

Garvan Institute of Medical Research

Leaders in Science



Dr Belinda Parker

Senior Research Fellow/ARC Future Fellow, Head of the Cancer Microenvironment Laboratory
Faculty of Science, Technology & Engineering, La Trobe University

“Using immunocompetent models to uncover metastasis biomarkers and therapeutic targets”

Monday 20 October, 2014 | 12PM, NAB AUDITORIUM

Host: Professors Peter Croucher & Mike Rogers

After obtaining her PhD (Biochemistry) in 2001, Dr Parker began postdoctoral training in the Breast Cancer Program, Department of Oncology at Johns Hopkins University, USA in the field of breast cancer biology and invasion. In 2003, she was awarded a US Army Department of Defense BCRP Postdoctoral Fellowship to join the Metastasis Research laboratory at the Peter Mac Callum Cancer Centre and initiate studies into cell specific mechanisms of metastasis using immunocompetent models. This work initiated new projects in the laboratory that saw Dr Parker attract competitive grant funding (including a NHMRC Career Development Fellowship) and a promotion to Team Leader in 2012. In early 2013, Belinda moved to the new La Trobe Institute for Molecular Science at La Trobe University where she is Head of the Cancer Microenvironment and Immunology Laboratory and was recently awarded an ARC Future Fellowship. Dr Parker’s research focuses on dissecting the interactions between tumour cells and surrounding “normal cells” that promote cancer invasion and metastasis. She has a particular interest in bone metastasis, including the interaction of tumour cells with immune suppressor and effector cells to create an immune suppressed environment. This work is currently funded by the NHMRC (project grants) and the Prostate Cancer Foundation Australia/Movember (Program Grant).