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THE ALAN COOPER
EPIDERM LECTURE

THE FUTURE OF EARLY MELANOMA DETECTION

presented by

Professor H. Peter Soyer
MD, FACD, FAHMS

Chair in Dermatology
Director, Dermatology Research Centre,
The University of Queensland

6:00pm, Friday 11 August 2017
Auditorium, Translational Research Institute

www.medicine.uq.edu.au

THE ALAN COOPER EPIDERM LECTURE

The Alan Cooper Epiderm Lecture has been established in recognition of Epiderm's generous support of The University of Queensland's dermatology and skin cancer research programs. Epiderm, formerly the Australian Dermatology Research and Education Foundation, was established in 1992 following Australia's successful bid to host the International League of Dermatological Societies World Congress of Dermatology meeting in Sydney in 1997.

The World Congress was led by Professor Alan Cooper and Professor Robin Marks and generated a significant financial surplus representing the majority of the Foundation's initial funding.

Professor Alan Cooper, a driving force behind academic dermatology in Australia, played a lead role on the board of Epiderm. Over a 22 year period, Epiderm funded many dermatological projects within Australia.

From 2007-2014, Epiderm donated over $2.8 million in support of the dermatology and skin cancer research within the Dermatology Research Centre under the direction of Professor H. Peter Soyer. Epiderm's capstone donation of $2.05 million in 2014, prior to the Foundation's disestablishment, leveraged over $3.5 million in additional support for UQ's dermatology and skin cancer research programs.

This year, The University of Queensland celebrates 10 years of the Chair in Dermatology, Professor H. Peter Soyer, who established the Dermatology Research Centre, Queensland's first research unit led by specialist Dermatologists.

The 2017 Alan Cooper Epiderm Lecture will celebrate this milestone with a keynote presentation by Professor H. Peter Soyer, Chair in Dermatology and Director of the Dermatology Research Centre.

PROGRAM

Time	Event
6:00pm-6:45pm	**Registration, Drinks and Canape service**
7:00pm-7:05pm	**Opening Remarks**
	Professor Sean Emery
	Deputy Executive Dean and Research Dean, University of Queensland
7:05pm-7:10pm	**Welcome Address**
	Professor Robyn Ward AM
	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and Vice President (Research) University of Queensland
7:10pm-7:15pm	*Dr David Francis*
	President Elect, Australasian College of Dermatologists
7:15pm-7:30pm	**Australian Skin and Skin Cancer Research Centre (ASSC)**
	Professor David Whiteman
	Deputy Director, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute
	ASSC Enabling Grant Awards
	Professor Joanne Aitken
	Head of Research, Cancer Council Queensland
7:30pm-7:35pm	**Introduction of Keynote Speaker**
	Professor Alan Cooper OAM
	Head, Department of Dermatology, Royal North Shore Hospital, St Leonards, NSW
7:35pm-8:15pm	**Alan Cooper Epiderm Lecture - The Future of Early Melanoma Detection**
	Professor H. Peter Soyer
8:15pm-8:25pm	**Discussion and Questions**
	Facilitated by Professor Sean Emery
8:25pm-8:30pm	**Special Presentation and Concluding Address**
	Professor Robyn Ward AM and Professor Sean Emery
8.30pm-9.00pm	**Tea and coffee to be served in the Atrium**

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Professor H. Peter Soyer
MD, FACD, FAHMS

Professor and Chair in Dermatology,
Director, Dermatology Research Centre
The University of Queensland Diamantina Institute

Professor H. Peter Soyer has a dual academic/clinical role as the inaugural Chair in Dermatology and Director of of the Dermatology Research Centre, The University of Queensland (UQ) Diamantina Institute, at the Translational Research Institute, and as Director of the Dermatology Department at the Princess Alexandra Hospital.

Professor Soyer, an academic dermatologist from Austria, is a world leader in the field of dermatology with particular expertise in the areas of dermatooncology and dermatologic imaging.

His research group's main focus is skin cancer (both melanoma and keratinocyte skin cancer), and he is co-inventor in patents for novel skin delivery platforms and microbiopsy sampling devices.

In 2016 he initiated establishment and is Co-leader of the Australian Skin and Skin Cancer (ASSC) Research Centre, a joint venture between UQ and QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute.

He is one of three Congress Presidents for the 9th World Congress of Melanoma, being held in Brisbane in October 2017.

He is lead investigator of the Centre of Research Excellence for the Study of Naevi funded by the Australian Government National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), a Queensland Genomics Health Alliance Demonstration Project 'A Genomics Approach for Screening of Patients at High Risk of Melanoma', and a UQ Faculty of Medicine Health Outcome Program '3D QMelanoma – Targeted Early Detection of Melanoma Utilising a 3D Teledermatology Network'.

THE FUTURE OF EARLY MELANOMA DETECTION

The significant impact of melanoma on Australia, including high incidence and mortality rates as well as a substantial social and economic burden to both individuals and society, are all indicative that current approaches are failing to successfully address this health problem, at great cost for patients, the health care system and society overall.

Detecting melanoma early is important for melanoma outcomes: early diagnosis and intervention have been shown to have the potential to offer significant benefits to both melanoma survival rates and health system costs.

This is emphasised by strong evidence that survival worsens with increasing melanoma thickness at diagnosis, and that the detection of melanoma at an early stage improves treatment outcomes. Strong predictors for melanoma risk are well identified, and based on the above evidence supporting early detection, it is reasonable to posit that the identification and appropriate surveillance of individuals at high risk of melanoma can only result in improved health outcomes.

We are at a timely junction regarding advances in genomics, imaging technology and artificial intelligence (AI), allowing development of a precision medicine protocol for the targeted early detection of melanoma.

By deploying epidemiologically based melanoma risk classification with the incorporation of next generation genomics, those at highest risk of melanoma can be clearly identified.

These high risk individuals can then undergo regular surveillance utilising innovative total body imaging technologies and cognitive computing, in both the traditional clinical setting and via pioneering consumer engagement models (mobile teledermoscopy and AI/Apps).

This imaging technology, which generates a digital 3D model of each individual's skin, allows for easy tracking and monitoring of skin lesions over time, with the subsequent minimisation of unnecessary excisions. The technology is also ideally suited to telehealth implementation, which along with the complementary consumer imaging modalities, allows more equitable access to specialist care for Australia's highly dispersed population.

By taking a personalised approach to melanoma health care, targeted to those at high risk of melanoma, which is complementary to existing primary prevention methods in Australia, we can optimise patient care, improve health outcomes and ultimately survival, and minimise health care costs.

ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN SKIN AND SKIN CANCER RESEARCH CENTRE

The Australian Skin and Skin Cancer Research Centre (ASSC) was established in 2016 by The University of Queensland and QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute in acknowledgment of the internationally recognised talent in skin and skin cancer research in Brisbane.

The ASSC drives skin and skin cancer research by attracting talented local and international researchers to The University of Queensland and the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute. This enhances the critical mass and expertise housed within the centre.

OUR VISION

To reduce suffering from skin diseases through the application of research

OUR MISSION

To be a world leading research centre to reduce the burden of skin cancer and skin diseases

OBJECTIVES

Collaborate: Further develop links between skin researchers at UQ and QIMR Berghofer in collaboration with other researchers in Queensland, Australia and globally, to undertake fundamental, translational, and clinical research.

Fund: Attract competitive national and international funding streams and increase alternative funding models (public and private health sectors, industry, philanthropy and corporate partnerships).

Commercialise: Foster and expand existing industry collaborations, attract new industry partners and launch entrepreneurial activities.

Translate: Introduce and develop new preventative strategies, and novel diagnostics, treatments and health delivery models for skin diseases to improve patient outcomes.

Visit assc.org.au

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND DIAMANTINA INSTITUTE DERMATOLOGY RESEARCH CENTRE

The Dermatology Research Centre was established in 2007 as a joint initiative of The University of Queensland and the Queensland Skin and Cancer Foundation to represent Queensland's first research unit led by a specialist dermatologist. Since its inception, the Centre has grown at a rapid pace and has established a global reputation in clinical-molecular diagnosis of early melanomas utilising novel imaging techniques, next-generation sequencing technology and micromedical device development. The Centre consists of cooperative clinical and laboratory research groups studying skin and skin cancer, utilising the world-class research infrastructure at the Translational Research Institute located within the Princess Alexandra Hospital Precinct.

OUR TEAM

Professor H. Peter Soyer is the inaugural UQ Chair in Dermatology and Director of the Dermatology Research Centre. Professor Soyer is a world-renowned academic dermatologist from Austria and is a pioneer of dermoscopy for the early diagnosis of melanoma and teledermatology. His research group's main focus is clinico-pathologic-molecular characterisation of melanocytic and keratinocytic skin cancer and its precursor lesions. He is also a Chief Investigator of the UQ based Centre of Research Excellence in Telehealth.

Associate Professor Rick Sturm joined the Centre in 2014, after numerous years of collaboration with Professor Soyer. He previously headed the Molecular Genetics of Pigmentation Research Group at the UQ Institute for Molecular Bioscience, moving his full laboratory into the Centre at the beginning of 2015. He is considered one of the world's leading authorities on human pigmentation genetics, with a particular interest in correlation of pigmentation genetics and phenotypic traits to skin cancer risk.

Associate Professor Helmut Schaider established his research team at the Centre in 2013. He is an academic dermatologist from Austria and previously headed the Cancer Biology Unit, Department of Dermatology, at the Medical University of Graz. His main research interests relate to all aspects of melanoma biology with an emphasis on elucidating mechanisms of drug resistance, melanoma progression and new treatment options.

One of the leading skin and skin cancer research centres in Australia and globally, an accomplished team of both scientific and clinical researchers underpin the Dermatology Research Centre's innovative research, which is aimed at improving patient outcomes through clinical translation.

WE WISH TO THANK OUR MAJOR SUPPORTERS WHO PARTNER WITH US IN RESEARCH.

Epiderm

Trevor and Judith St Baker

Merchant Charitable Foundation

Queensland Institute of Dermatology

PA Research Foundation

Leo Foundation

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MORE INFORMATION

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