2025 Cancer & Immunology Ideas Forum

Friday 19 September, 9.30am – 4:30pm
NSW Teachers Federation Conference Centre, Surry Hills

09:00– 09.30	Registration & Tea/Coffee

09.30 – 09.40	**Welcome & Opening**
Chair: Sarah Sasson	**Raymond Weatherall** (Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council) – *Welcome to Country* **Professor David Simar** (Deputy Dean Research Operations, Faculty of Medicine & Health, UNSW) & **Professor Helen Rizos** (Macquarie University) – *Opening*

09.40 – 10.10	**Opening Plenary**
Chair: Orazio Vittorio	**Professor Paul Beavis** (Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre) – *Enhancing the efficacy of CAR T cell therapy in solid tumours*

10.10 – 10.50	**Session 1 – Host Factors**
Chair: Helen McGuire	**Associate Professor Nadeem Kaakoush** (School of Biomedical Sciences, UNSW) – *Modification of the microbiome to treat immune checkpoint inhibitor-colitis* **Associate Professor Heather Lee** (University of Newcastle) – *Functional consequences of treatment-induced epigenetic heterogeneity in acute myeloid leukaemia*

10.50 – 11.10	Morning tea

11.10 – 11.50	**Session 2 – Tumour Microenvironment**
Chair: Esther Lim	**Ms Sophie van der Leij** (Garvan Institute of Medical Research) – *Inside the Immune Hub: Spatially Defining TLS Niches in Breast Cancer* **Dr Angela Ferguson** (Centenary Institute / The University of Sydney) – *High-dimensional spatial analysis of the tumour-microenvironment to determine disease progression and response and resistance to therapy*

11.50 – 12.30	**PhD & EMCR Rapid-Fire Presentations**
Chair: Sarah Sasson	**Andleeb Hanif** (Kirby Institute) **Antonietta Salerno** (School of Biomedical Science, UNSW) **Beattie Sexton** (School of Biomedical Science, UNSW) **Erin Coll** (Children's Cancer Institute) **Isabella Baba** (School of Medical Science, The University of Sydney) **Jesse Ronald Brown** (Macquarie University) **Joanne Wai Sinn Soh** (The University of Newcastle) **Subin Wui** (UNSW)

12.30 – 13.30	Lunch

13.30 – 14.10	**Session 3 – Innovative Treatments**
Chair: Felix Marsh-Wakefield	**Associate Professor Jenny Lee** (Chris O'Brien Lifehouse) – *Changing landscape of cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (cSCC)* **Professor David Ziegler** (Children's Cancer Institute) – *Harnessing immunotherapy to treat childhood brain tumours*

14.10 – 14.40	**Sponsor Presentations**
Chair: Esther Lim	**Dr Carole Ford** – *BD Life Sciences* *Standard BioTools*

14.40 – 14.50	**Industry-sponsored Awards to PhD & EMCR presenters**

14.50 – 15.20	**Closing Plenary**
Chair: Helen McGuire	**Dr Josephine Wright** (South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute) – *Bioengineered bacteria to detect and treat cancer*

15.20 – 15.30	**Closing Remarks**
Chair: Sarah Sasson	**Prof Mary Collins** (Associate Dean Research (Interim) – The University of Sydney) & **Associate Professor Heather Lee** (University of Newcastle)

15.30 – 16.30	**Networking Drinks**

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