

2018 Seminar

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Precision Medicine: the Science of Good Health

Prof Melissa Southey

Chair, Precision Medicine, School of Clinical Sciences

Professor Melissa C. Southey, BSc (Hons, Pathology) PhD (Medicine), GradDip (Law), is Chair of Precision Medicine, School of Clinical Sciences at Monash Health, Monash University. Melissa is a molecular geneticist (FHGSA) and a Founding Fellow of the Faculty of Science, Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (FFSc, RCPA). Over the last 25 years her research program has had a population-based focus that has been pivotal to the establishment of large epidemiological research resources that are now mature and being applied to advance the realization of precision medicine and precision public health. She has lead the collection, management and utilization of biological resources provided by more than 200,000 research participants and currently oversees a biorepository operation of more than 2 million specimens.

Melissa is best known for her work with multiple-case cancer families and heritable risk factors that has provided the evidence base for best practice guidelines for the clinical management of individuals at high risk of the disease. Most recently this has included the discovery of epigenetic risk factors that offer additional important information for cancer risk prediction models. This work illustrates the advantages of integrated molecular studies embedded in mature population-based studies that have scope beyond classical genomics.

Melissa has led multidisciplinary teams in diagnostic and research settings in Australia and internationally, supported by programmatic awards from the European Commission, the National Institutes of Health (USA) and NHMRC. She has co-authored more than 480 peer reviewed publications and actively participates on a number of national and international scientific advisory groups and governance bodies.



DATE

**THURS 23
AUGUST**

TIME

12.00PM – 1.00PM

LOCATION

**TRF BUILDING
LEVEL 2, SEMINAR
ROOMS 1 AND 2**