NSW Cancer Research Education

Statewide Seminar Series 2022

Educational Molecular Tumour Board: Clinical Aspects in Adult Solid Cancers

Dr Frank Lin
The Garvan Institute of Medical Research

Dr Milita Zaheed
Prince of Wales Hospital

Dr John Grady
The Garvan Institute of Medical Research

Dr Maya Kansara
The Garvan Institute of Medical Research

18 OCT 2022 | **12.30–1.30 PM PM** | **Online Webinar**

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Maridulu Budyari Gumal | Cancer Clinical Academic Group

Clinical Professor Rosemary Balleine

Clinical Professor Rosemary Balleine is a Research Pathologist working in the field of translational cancer research. She has long-standing connections to health services and translational research initiatives in western Sydney. Prof Balleine's research has focused in the areas of molecular profiling of cancer tissues, familial cancer and pharmacogenomics. Rosemary is the Clinical and Strategic Partnerships Lead for Sydney Cancer Partners and is an investigator for INOVATe – Individualised Ovarian Cancer Treatment Through Integration of Genomic Pathology into Multidisciplinary Care.

Dr Frank Lin

Frank Lin is a medical oncologist and clinical informatician based in Sydney. He currently holds conjoint research appointments at the Garvan Institute of Medical Research, NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre (University of Sydney), and the Maridulu Budyari Gumal (SPHERE) Cancer Clinical Academic Group (UNSW, Sydney). Frank's research work focuses on empowering genomic decision-making, precision diagnostics, and multidisciplinary cancer care through artificial intelligence and machine learning. He is co-investigator of several clinical trials in early phase drug development, responsible for developing biomarker-driven basket trials of targeted and immunotherapy across cancer types. He established and maintains the TOPOGRAPH precision oncology knowledgebase, as well as several open-source resources for genomic decision-support, electronic medical record analytics, and natural language processing. He is a key member of the molecular tumour board with the MoST program. He is chief and co-investigator on several grants.

Dr Milita Zaheed

Milita Zaheed is a Medical Oncologist and works as a staff specialist in Cancer Genetics at The Prince of Wales Hospital. She is the medical lead for ACT Cancer Genetics service. She is undertaking a PhD in cancer genetics through The Garvan Institute investigating opportunities to improve identification of cancer predisposition syndromes. She is an active member of the Molecular Screening and Therapeutics (MoST) study. Her interests are in education and equity of care of underserved populations. Milita is the current chair of NSW/ACT Familial Cancer Clinics community of practice, a committee member of Young Oncologists Group of Australia and Global Oncology Special Interest Group of Clinical Oncology Society of Australia. She has recently joined as a management committee member for Derek's Place – a registered charity supporting the needs of terminally ill parents of young children.

Dr John Grady

John Grady is a Senior Bioinformatics Software Engineer at the Garvan Institute and is responsible for the bioinformatics of the MoST (Molecular Screening and Therapeutics) Program at the Garvan Institute. John completed his PhD in mitochondrial genetics at Newcastle University in the UK in 2014 and moved to Australia in 2016 to take up a role at the University of Queensland in cancer genomics. He moved to the Garvan in April 2017 to take up his role with the MoST program. Prior to completing his PhD John worked mainly as a software engineer in a variety of roles over the years, including several years working on the Swiss and German stock markets and four years as a statistician and IT consultant for the Ethiopian Ministry of Education in Addis Ababa, before moving into scientific research.

Dr Maya Kansara

Maya Kansara is the head of the Translational Oncology Lab (TOL), Australian Genomic Medicine Program and the Group Leader of the Immunobiology of Cancer lab (ICB) at the Garvan Institute, Sydney. The TOL is dedicated to supporting translational and clinical research within the Molecular Screening and Therapeutics Program. With the aim to conduct discovery research to improve diagnostic accuracy and identify prognostic/predictive biomarkers of therapeutic efficacy using a broad range of assays that leverage state-of-the-art methods and technologies. Peer recognition of her work is evident through first author publications in the Journal of Clinical Investigation, Cancer Discovery, Clinical Cancer Research, and Nature Cancer Reviews. Her publications have been cited 2225 times with a whole career field weighted citation index of 2.64 and in the last 5 years of 3.73.

Introduction

In this educational seminar, we will briefly review the Molecular Tumour Board (MTB) process, composition, and functions, focusing on modern multigene NGS panels in clinical decision making in adult cancers. We will touch on the potential clinical utility of comprehensive genomic profiling in both germline and somatic settings. We will also review the strategies for evidence-based decision support, variant interpretations, and ways to explore opportunities that assist with clinical management. This will be followed by case discussions. The panel members are regular participants in the MTB of Molecular Screening and Therapeutics (MoST) program, headed by Prof. David Thomas at the Garvan Institute of Medical Research and Australian Genomic Cancer Medicine Program (Omico).