Establishing Victoria’s translational cancer research agenda

Victorian Cancer Agency
Suzanne Byers
What is the Victorian Cancer Agency

Our vision:

“Cancer patient care, outcomes and survival rates will be amongst the best in the world through the rapid translation of cancer research into clinical care”
What does the Victorian Cancer Agency do?

Our priorities:

Sustain and strengthen and Victoria’s leadership role in linking cancer research to clinical outcomes within Australia;

Invest in translational research and develop partnerships, including with industry; and

Further develop structures, platform technologies and support systems to facilitate cancer research and its effective translation into clinical practice for all Victorians.
VCA has invested in 3 main streams of activity to speed up the translation of research findings into clinical care:

- Building workforce capacity and capability
- Driving translational research
- Supporting enabling infrastructure, including clinical trials
Invested $21 million on skilled cancer research workforce

100+ fellowships and scholarships across tumour streams including:

- Clinical research fellowships
- Supportive and palliative care fellowships and scholarships
- Public health fellowships
- Early career seed grants
- Consumer grants
- Fellowships co-funded with philanthropy

Direct employment of over 300 additional Victorian cancer researchers
Translational research – outcomes so far …

- Invested $60 million in translational research and tumour stream collaborative projects

- Over 500 new collaborations across institutions and disciplines

- Targeted programs to cancers of high incidence and mortality

- Investment in new and emerging areas (e.g. personalised medicine, Victorian Lung Cancer Initiative)

- Leverage rate of 6.26 (for every $1 VCA dollar invested, $6.26 attracted from non-Victorian Government sources from our large projects)
System development – outcomes so far …

- Significant investment in infrastructure and platforms including the Victorian Cancer Biobank, Cancer 2015 project, and BioGrid Australia
- Additional support for the Victorian Cancer Registry (funded by the Department)
- Invested $12 million in building clinical trial capacity across metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria
What’s next?

Linking research and patient care

Victorian Cancer Agency