

Name: Methmi Perera

Position & Affiliation: Medical Student, Faculty of Medicine and Health, University of Sydney

Full Reference: MM Perera, AK Smit, D Espinoza, AL Smith, BI Laginha, F Rapport, B Gallo, J Braithwaite, L Martin, AE Cust. *Fidelity of risk-tailored screening and surveillance skin-check schedules for melanoma.*

Presentation Type: Poster



Next to my poster at the NSW Cancer Conference 2022

The NSW Cancer Conference was my first time both attending and presenting a poster at a scientific conference, and I was initially unsure of what to expect. I found the experience exposed me to the incredible breadth of research currently taking place in the cancer field, from uncovering molecular pathways contributing to carcinogenesis, drug development and trials, to survivorship outcomes and psycho-oncology. As a future clinician it reinforced my understanding of the integral place for research in clinical practice.

A highlight for me was one of the plenary presentations by Prof. Jacob George on the current state of hepatocellular cancer research in NSW. His talk spanned from the molecular and cellular interactions driving carcinogenesis uncovered in the lab, to the establishment of a multi-disciplinary liver cancer board that ensures equitable and optimal cancer care across the state. His presentation demonstrated the evolving multi-disciplinary nature of healthcare- where the role of a clinicians, researchers and consumers can intersect to achieve optimal patient outcomes.

As my own research is based around optimising screening practices for melanoma, I found it really interesting to listen to presentations along similar themes in other cancers, such as using model inputs to predict cost and survival expectation of stage IV lung cancer (Ngo et al.) and understanding the challenges in communicating risks and benefits of cancer screening to older patients in general practice (Smith et al.). In all, it has made me appreciate the similar challenges faced across different cancer specialties, and the importance of keeping myself up to date with broader research as it may help to inform my own work.