

Garvan Institute of Medical Research

# Leaders in Science



## Professor Peter Leedman

Director, Harry Perkins Institute of Medical  
Research, WA; Laboratory Head, Laboratory for Cancer Medicine

# microRNAs, “replacement therapy” and cancer – how far have we come?

**Monday 15 September, 2014 | 12PM, NAB AUDITORIUM**

**Host: Professor John Mattick**

Peter Leedman is the Director of the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research (OPerkins’) in Perth, Head of the Perkins Laboratory for Cancer Medicine and Professor of Medicine (endocrinologist) at the University of Western Australia (UWA) and Royal Perth Hospital. He has had a long-term interest in understanding how hormones act at the molecular level, with a focus on RNA biology, and how this information can be harnessed to personalise cancer therapy. His laboratory has focused on the mechanisms regulating expression of key therapeutic targets in hormone-dependent cancers (breast and prostate cancer) and more recently in poor prognostic tumors, including melanoma, head and neck, liver and colon cancer. His team has identified key functional roles for a number of miRNAs in these tumors and uncovered several new members of a complex network of RNA-binding nuclear receptor hormone coregulators, which includes PACT and Dicer. He co-founded miReven, a spin out company established to commercialise miR-7 as a replacement therapy for cancer, and is driving this initiative towards an early phase clinical trial in patients with liver cancer.