



HARRY PERKINS INSTITUTE  
OF MEDICAL RESEARCH



## PERKINS Seminar Series

[www.perkins.org.au](http://www.perkins.org.au)

THURSDAY 23 JUNE



### Dr Joost Lesterhuis

John Stocker Research Fellow

School of Medicine & Pharmacology & National Centre for Asbestos Related Diseases  
University of Western Australia

**"Something old, something new: marrying cancer immunotherapy with other drugs"**

Joost Lesterhuis is a John Stocker Research Fellow with the School of Medicine & Pharmacology and the National Centre for Asbestos Related Diseases at UWA. Joost has a background as a dual-trained medical oncologist and basic researcher in tumour immunology and cancer biology. His research focuses on mesothelioma, in particular on developing novel combination treatments that improve the efficacy of immunotherapy, using old and new drugs.

Cancer immunotherapy, using antibodies that block inhibitory receptors on immune cells ('checkpoints'), has recently shown very impressive responses in many cancers, including thoracic cancers such as lung cancer and mesothelioma. However, although some patients display long-term complete regression, most patients do not respond. It is not known what molecular events differentiate a response from a lack thereof, nor what treatments might improve response rates. It is also unclear whether these new immunotherapies can be effectively combined with other standard treatment modalities such as chemotherapy.

Joost will present data on the immunological effects of (particularly platinum-based) chemotherapeutics and preclinical findings on combining chemotherapy with immune checkpoint blockade that have led to a national phase II trial in mesothelioma which is about to open in Australia. He will also discuss a systems biology approach to identify key molecular drivers of immunotherapy-induced cancer regression, and pinpoint repurposed drugs that can improve the response rate to these drugs.

12:00noon till 1:00pm

followed by a light lunch courtesy of Lonza

For more information please contact Julian Heng

E: [julian.heng@perkins.uwa.edu.au](mailto:julian.heng@perkins.uwa.edu.au)

MCCUSKER AUDITORIUM, HARRY PERKINS INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH, NORTH CAMPUS

**Lonza**

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Aberdare Rd

To Perth

A

Your Guide to the



HARRY PERKINS INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

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F

Complete St  
Verdun St  
Kingsdon St

Gairdner Dr

Hospital Ave

Winthrop Ave

Kings Park

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

Caladema Cres  
Hempden Rd

Visitor Car Park 7 8.00am - 4.00pm

Staff Car Park 7A

Monash Ave

X

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



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