



HARRY PERKINS INSTITUTE
OF MEDICAL RESEARCH



PERKINS Seminar Series

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MONDAY 15 FEBRUARY



Dr Gavin Robertson

Founding Director, Melanoma and Skin Cancer Center
Melanoma Therapeutic program, Penn State University

"Can Melanoma Be Cured"

Dr. Robertson is the founding director of the Melanoma and Skin Cancer as well and the Melanoma Therapeutic Program at Penn State University. In capacity, he leads 30 multidisciplinary clinicians and basic scientists in accomplishing the Center's goal of providing world class clinical care for patients, based on a solid foundation of basic science research. Dr.

Robertson's research program focuses on malignant melanoma, which is the deadliest form of skin cancer. He has published over 100 articles (including patents) in this area and his research has been continuously funded through government, institutional, foundation and/or private sources. The central goal of his program is to unravel the biology and signaling pathways involved in melanoma tumor development in order to develop the next generation of therapeutic interventions to treat this disease. Specifically, it involves identification and validation of novel therapeutic targets, discovery & development of new therapies and clinical evaluation of these drugs in patients. The title of his talk today is "Can Melanoma Be Cured?"

ABSTRACT

Dr. Robertson is the founding director of the Melanoma and Skin Cancer Center as well as the Melanoma Therapeutic program at Penn State University. His presentation focuses on the possibility of curing melanoma, which is the deadliest form of skin cancer. The talk is centered on the plasticity of evolving melanoma cells, which continually alter their capabilities to evade therapeutic interventions. The presentation provides an overview of the current melanoma field highlighting contemporary treatments and current limitations to these modalities. It then discusses overcoming some of the current limitations in the field in terms of particular discoveries made through his research program at Penn State. These studies involve his work on circulating tumor cells and metastasis development; development of microfluidic devices to study the biology of metastasis and to identify therapies to kill metastasizing cancer cells; approaches for more effectively targeting some of the major signaling pathways involved in melanoma; and finally it concludes with some of his recent work on targeting deregulated cholesterol homeostasis to manage melanoma cell plasticity. The question is then addressed as to whether melanoma can ever be cured or merely managed clinically with a series of treatment modalities.

4:30pm till 5:30pm

SEMINAR ROOM G24, HARRY PERKINS INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH, NORTH CAMPUS

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Aberdare Rd

To Perth

A

Your Guide to the



HARRY PERKINS INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

B

C

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E

F

Complete St

Verdun St

Kingston St

Caladonia Cres

Caladonia Cres

Hempden Rd

Gairdner Dr

Waiting Walk

Monash Ave

Hospital Ave

Winthrop Ave

Kings Park

Emergency Helipad

Visitor Car Park 1

Visitor and Staff Multi Deck Car Park (Entry off Winthrop Ave Only)

To Harry Perkins

Multi Deck Car Park Phase 2

Main Entrance

Main Entrance & Admissions

EMERGENCY

Under Construction (New Children's Hospital)

To Stirling Hwy

Child Care

Under Construction

Under Construction

Lions Eye Inst

HARRY PERKINS INSTITUTE

PathWest

Hollywood Private Hospital

Visitor Car Park 3A

Western Power Sub Station

Staff Car Park 3

Car Park 7B

L

K

Staff Car Park 6

Visitor Car Park 7 8.00am - 4.00pm

Staff Car Park 7A

UWA Car Park

