

# programme

## Monday, October 20, 2025

8:30 AM: Arrival, registration

9:30 AM: Welcome by organisers and housekeeping

### Session 1: Telomeres and Telomerase (Chair: Noa Lamm-Shalem)

9:40 AM: Patrik Eickhoff (ICR, London) - "Chromosome end protection by RAP1-mediated inhibition of DNA-PK" *abstract 1*

9:55 AM: Wilson Wong (Monash) - "Dimeric POT1 is the building block for single stranded telomeric DNA packaging" *abstract 2*

10:20 AM: Scott Cohen (CMRI) - "Small-molecule inhibition of human telomerase" *abstract 3*

### 10:45 AM: Morning tea break (please put up your poster!)

11:20 AM: Drew Berry (WEHI.tv) - "Molecular animations of replication and recombination" *abstract 4*

**11:40 AM: Keynote: Alan D'Andrea (Dana Faber) "Disruption of Microhomology-mediated End-joining in Ewing Sarcoma " *abstract 5***

**Host: Elaine Sanij (SVI) *abstract 6***

**12:25 PM: Lunch and poster session I (Post presentations for odd numbers)**

### Session 2: Cell cycle in human disease (Chair: Raelene Endersby)

2:25 PM: Sarah Alexandrou (Garvan) - "JNK pathway suppression mediates insensitivity to combination endocrine therapy and CDK4/6 inhibition in ER+ breast cancer" *abstract 6*

2:40 PM: Shom Goel (Peter Mac) - "Novel functions of the Rb tumour suppressor protein in cancer" *abstract 7*

3:05 PM: Janni Peterson (Flinders) - "Metabolic control of genome integrity - Insight into mechanisms" *abstract 8*

3:30 PM: Antonella Papa (SAiGENCI) - "Disruption of Cell Cycle Machinery Drives Resistance to PI3K Pathway Inhibition in Breast Cancer" *abstract 9*

3:45 PM: Vincenzo Mascol (Lumicks) - "Molecular Tweezers for analysis of DNA repair and replication" *abstract 10*

**4:00 PM: ice cream break!**

### **Session 3: Plasticity in DNA repair (Chair: Wayne Crismani)**

- 4:30 PM: Michael Sharp (SVI) - "Natural gene therapy for Fanconi anaemia mediated by triploid mosaicism" *abstract 11*
- 4:45 PM: Holly Barker (WEHI) - "PARPi combination therapy in uterine serous carcinoma treatment" *abstract 12*
- 5:10 PM: Nikki Burdett (Peter Mac) - "Whole Genome Doubling in High Grade Serous Ovarian Cancer" *abstract 13*
- 5:35 PM: Merridee Wouters (UNSW) - "Assessing chromosomal instability in High Grade Serous Ovarian Cancer with molecular signatures from shallow whole genome sequencing" *abstract 14*

**5:50 PM: Keynote: Chris Lord (ICR London) "Understanding and targeting mechanisms of PARP inhibitor resistance in cancer" *abstract 15***  
**Host: Liz Caldon**

6:35 PM: Fin

**6:35 PM: Welcome reception** in the Museum Foyer, open to all ticket holders

### **Tuesday, October 21, 2025**

8:30 AM: Arrival, registration

### **Session 4: Mechanisms of genome stability (Chair: Jacob Lewis)**

- 9:00 AM: Shabih Shakeel (WEHI) - "Role of chromatin remodeller MORC2 in epigenetic silencing and DNA damage response" *abstract 16*
- 9:25 AM: Rohan Bythell-Douglas (SVI) - "Structure and function of FANCM on branched DNA" *abstract 17*
- 9:50 AM: Ghokan Tulon (Molecular Horizons) - "DNA repair with twists: Cryo-EM structures of viral annealases reveal diverse molecular mechanisms" *abstract 18*

**10:05 AM: Keynote: Sharon Cantor "RAD51 is chromatin enriched and targetable in BRCA1-deficient cells" *abstract 19***  
**Host: Mathew Jones**

**10:50 AM: Morning coffee break**

### **Session 5: Mitosis and cell division (Chair: Paul Clarke)**

- 11:25 AM: Julia Milne (Peter Mac) - "Translational reprogramming disrupts mitosis to drive SMAD4-deficient oesophageal adenocarcinoma" *abstract 20*
- 11:40 AM: Tony Cesare (CMRI) - "Homologous recombination promotes non-immunogenic mitotic death upon DNA damage" *abstract 21*
- 12:05 PM: Brian Gabrielli (Mater) - "Tetraploidy versus polyploid giants: when is genome duplication dangerous?" *abstract 22*
- 12:20 PM: Caitlin Harris (SVI) - "The FA pathway limits de novo inter-generational genomic instability in a mouse model" *abstract 23*
- 12:35 PM: Xiao-Yun (Amy) Wang (Frazer) - "The role of the cGAS/STING pathway in determining cell fate during mitotic arrest" *abstract 24*

**12:50 PM: Lunch and poster session II (*Post presentations for even numbers*)**

### **Session 6: PARP PARP PARP (Chair: TBA)**

- 2:40 PM: Olga Kondrashova (QIMR Berghofer) – "BRCA1 methylation dynamics and PARP inhibitor resistance in high-grade serous ovarian carcinoma" *abstract 25*
- 3:05 PM: Rebecca Smith (Oxford) - "HPF1-dependent histone ADP-ribosylation regulates PARP1 trapping, promoting PARP inhibitor resistance" *abstract 26*
- 3:25 PM: Victor Anggono (UQ) - "FTO suppresses DNA repair by inhibiting PARP1" *abstract 27*
- 3:40 PM: Stacey Edwards (QIMR) - "Targeting the POLR2J4 lncRNA enhances PARP inhibitor sensitivity in triple-negative breast cancer" *abstract 28*

### **3:55 PM: Afternoon tea break**

### **Session 7: Replication and replication stress (Chair: Lisanne Spenkelink)**

- 4:25 PM: Sarah Henrikus (SVI) - "Unwinding of a eukaryotic origin of replication visualised by cryo-EM" *abstract 29*
- 4:40 PM: Vi Wickramasinghe (WEHI) - "A cell-cycle mediated checkpoint that regulates mRNA export in response to replication stress" *abstract 30*
- 5:05 PM: Donna Whelan (LaTrobe) - "Detecting and differentiating DNA replication stress events using super-resolution fluorescence imaging" *abstract 31*
- 5:30 PM: Mathew Jones (UQ) - "Assessing the kinase-dependent coordination of DNA replication using high content imaging and nanopore sequencing" *abstract 32*

**5:45 PM: Award Presentation: Kum Kum Khanna "From ATM to Impact: a journey through DNA damage and repair"**

**Host: Andrew Deans**

6:30 PM: Fin

**7:00 PM: Conference dinner**

**Venue: Chin Chin (upstairs!)**

Make your way to 125 Flinders Ln, Melbourne  
approx. 20 mins walk or use tram 86 or 96,  
scan QR code for directions

*Ticket holders only*



**Wednesday, October 22, 2025**

8:30 AM: Arrival

**Session 8: Alternative Lengthening of Telomeres (Chair: Tracy Bryan)**

9:00 AM: Yangxiu Wu (CMRI) - "A large-scale survey of telomere maintenance mechanisms across 976 human cancer cell lines" *abstract 34*

9:15 AM: Jessie Gao (CMRI) - "Targeting the FANCM-BTR axis for ALT cancer therapy" *abstract 35*

9:30 AM: Lisa Alcock (Curtin) - "Cell permeable inhibitors of Alternative Lengthening of Telomeres" *abstract 36*

9:55 AM: Alex Sobinoff (CMRI) "Stabilisation of break-induced telomere replication intermediates" *abstract 37*

**10:10 AM: Keynote: Simon Boulton "SLFN11 restricts escape from telomere crisis to prevent ALT" *abstract 38***

**Host: Hilda Pickett**

**10:55 AM: Morning tea break**

**Session 9: New therapeutic opportunities in Cell Cycle, DNA repair and Telomeres (Chair: Lee Wong)**

11:30 AM: Marija Dinevska (Garvan) - "BreakDNAcer: A novel mouse model for the real-time assessment of DNA damage response dynamics in live tissue" *abstract 39*

11:45 AM: Elaine Sanij (SVI) - "Local nucleolar surveillance mechanisms maintain stability of rRNA genes" *abstract 40*

12:00 PM: Nikola Bowden (Hunter) - "Repurposing drugs to target DNA repair and cell cycle for treatment resistant melanoma and ovarian cancer" *abstract 41*

12:25 PM: Ashley Harman (CMRI) - "Telomere maintenance by telomerase is regulated by DNA replication stress and nuclear F-actin" *abstract 42*

12:40 PM: Tamas Fischer (ACU) - "RNA-DNA Hybrids at the Crossroads of DNA Repair and Genome Stability" *abstract 43*

1:05 PM: Thanh Tu (Monash) - "Oncohistone H3.3 mutations block differentiation by disrupting ATRX-mediated heterochromatin formation" *abstract 44*

**1:20 PM: Awards and wrap up**

**1:30 PM: Finish, lunchbox to take to the park**

