

Name: Deonna Ackermann

Position & Affiliation: Lecturer in Clinical Epidemiology, The University of Sydney

Full Reference: Deonna Ackermann, Katy Bell: Motivators for participation and expectations of trial involvement in patients in the MEL-SELF Clinical Trial.

Presentation Type: Poster



Presenting my poster at the NSWCC

Presenting at the NSW Cancer Conference was of significant benefit to me in terms of both my professional and research development. This was the first time I attended a face-to-face conference since 2019 and as such it offered an opportunity to both extend my professional network and catch up with colleagues who I only see on Zoom. In addition, watching experienced conference speakers was helpful for me to improve my own presentation skills in live forums. I also appreciated the opportunity to communicate my research to a wide and interested audience and to receive some feedback on my work.

I was particularly interested in the research presented by Professor Anne Cust from the Daffodil Centre around melanoma risk as it aligns with my work on the MEL-SELF randomised controlled trial of patient-led surveillance compared to clinician-led surveillance in people treated for early-stage melanoma (stage 0/I/II). Understanding personal risk of developing a subsequent primary melanoma following initial diagnosis is important to guide long-term follow-up. I recently completed a scoping review investigating adherence to skin self-examination and other self-management practices in people at high risk of melanoma, so Professor Cust's research on fidelity to a program of risk-tailored skin check schedule recommendations for melanoma was particularly relevant for me.

Finally, a conference highlight for me was the session addressing social justice and equity in cancer care delivery for priority populations, including access to clinical trials. As I am particularly interested in clinical trial methodology, this session made me think about how inadequate representation of under-served populations in clinical trials means uncertainty in how trial evidence applies to people from these groups. Strategies to improve recruitment of underrepresented groups in clinical trials is an important step to address current health inequities.