



Peter Mac
Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre
Victoria Australia

Why study at Peter Mac?

Words from our past research students

The Peter Mac Graduate Research Education program provides excellence in research training and support for all laboratory and clinician research students as they develop expertise in new technologies, and help drive new discoveries that lead to changes in research and clinical practice.

"As a doctor involved in the treatment of blood diseases, I've always been interested in the science behind the medicine. The seamless integration of clinical and laboratory based research, excellent facilities and friendly, collaborative environment at Peter Mac provide the ideal setting to pursue this. The 'bench to bedside' approach at Peter Mac means that our research findings are directly relevant to improving patient outcomes - the ultimate goal of clinician scientists."

Dr Jake Shortt,
PhD student, Cancer Therapeutics Program,
now Haematologist at Monash Medical Centre and
Postdoctoral Fellow in the Cancer Therapeutics Program at Peter Mac

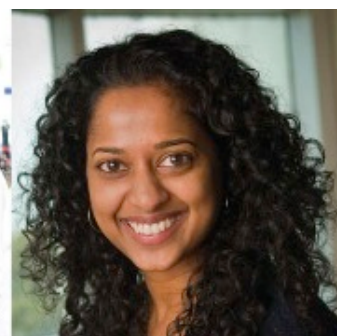


"The motivation that comes from knowing that our work can have a major impact on the understanding and treatment of cancer, ultimately benefiting patients, makes being part of the Peter Mac research team a very rewarding experience."

Dr Kathy Jastrzebski
PhD student in the Oncogenic Signalling & Growth Control Program;
now a Postdoctoral fellow at the Netherlands Cancer Institute, Netherlands.

"I was attracted by Peter Mac's reputation as a holistic cancer centre with everyone striving towards one goal. In this supportive and collaborative environment I feel I am developing my potential towards making a significant contribution to the field of cancer metastasis."

Dr Nimali Withana,
PhD Student, Metastasis Research Laboratory, Peter Mac
Postdoctoral Fellow at Stanford School of Medicine, USA
now a Clinical Scientist working in Product Development
Oncology, at Genentech/Roche, California, USA,



"Using genetic technologies to study tissue growth in vinegar flies, we discovered three candidate human tumour suppressor genes with the potential to inform the design of novel anti-cancer drugs."
This work has the potential to inform the design of novel anti-cancer agents for assessment in pre-clinical studies and, ultimately, in clinical trials.

Dr Carole Poon
PhD Student, Cell Cycle & Development Laboratory,
now a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Cell Growth & Proliferation Laboratory at Peter Mac.
Joint winner of the Professor Joseph Sambrook Research Excellence Award in 2012





“By investigating the control of the protein “factories” inside human cells, we are researching an area that has remained relatively unexplored in cancer. Understanding this world of basic cellular function has the potential to reveal a whole new range of treatment targets. It’s a real motivation to know that beyond the lab coats and cell culture all your hard work contributes to improved patient outcomes and ultimately, sustained survival.”

Dr Megan Bywater,
PhD Student, Growth Control Lab
Awarded the Peter Mac Postgraduate Research Medal, 2011
now a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Cambridge, UK

“Research is a challenge, and the Peter Mac is an inspirational place to be. You can’t help but look around and realise that ultimately we all want the same thing from our work - to help people. That’s why I’m here, and every time I pass a patient in the foyer, I’m reminded of how important our research is and what it means to the Peter Mac community.”

Dr Kathryn Alsop, PhD student,
Cancer Genetics & Genomics Lab,
now a Postdoctoral Fellow with the Australian Ovarian Cancer Study at Peter Mac



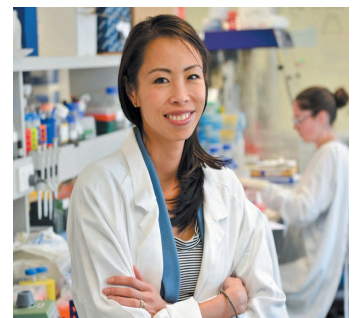
“Effective collaboration between laboratory and clinical researchers is vital for improving the outcomes of patients with cancer. One of the most exciting aspects of being a researcher at Peter Mac is the opportunity to take discoveries from the lab to the clinic.”

During his specialist training in medical oncology, Arun witnessed the emergence of targeted therapies into clinical practice, stimulating his interest in research. Arun’s work involved using novel targeted agents to improve the efficacy of ionizing radiation.

Dr Arun Azad, Medical Oncologist and PhD Student
Translational Research Laboratory, followed by a position as
Genitourinary Medical Oncology Fellow at the British Columbia Cancer Agency

“To make serious inroads against breast cancer, we are working to better understand its genetic make-up, how cancer genes can affect the effectiveness of breast cancer therapies, and how cancer genes alter over time.” Clinician-researcher Dr Sherene Loi completed her PhD at Peter Mac during the decade she spent at the prestigious Institute Jules Bordet in Brussels, Belgium. Returning to Peter Mac in 2013, she leads international clinical trials of new combinations of therapies to promote enduring survival for women with HER2-positive breast cancer.

Dr. Sherene Loi, Medical Oncologist and PhD student
Molecular Oncology Laboratory and Breast Cancer Service , Peter Mac
Head, Translational Breast Cancer Genomics Laboratory at Peter Mac



“Peter Mac’s high-throughput automated technology enabled me to screen the entire genome for drug resistant genes, a task I could never achieve with my hands alone.”

Ever since her first laboratory experience with the CSIRO at age 15, Katrina Falkenberg wanted to work in medical research. Recently completing her PhD student at Peter Mac, Katrina’s research is driven by a curiosity to understand cancer at a molecular level as well as a desire to improve treatment options for patients. Access to Peter Mac’s sophisticated equipment allowed Katrina, with her colleagues, to define the molecular and biological processes required for anti-cancer drug action and drug resistance.

Katrina Falkenberg, PhD student
Gene Regulation Laboratory and the Victorian Centre For Functional Genomics.
now a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Vienna, Austria