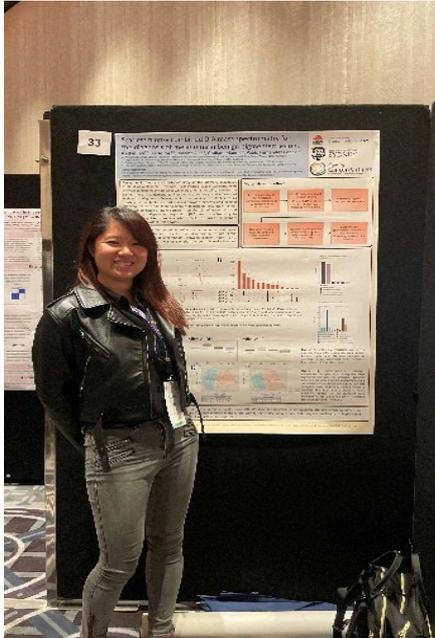


**Name:** Rachel Teh

**Position & Affiliation:** PhD candidate, The University of Sydney, The Westmead Institute for Medical Research, and Westmead Hospital

**Full Reference.** Rachel Teh, Ali Azimi, Marina Ali, Graham Mann, Pablo Fernandez-Penas. *Scarless biopsy combined DIA mass spectrometry for the diagnosis of melanoma in benign pigmented lesions.*

**Presentation Type:** poster



Rachel Teh at the NSW Cancer Conference 2022 presenting Scarless Biopsy data as a poster presentation.

The NSW cancer conference was an excellent opportunity to present my work to other cancer researchers. After the interruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, this was a welcome experience to put my presentation skills into practice. Additionally, the conference provided networking and potential collaboration opportunities with other researchers as well as industry partners. I was encouraged to expand my funding opportunities by reaching out to companies such as Bristol Myers Squibb and Bio-Rad for potential avenues for support and collaboration, which is something I had not previously thought of or was aware that such opportunities existed. I anticipate an increased chance in getting funded for my future research. Finally, I reached out to students undertaking their studies and found this to be a great opportunity to pass on my experience as a student and how I am navigating the career pathway post PhD. I am hopeful that I will be an inspiring mentor in the future once I am established in my field. I feel it is important for students to see that there are many opportunities outside of academia and feel encouraged to move into these opportunities.

**Conference highlight(s) for you personally.**

Emerging cancer research methods was an enlightening session which I felt was imperative to my knowledge in cancer research methods. As a PhD student, I am looking towards innovative technologies which could help us in skin cancer investigations, and this was a wonderful opportunity to hear about other techniques that are currently utilised for future ideas in our department. I found the short talk demonstration by A/prof Daniel Catchpoole particularly interesting involving the use of virtual reality and creating big databases for patients' particular genomic information for personalised healthcare. Additionally, the current use of 3D models might also be an interesting avenue should they find a way to improve the main disadvantage of the lack of blood and lymphatic systems. If improved, it would be interesting to see if we could investigate melanoma progression in atypical melanocytic naevi.

**Key messages.**

From my discussions with various delegates of the NSW Cancer Conference, the panel discussion about the impact of COVID-19 on patient care was of interest. For myself, it was great to have a non-clinical representative in the discussion Ms Elisabeth Kochman. Despite the potential consequences of COVID-19 on standard care such as routine screening, it was interesting to hear that improvements to health care in areas such as telehealth have been a welcome opportunity for the general population. In addition, following on from the previous talk regarding routine cancer screening, being aware of the consequences for missed screening on the population is important and hopefully we can mitigate the potential issues that could arise.