# Associate Professor James S Wilmott, BSc (Hons I) PhD. Principle Investigator, Personalised Immunotherapy Program (PIP) University of Sydney, NSW 2000 Australia james.wilmott@sydney.edu.au https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=31067595400

# SCIENTIFIC EXPERTISE SUMMARY

Associate Professor Wilmott is a highly motivated translational researcher with a proven track record of translating discoveries into clinical applications for precision oncology and informing clinical trial design. AProf Wilmott has extensive experience in translating clinical and multi-omic data into actionable insights to improve patient outcomes. He has over 11 years of experience leading international research programs and with a strong publication record with high-impact publications in leading scientific journals.

## Scientific Expertise

- Genomic drivers of cancer development
- Genomic and immune associations with patient outcomes
- Immunotherapy response and resistance mechanisms
- Development of biomarker discovery for personalised medicine
- Molecular and quanitiative spatial pathology.
- Multi-omic integration

#### **Research Focus:**

- Biomarker discovery
- Identification of alternate therapeutic strategies
- Pioneering spatial pathology techniques
- Implementation of personalised biomarker testing and reporting into clinics.

#### **Key Achievements**

- Leadership: Management of the world's largest whole-genome sequencing program for cancer, yielding publications in Nature, Nature Communications, Cancer Discovery, and Cancer Cell. Driving the development of a world leading translational research laboratory and implementation program of percision use of immunotherpies into clinics.
- **Biomarker Discovery:** Generated the world-first comprehensive multi-omic datasets to predict response to immunotherapy and identify resistance mechanisms, resulting in a prestigious NSW Premier's Award for outstanding research (<u>Cancer Cell 2019</u> and <u>Cancer Cell 2022</u>).
- Immunotherapy Advancements: Broadened the understanding of immune responses to immunotherapies beyond cytotoxic T cells, sparking new therapeutic development targeting NK-cell function (<u>Clinical Cancer Research 2023</u> and <u>Oncoimmunology 2019</u>)
- Spatial Pathology Techniques: Pioneered state-of-the-art methods for analysing spatial relationships between immune and tumor cells, leading to high-impact publications and platform development for various cancers (Cancer Cell 2019, Cell Reports and Nature Com).
- Clinical Trial Expertise: Led analysis of large international oncology trials, published in Lancet Oncology, Nature, Cancer Cell, and Clinical Cancer Research. Built a strong international network to drive future collaborations (<u>COMBI-MD and COMBI-BRV</u>, <u>OPACIN-NEO</u> and <u>ABC trials</u>).

## **PROFESSIONAL, CLINICAL, AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

#### The University of Sydney

Associate Professor- Head of the Personalised Immunotherapy Program- PIP-PREDICT NCT06536257

- Developed the protocol for the clinical observational study and secured long-term funding to bring precision immunotherapy to oncology clinics.
- Oversaw the multi-omic program, biomarker prediction review, genomic reports, and the final biomarker MDT with clinical teams of <u>Clinical Pathologists</u>, <u>Oncologists from the Melanoma Institute Australia</u>, <u>Chris O'Brien</u> <u>Lifehouse</u>, <u>Daffodil Centre</u>, and <u>NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre to deliver precision immunotherapies nationally</u> <u>into Oncology clinics</u>.
- Develop and manage collaborations with <u>industry partners NSW Health Pathology</u>, <u>Bristol Myers Squibb</u>, <u>Australian Genomics Research Facility</u>, <u>Ramaciotti Center for Genomics</u>, <u>Nanostring</u>, <u>Akoya Biosciences</u>, <u>Qiagen</u> <u>and Illumina</u> to deliver rapid biomarker testing in promt turn around times.
- Devised the data generation and preparation processes to ensure reliability and reproducibility of the program.
- <u>Oversight of the multi-omic program, biomarker prediction review, genomic reports and the biomarker MDT</u> with clinical teams; to satisfy the various (Oncology) Prof. Georgina Long/Matteo Carlino/Ines de Silva/Alex Menzies/Lee, (Pathology) Prof. Richard Scolyer, clinical trials staff and patient groups involved.

#### 2022- Present

#### Melanoma Institute Australia

- Developed one of the world's most productive and influential translational research teams within a decade (196 publications since 2013).
- Led and managed multiple research programs with significant funding, \$12M as CI.
- Mentored a laboratory of more than 35 emerging scientists and clinician scientists, resulting in successful careers in medicine or research.
- Manage an extensive collaborative network numour national and international iniciatives.
- Develop and maintain an innovative scientific program that adapts to the changing landscape of patient care. University of Sydney Feb 2009 – Dec 2013

Clinical Researcher - Doctor of Philosophy (Medicine) – Biomarkers and biology of BRAF Inhibitor Treated Metastatic Melanoma

- Developed expertise in pathology and genomic analysis of patient tumour biopsies.
- Attended clinical multidisciplinary meetings to gain an expertise in clinical care and to identify areas of need.
- Conducted translational research under the supervision of renowned professors of Oncology and Pathology.
- First-authored 8 publications, receiving the American Association for Cancer Research's "Most Highly Cited Paper" award and becoming a recognised expert in tumor pathology and immunology.
- Attract talented researchers and clinical teams to further build the team with exciting research programs and gaining funding.

### **CURRENT RESEARCH FOCUS**

- Precision use of immunotherapies via PIP-PREDICT (<u>NCT06536257</u>): Developing novel strategies to tailor immunotherapy treatments to individual patients based on their tumour characteristics and microenvironment.
- Immunogenomic interactions: Leading efforts to understand the genomic landscape of different melanoma subtypes, impacts on immunogenicity and identify new therapeutic targets.
- Spatial immunobiology: Bridging the gap between basic research and clinical application of spatial biology to understand barriers and enablers to effective tumour eradication.

#### **FELLOWSHIPS**

2020-2025 Investigator grant, Personalised immunotherapies, NHMRC	\$1,504,485
2021-2024 Young Investigator, Melanoma Research Alliance	\$1,400,000
2016-2020 APP1111678 Early career fellowship, NHMRC	\$314,644
2016-2019 ECF 15/ECF/1-57 Early career fellowship, Cancer Institute NSW	\$429,481

#### **APPOINTMENTS**

2022- current	Associate Professor, The University of Sydney
2022- current	Principal Investigator, Personalised Immunotherapy Program
2013- current	Senior Scientist, Melanoma Translational Research Laboratory
2021-2025	Melanoma Research Alliance Young Investigator.
2020-2025	Investigator research fellow, NHMRC
2015-2019	Early career research fellow, NHMRC
2015-2018	Early career research fellow, CINSW
2013-2014	Lecturer, The University of Sydney
2013	PhD, The University of Sydney
2008	Bachelor of Science (Hons 1st class), The University of Sydney

## **BOARDS AND PANELS**

2018-current	Melanoma Institute Australia, Faculty member
2018-current	Melanoma Institute Australia, Education committee member
2021- 2022	Centre of Research Excellence in Melanoma, Chair of genomics and biomarkers.
2021-current	International Neoadjuvant Melanoma Consortium, Senior scientific advisor.
2021-current	International InterMEL consortium, scientific advisor for biomarker interpretation
2024	Scientific advisory team, \$479M Sydney Biomedical Accelerator, Genomics white paper
2017-2023	Charles Perkins Centre, Research Advisory Board, representing over 150 researchers

## PEER REVIEW AND CONFERENCE ORGANISATION

\_AProf Wilmott contributes to the international scientific community through peer review for funding bodies including the NHMRC (2018-2024), Cure Cancer Research (2022), Sydney Cancer Partners (2023 x2), and the Dutch Cancer Society (2023). He has also organised conferences, including Multi-omics (2022, 2024), the NSW Cancer Conference (2023), and the Australasian Society for Dermatology Research (2024).

### AWARDS

2022 NSW Premier's Awards for Excellence in Translational Cancer Research,PMID: 307538252021 NSW Premiers Wildfire Highly Cited Publication Award2021 Young Researcher of the Year- Society of Melanoma Research General Meeting2020 NSW Premier's Awards for Excellence in Translational Cancer Research,PMID: 28467829.2017 NSW Premier's Awards for Excellence in Translational Cancer ResearchPMID: 23026937.2016 NSW Premier's Awards for Excellence in Translational Cancer Research ,PMID: 23026937.2012 American Association for Cancer Research's "Most highly cited paper",PMID: 22156613.

#### PATENTS

• MIAdx: Scolyer, RA., Vergara, I.A., Colebatch, AJ., Wilmott, JS., Long, GV., \Methods for identifying

skin cancer, administering biopsies and treating skin cancer", provisional application approved.

 PIPdx: Trademarked and application under review\ Multi-omics platform and models to enable percision oncology and personalised immunotherpy biomarker reports, Trademarked and Under review.

#### FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS (\$12M since 2015)

2024-2026	CINSW REG 2024 grant for the new PhenoImager HT 2.0	(CIC)	\$674,927	
2024-2026	SPHERE/Sydney Cancer Partners Strategic Enhancement Grant	(CIB)	\$280,000	
2022-2027	CINSW Translational Program Grant	(PI)	\$3,748,550	
	"Personalised Immunotherapy Program – Precision immunother	apies for mu	Itiple solid tumours usin	ig a
	biomarker driven adaptive enrichment clinical trials platform."			
2021-2025	Young Investigator, Melanoma Research Alliance	(PI)	\$1,400,000	
	"Effective therapies for patients with high risk in-transit disease"			
2022	NHMRC Equipment Grant	(CIB)	\$286,725	
	"Illumina NextSeq 1000 benchtop sequencer"			
2021-2023	PIP-MATCH, Ramaciotti Foundations Health Investment Grant		\$150,000	
	"Precision ex vivo testing platform to match novel drug immunother	ару.		
	combinations with advanced cancer patients (PIP-MATCH)."			
2021	NHMRC Equipment Grant (	CIC)	\$143.630	
	"BD Rhapsody™ Single-Cell Analysis System"			
2020-2024	Investigator grant, Personalised immunotherapies, NHMRC	(CIA)	\$1,504,485	
	"Personalised immunotherapies to match profiles with response"			
2019-2022	RG19-15 CCNSW Project Grant- <u>personalised immunotherapies</u> ,	(CIA)	\$425,095	
	"Personalised immunotherapies: A clinical feasibility clinical trial"			
2019-2022	Ainsworth Foundation-Accurate diagnosis of Primary Melanoma	(CIA)	\$837,000	
2018-2021	APP1144829 NHMRC Project Grant	(CIE)	\$613,848	
2017-2020	APP1129422 CCNSW Project Grant	(CIB)	\$449,174	
	APP1123217 NHMRC Project Grant	(AI)	\$1,456,823	
2016-2019	APP1111678 NHMRC ECF fellowship	(CIA)	\$314,644	
	ECF 15/ECF/1-57 Cancer Institute NSW ECF fellowship	(CIA)	\$429,481	
2019	Ross Trust- Foundation funding children's health research	(CIA)	\$30,000	
2015	Sydney Local Area Health District Project Grant	(CIA)	\$60,000	

#### RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS (237 publications, 44 as Senior/First, H-index of 77 and average FWCI of 7.11

• <u>CANCER CELL</u>, Gide TN...Wilmott JS (Senior author). Distinct immune cell populations define response to anti-PD-1 monotherapy and anti-PD-1/anti-CTLA-4 combined therapy. 2019 Landmark study which developed transcriptomic and immune profiles of response to immunotherapies. This study provided the basis for the development of the Personalised Immunotherapy Platform which has been piloted as a feasibility study in over 280 melanoma patients as a prospective biomarker testing cohort study (RG19-15). (636 citations since 2019).

- <u>NATURE</u>, Wilmott JS, Hayward N (Joint)...Mann G, Scolyer RA. Whole-genome landscapes of major melanoma subtypes, 2017. I comprehensively detailed the genomic alterations of 183 melanoma patients that confer sensitivity or resistance to approved therapeutics. This project demonstrates my ability to lead a high-profile collaborative research program. (1,066 citations since 2017).
- <u>CELL</u>, The Cancer Genome Atlas Network. Genomic Classification of Cutaneous Melanoma. 2015. *I co-developed the immune scoring system and oversaw the expert pathological case review finding immune infiltration as the most prognostic factor of all the multi-omic analyses.* (2,343 citations since 2015).
- Int J Cancer, 2019: Whole genome sequencing of melanoma in Youth

#### • Nature Communications, 2019: Whole genome sequencing in mucosal melanoma

- Nature Communications, 2020: Whole genome sequencing in acral melanoma
  - Nature Communications, 2020: Whole genome sequencing in uveal melanoma
- (PMID: 30178487) (PMID: 31320640). (PMID: 33067454) (PMID: 32415113)

- Cancer Cell, 2022: Multi-omic profiles of ICB response in metastatic melanoma
- Cancer Discovery 2022: Multi-omics of 570 Australian melanoma

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Colebatch A.J.; Ferguson P.; Newell F.; Kazakoff S.H.; Witkowski T.; Dobrovic A.; Johansson P.A.; Saw R.P.M.; Stretch J.R.; McArthur G.A.; Long G.V.; Thompson J.F.; Pearson J.V.; Mann G.J.; Hayward N.K.; Waddell N.; Scolyer R.A.; **WILMOTT J.S,** *Molecular Genomic Profiling of Melanocytic Nevi*, **2019**, *Journal of Investigative Dermatology*, 56, 10.1016/j.jid.2018.12.033

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Lee H.; Da Silva I.P.; Palendira U.; Scolyer R.A.; Long G.V.; WILMOTT J. S, *Targeting NK cells to enhance melanoma response to immunotherapies*, 2021, *Cancers*, 32, 10.3390/cancers13061363

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Quek C.; Bai X.; Long G.V.; Scolyer R.A.; WILMOTT J.S, High-dimensional single-cell transcriptomics in melanoma and cancer *immunotherapy*, **2021**, *Genes*, 10, 10.3390/genes12101629

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## PUBLICATION (FIRST)

WILMOTT J.S; Long G.V.; Howle J.R.; Haydu L.E.; Sharma R.N.; Thompson J.F.; Kefford R.F.; Hersey P.; Scolyer R.A., *Selective BRAF inhibitors induce marked T-cell infiltration into human metastatic melanoma*, **2012**, *Clinical Cancer Research*, 553, 10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-11-2479

**WILMOTT J.S**; Tembe V.; Howle J.R.; Sharma R.; Thompson J.F.; Rizos H.; Lo R.S.; Kefford R.F.; Scolyer R.A.; Long G.V., Intratumoral molecular heterogeneity in a BRAF-mutant, BRAF inhibitor-resistant melanoma: A case illustrating the challenges for personalized medicine, 2012, Molecular Cancer Therapeutics, 80, 10.1158/1535-7163.MCT-12-0530

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#### JOINT-FIRST

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INVITED PRESENTATIONS		
2024 Multi-Omics Conference/SITC	2024	Brisbane
Society for Melanoma Research	2024	USA, New Orleans
Australasian Melanoma Conference AMC2024	2024	Sydney
Australian Society for Dermatology Research Annual Scientific Meeting	2024	Sydney
Akoya Bioscience Roadshow (Garvan)	2024	Sydney
AACR General Meeting- Invited speaker.	2023	USA, Orlando
Spatial Biology: Translating basic research into clinical insights. Speaker	2023	Singapore
WEHI Spatial Symposium	2023	Melbourne
Cancer Research Network HDR Symposium	2023	Sydney
Society of Melanoma Research General Meeting – Speaker	2022	Scotland
Australasian Society for Dermatology Research ASDR- Speaker	2022	Brisbane
Inaugural Spatial Meeting QIMR Berghofer- Organiser/Speaker	2022	Brisbane
Pathology update-Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia	2021	Sydney, Australia
General Meeting- American Association for Cancer Research-poster	2021	USA, Virtual
Novel imaging technologies- Keynote Speaker-University of Mexico	2021	USA, Texas
InterMEL consortium- Keynote Speaker	2021	USA, Texas
Yale Postdoc Association- Keynote Speaker	2021	USA, Connecticut
Akoya Bioscience General meeting- Keynote Speaker	2021	USA, California
UniMelb cancer research webinar- Guest Speaker	2021	Melbourne, Aus
Cancer for Research Excellence- Invited speaker	2021	Sydney, Australia
Research retreat, Melanoma Institute Australia- Keynote Speaker	2020	Sydney, Australia
Biomedical Sciences Research Methods Day Seminar	2020	Sydney, Australia
Surgical Immunology- Student research seminar	2020	Sydney, Australia
Epigenetics User Group Symposium – Invited Speaker	2020	Otago, NZ
InterMel consortium general meeting- Panel member	2019	Santa Fe, USA
Australian Precision Oncology Symposium- Invited speaker	2019	Adelaide, Aus
Cancer Council Consumer Forum-Discussion- Panel member	2019	Sydney, Australia
Molecular and Experimental Pathology Society of Australasia- Speaker	2019	Sydney, Australia
Cantoo Winter Gala fundraising Dinner- Guest speaker	2019	Sydney, Australia
Melanoma March National Fundraiser, Invited Speaker	2019	Wollongong, Aus
Cancer Institute NSW research fellow's forum, Invited Speaker	2018	Sydney, Australia
Melanoma March National Fundraiser, Invited Speaker	2017	Newcastle
Ultimate Melanoma Masterclass	2018	Sydney
Society for Melanoma Research Congress, Invited Speaker	2017	Brisbane, Australia

#### **MENTORING**

Postdoctoral students:

Dr Hansol Lee PhD 2022. Publication to arise from his thesis:

- Clinical Cancer Research, 2023: Effect of steroids on MAPKi treated patients (PMID: 36477181) Cancers, 2021: Review of NK-cell biology in the context of ICB treatment (PMID: 33802954) ٠ Oncoimmunology 2019: NK cells in anti-PD-1 treated metastatic melanoma patients (PMID: 30713793) Clinical Cancer Research, 2023: Macrophages in anti-PD-1 treated patients (PMID: 36790412) •
- Final year medical student

Dr Grace Attrill PhD 2023. Publication to arise from her thesis:

- Nature Cancer, 2020: Molecular analysis of primary melanoma T cells identifies high risk melanoma.
- Pigment Cell and Melanoma Research, 2021: Review to TME in cutaneous melanoma
- Frontiers in Immunology, 2022: Spatial immunophenotyping of primary melanomas
- Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer, 2022: CD39+ T-cells in adjuvant immunotherapy (PMID: 35688560)
- Prestigious Postdoc at NCI

(PMID: 32939993) (PMID: 36003398)

- Nature Medicine 2022: Diet-driven microbial ecology underpins associations with ICB (PMID: 36138151)
- CINSW earl Career Fellowship awarded 2024

Dr Tuba Nur Gide 2019:

- High Impact publications: <u>Cancer Cell</u>, <u>Clinical Cancer Research</u> <u>\*2</u>, <u>Modern pathology</u>, <u>Histopathology</u> and <u>Oncoimmunology</u>.
- Dr Gide now holds a prestigious
- <u>CINSW ECR fellowship</u> and is a CO-CI on the CINSW Translational Program Grant \$3,748,550.

Dr Jarem Edwards as co-supervisor. Thesis awarded in 2021:

- Publications in <u>Nature</u>, <u>Cancer Immunology Research</u> and 3\* <u>Clinical Cancer Research</u>.
- National Medical Liaison to BMS.

#### Undergraduate students

- Aubrey Wood was awarded hons 1st class and was the Dean's List of Excellence in Academic Performance. Aubrey is now studying medicine. (2021)
- Catherine Bai was awarded 1st class honours, received a NHMRC PhD scholarship and is now a PhD candidate under my supervision. (2021)
- Michael Xie, 1st class honours and University Medal. Studying Medicine (2022).

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

## International Collaborations:

- Steering Committee Member: International Cancer Genome Consortium's Melanoma Project (facilitates data sharing)
- Member: International Neoadjuvant Melanoma Consortium (clinical trial design and guidelines)
- International Committee Member: InterMEL Project (improving primary melanoma prognosis)
- Core Leader & Biomarker Implementation Chair: Melanoma Centre of Research Excellence (identifying barriers for clinical implementation of biomarkers)

### Peer Review & Editorial Activities:

- Peer Reviewer: NHMRC Investigator Grants (2020-2023), Cure Cancer Research Grants, Sydney Cancer Partners Translational Partners Fellowship Scheme
- Regular Reviewer: High-impact journals (Nature Communications, Cancer Discovery, Clinical Cancer Research, etc.)

### **Conference Organisation:**

• Organising Committee Member: Inaugural Multi-Omics 2022 and Australia Melanoma Conference (AMC) 2021 **PhD Thesis Reviews:** 

#### PhD Thesis Reviews:

• Performed 4 reviews in 2024 for various universities (Western Sydney, Queensland, Monash, Melbourne)