

**Name:** Faiqa Mudassar

**Position & Affiliation:** PhD Candidate, Translational Radiation Biology and Oncology Group, Centre for Cancer Research, The Westmead Institute for Medical Research, Sydney.

**Full Reference:** Targeting Mitochondrial Metabolism and Tumour Hypoxia – A Promising Strategy to Improve the Radiosensitivity of Diffuse Midline Gliomas. Faiqa Mudassar<sup>1,2</sup>, Cecilia Chang<sup>3</sup>, Prunella Ing<sup>1,2</sup>, Kristina M Cook<sup>2,4</sup>, Geraldine O’Neill<sup>5,6</sup>, \*Han Shen<sup>1,2</sup> and \*Eric Hau<sup>1,2,7,8</sup>

\*co-senior authors

1 Translational Radiation Biology and Oncology Group, Centre for Cancer Research, The Westmead Institute for Medical Research.

2 Sydney Medical School, The University of Sydney.

3 The Kinghorn Cancer Centre and Cancer Research Division, Garvan Institute of Medical Research.

4 Charles Perkins Centre, The University of Sydney.

5 Children’s Cancer Research Unit, The Children’s Hospital at Westmead.

6 Children’s Hospital at Westmead Clinical School, Faculty of Medicine and Health, The University of Sydney.

7 Department of Radiation Oncology, Crown Princess Mary Cancer Centre, Westmead Hospital.

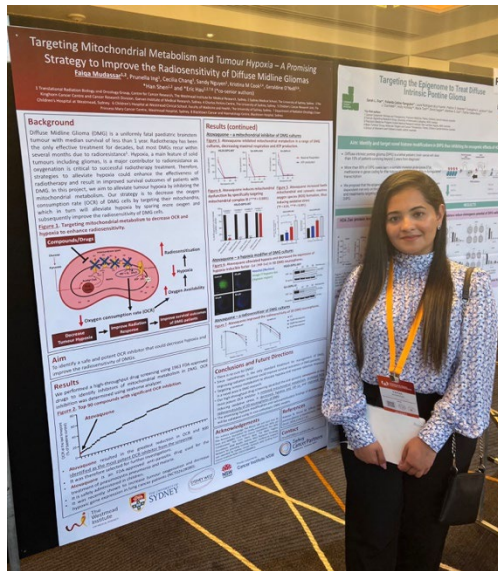
8 Blacktown Cancer and Haematology Centre, Blacktown Hospital.

**Conference/Meeting Name:** Children’s Brain Cancer Conference 2023

**Location:** Brisbane, QLD, Australia

**Dates:** 23-24<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**Presentation Type:** Poster Presentation



“CBCC2023 Day 2 with my supervisor – Dr Han Shen”

“CBCC2023 was an amazing opportunity. Got to share my research and hear from and meet some great researchers in my field. I am very grateful for the travel grant from Sydney Cancer Partners and Cancer Institute NSW that supported me to attend this wonderful conference.”

The Children’s Brain Cancer Conference was held on 23-24<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at Sofitel Hotel Brisbane Central. This conference brought together some of the brightest minds working on children’s brain

cancer research. It was attended by 120 delegates with 14 invited speakers with several oral and poster presentations. The two-day conference covered a range of themes including gliomagenesis and preclinical tumour models, immunotherapy for treating gliomas, clinical translation, clinical trial design, survivorship and emerging breakthroughs in children's brain cancer research. The key invited speakers included Dr Pratiti (Mimi) Bandopadhyay, A/Prof Raelene Endersby, A/Prof Misty Jenkins, Prof Di Yu, Dr Carolyn Shembrey, Prof David Eisenstat, Prof Jordan Hansford, Prof Darren Hargrave, Dr Kim Carter, Dr Donald Mabbott, Dr Erin Pitt, Dr Hana Starobova and Prof Chris Jones, A/Prof Andrew Ellisdon.

It felt amazing to meet some great researchers in my field, all with a common goal to contribute towards finding a cure for the deadly and incurable paediatric brain tumours. All the presentations showcased exciting and novel research happening in this area. It was great to see everyone actively engaging in the question/answer sessions following each presentation.

I travelled to the conference with my PhD co-supervisor Dr Han Shen who introduced me to a lot of his previous colleagues working in the DMG area. We learnt and discussed a range of ideas to apply to our ongoing work at WIMR. Both of us met A/Prof Raelene and discussed how her lab performs serial *in vivo* passage of medulloblastoma cells using orthotopic xenograft models as we intended to perform similar experiment using our DMG models. This helped us troubleshoot the issues we have faced when isolating DMG tumour cells from the mouse brain. We also met Prof Geraldine and our other collaborators including Dr Ryan Dutchatel and discussed our ongoing animal work and shared ideas.

Overall, CBCC2023 was an amazing learning experience. It provided me with a wealth of new knowledge and experimental ideas which I could apply to my PhD project. It was great to see a lot of the work focusing on drug repurposing for DMG treatment as it is a faster approach towards clinical translation of compounds from bench to bedside. The learning outcomes of CBCC2023 are relevant to the wider Sydney Cancer Partners membership as all the presentations had a clinical translation element with an overall aim to improve survival outcomes of paediatric cancer patients.

A nice conference dinner was arranged for the attendees at the end of conference day 1. The conference concluded with a networking function at the end of day 2. I am very thankful to Sydney Cancer Partners and Cancer Institute NSW for the travel grant that supported me attend this fantastic conference.