



HARRY PERKINS INSTITUTE
OF MEDICAL RESEARCH



PERKINS Seminar Series

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THURSDAY 26 APRIL



Dr Vihandha Wickramasinghe

Head, RNA Biology and Cancer Laboratory
Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre

"RNA export, alternative splicing and the proteome"

Doctor Vihandha Wickramasinghe is Head of the RNA Biology and Cancer Laboratory at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne, Australia.

His research interests lie in understanding the molecular basis of how messenger RNA (mRNA) is selectively processed and exported from the nucleus into the cytoplasm and how deregulation of these processes contributes to human cancer. He was awarded a prestigious Melbourne National Scholarship to undertake his undergraduate and honours degrees in Biomedical Science at the University of Melbourne, Australia. Following this, he was awarded a Medical Research Council pre-doctoral fellowship to undertake his PhD studies at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom.

During his subsequent post-doctoral studies at the MRC Cancer Unit in Cambridge, he demonstrated for the first time that selective mRNA export from the nucleus can regulate a fundamental biological process, namely DNA repair. The RNA Biology and Cancer Laboratory aims to characterise novel mechanisms of regulating gene expression via selective mRNA processing and to use these insights to identify potential new therapeutic targets for the treatment of cancer. Dr Wickramasinghe's research is currently supported by a **veski** Innovation Fellowship and a Victorian Cancer Agency Mid-Career Fellowship. He is also the recipient of an NHMRC project grant that started in 2017.

12:00noon till 1:00pm

Followed by a light lunch

For more information, please contact Louise Winteringham

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