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April Newsletter 2021

Trial Spotlight: I-MAT - A trial to stop a rare lethal cancer in its tracks

While melanoma is common, it is not Australia's deadliest skin cancer. Merkel cell carcinoma – a rare, highly aggressive neuroendocrine skin cancer that tends to metastasize very quickly – affects around 300 Australians each year. Even if diagnosed early and treated with surgery and / or radiotherapy, around 40% of patients with Merkel cell carcinoma will relapse. Once a patient develops metastatic Merkel cell carcinoma, only 14% of patients will survive for five years.

Dr Wen Xu, a medical oncologist at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane, believes that the great progress made with immunotherapy for melanoma patients will also apply to Merkel cell carcinoma. "We already know that immunotherapy can work very well in patients with advanced Merkel cell carcinoma but the treatment remains untested and unproven for patients with early stage disease," Dr Wen said.



"The outcomes of this clinical trial may influence future treatment strategies world-wide for patients with this rare, but often lethal cancer."

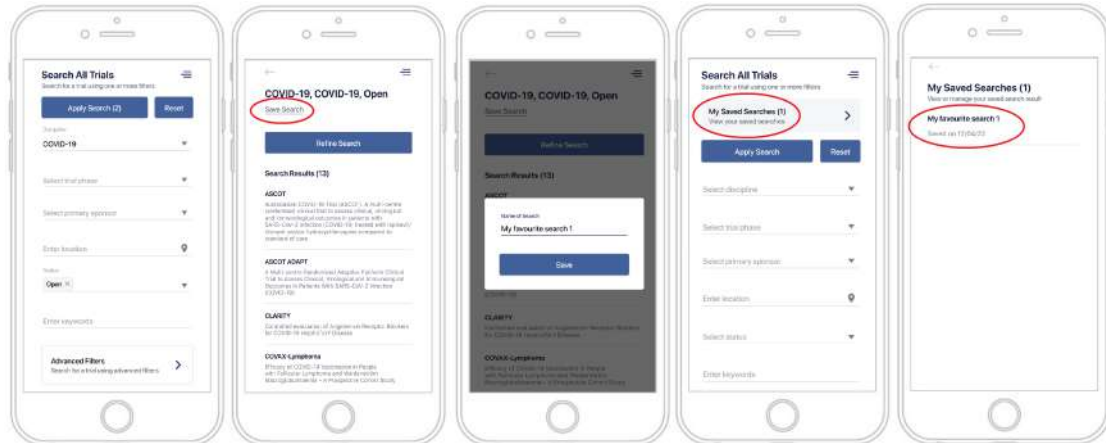
Dr Wen Xu
Chief Investigator,
I-MAT Trial

The trial is open at hospitals in most Australian capital cities, as well as six regional towns. Plans are underway to open more regional sites. The I-MAT clinical trial is coordinated by Melanoma and Skin Cancer Trials Ltd and aims to enrol 132 participants with stage I-III

Merkel cell carcinoma. To learn more about this study and browse the recruiting trial locations visit the ClinTrial Refer website [here](#).

App Features

Did you know that you can save frequently used search parameters in the ClinTrial Refer App? Saved Searches is a great time saver for frequently-used search filters. Each time you use a Saved Search, it will complete a fresh search of the trial listings without needing to re-enter your search criteria. Follow the steps below to start saving your frequently used search parameters.



Complete your frequently used filters that you would like to save, and click Apply Search.

Click Save Search.

Name your search.

Saved searches appear at the top of the search menu, click through to use them.

Click on the saved search to complete a fresh search using your saved filters.

The Value of Participating in Clinical Trials

NSW Health, Australian Clinical Trials Alliance (ACTA) and Clinical Trials Impact Quality (CT:IQ) have developed a fact sheet which describes firsthand experiences of clinical studies from participants and experts. Taking part in clinical trials can help people lead healthier lives now and in the future. If you are interested in learning more about clinical trials, why they are important and how they might help you or someone you know click on the link [here](#) to access these educational resources.

HEALTH+MEDICAL
RESEARCH

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Learn about clinical trials

through the experiences of study
participants and experts.

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Learn about
clinical trials from
people who have
been there.

Your Voice, Your Story



YOUR VOICE YOUR STORY



whitecoatsfoundation.org

Sometimes it is difficult to put feelings into words. White Coats Foundation is inviting people to express their "Voice" by creating a picture, painting, symbol or sending in a photo that represents what clinical trials mean to them.

We all have a story to tell.

Perhaps you are a patient that has benefited from participating in a clinical trial, a recipient of an approved medication that is available because of a clinical trial, a health care professional who supports patients on clinical trials or an industry professional who is witness to the impact that medical advances can bring to people's lives. Perhaps clinical trials are a mystery or complicated to understand. Whatever the circumstances, White Coats Foundation wants to hear your story. Submissions will be displayed in an online gallery and three entrants will be selected and invited to present their image at a webinar on International Clinical Trials Day, 20 May.

If you are interested in entering click [here](#) to learn more.

Do you have something to share?

Share your story if you have taken part in a clinical trial or supported someone through a trial. Your stories and thoughts are important to us and can be a great encouragement to others. If you'd like to share a clinical trial story please email us at admin@clintrialreferapp.com. We'd love to hear from you.



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