



## **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR GEORGINA LONG WINS AWARD FROM CANCER INSTITUTE NSW'S PREMIER AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING CANCER RESEARCH**

Dr Georgina Long, Associate Professor of Melanoma Biology and Transitional Research, and Medical Oncologist at Melanoma Institute Australia, has been awarded the Wildfire award at this year's Cancer Institute NSW's Premier Awards for Outstanding Cancer Research. This is the second year in a row that she has received an award from Cancer Institute NSW.

The Wildfire Award is awarded to an individual, or research team, for a highly cited publication that is expected to significantly influence cancer control or further research.

A/Prof Long's area of focus is Phase I, II, and III clinical trials in adjuvant and metastatic melanoma and, along with her colleagues, has spear-headed the investigation of BRAF inhibitor activity in the brain. She is the chief investigator on the National Health and Medical Research Council funded research into molecular biology of melanoma, with a particular focus on clinical and biomarker correlates of systematic therapy sensitivity and resistance.

The publication that won A/Prof Long the Wildfire award was published in the Journal of Clinical Oncology, and analysed correlates of the BRAF mutation status in 197 melanoma patients with stage IV disease. They identified the prevalence and correlates of the druggable BRAF mutations and showed an expectedly high rate of non-V600E mutations than the literature predicted. This work showed that BRAF inhibitors improve overall survival in patients with BRAF mutations in their melanoma, and was the first report of BRAF inhibitor effect on survival in the literature.

A/Prof Long is the author of over 80 peer-reviewed publications in clinical and translational research in melanoma since 2011, has presented her work at more than 100 international conferences and meetings, and her awarded article has to date been cited 308 times since publication.

As part of the prestigious award, A/Prof Long will be granted \$20,000 to future research endeavours.

Chief Cancer Officer and CEO of the Cancer Institute NSW, Professor David Currow said,

"NSW cancer researchers are among the best in the world. Their work is a testament to their collaboration and dedication as they discover new insights, novel therapies and ultimately treatments that will improve the lives of people affected by cancer.

"When we look at the achievements of those represented among tonight's winners, it is clear how important it is that we continue to invest in cancer research so we continue to attract to NSW the finest research minds. The new cancer treatments and discoveries being made in NSW are not years or decades away from making a difference – they are making a difference to people's lives today."

The awards ceremony, held on Friday 22nd August at Sydney's Town Hall, is an annual event hosted by Cancer Institute NSW. Last year, A/Prof Long was awarded the Outstanding Cancer Research Fellow of the Year.