem cell transplant complications, and he has been closely involved with

several local and multicentre cell therapy investigator initiated clinical trials. Dr Sutrave is a

Clinical Lecturer at the University of Sydney and is a member of the International Society for Cell and Gene Therapies Immuno- and Gene Therapy Committee. He is a contributor to the eviQ reference committees for Leukaemia, Lymphoma and Transplantation and Cell Therapies, and is also the Project Manager for the NHMRC funded Centre for Blood Transplant and Cell Therapies.



Prof. Stephen Gottschalk is the Chair of the Department of Bone Marrow Transplantation and Cellular Therapy at St Jude Children's Research Hospital. He is a physician scientist, who is interested in hematopoietic cell transplantation and cancer immunotherapy. His current research focuses on the development of cell-based immunotherapies for pediatric cancers. He is actively conducting investigator-initiated early phase clinical studies. In his laboratory, his team of MD and PhD researchers is working on several peer-reviewed research projects focused on overcoming current limitations of cell-based immunotherapies for cancer. For his contributions to the field of cell therapy he was inducted into the

American Society of Clinical Investigation in 2015.

Biography of Chair



A/Prof Emily Blyth is a clinical and laboratory haematologist and stem cell transplant physician and is the Clinical Lead for Immune Effector Cells at Westmead Hospital. She is a Cancer Institute Research Fellow and Associate professor at the University of Sydney. She has >12 years of hands on and in-depth experience running early phase cell therapy trials, using pathogen and tumour antigen specific T cells, and T cell bank for 3rd party infusions. She has published in the highest impact factor journals in her field while working as a clinician in a tertiary transplant centre. She is internationally recognised as an emerging leader in HSCT and cellular therapy translation and is the winner of the CINSW's outstanding cancer research fellow award last year.

Biography of panelists

Prof Micheal Brown is Director of the Cancer Clinical Trials Unit at Royal Adelaide Hospital and heads the Translational Oncology Laboratory at the Centre for Cancer Biology. He is a trained clinical and laboratory immunologist and a consultant medical oncologist. His PhD was in gene therapy and cancer immunotherapy. His research interests are preclinical and clinical development of chimeric antigen receptor technology and therapeutic arming and targeting of monoclonal antibodies.

Dr Idalia Dawidowska is the research commercialisation expert and consultant for University of Sydney and CEO of MedTech. Idalia is a highly qualified Business Professional with medical background and extensive international experience within the pharmaceutical sector, followed by several years of building ventures from novel science. Idalia's role is to initiate and facilitate research collaborations with industry partners, including identifying suitable funding schemes and supporting funding applications.

A/Prof Misty Jenkins is a leading scientist and laboratory team leader at WEHI, an immunologist specialising in new therapies for brain cancer. She was awarded a prestigious College Fellowship at The University of Cambridge, a NHMRC Biomedical postdoctoral Fellowship, and the RG Menzies Fellowship, reserved for the top-ranked fellow. A/Prof Jenkins is a member of AICD and currently on a Board Director at Monash Health, Co-Chair Indigenous Health Research Fund for MRFF, and a founding member of Women in Science Parkville Precinct. She has been a director on other not-for-profit boards, bringing strategy, funding, and governance expertise. She is a sought-after speaker and media commentator providing insights into the era of personalised medicine, funding science and the importance of female equality in science. In 2016 she was named an Australian Financial Review's 100 Women of Influence.

Prof Patrick Schlegel is a recent exciting recruit for CMRI, Westmead. Sydney Children's Hospital Network and USyd. After his medical training at Tübingen, Germany in Paediatric Haematology/Oncology, he has focussed on development of novel technologies and CAR T cell immunotherapy for a wide range of malignancies. He holds several patents including for the universal adapter CAR, or AdCAR technology. He leads the program, which is a unique collaboration between CMRI, SCHN, USyd and the biopharmaceutical company Biosceptre. The CEO of Biosceptre Mr Gavin Curie says that "The Biosceptre program originated with unique discoveries made in Australia by our founder Julian Barden, beginning at The University of Sydney." And is committed to helping the clinical translation of their technology in Australia, to the clinical trial stage.