

# Dr Camelia Quek PhD, BAdvSci, DipMolBiotech

CINSW Early Career Fellow | Honorary Senior Research Fellow

Melanoma Institute Australia and The University of Sydney

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## Summary Biography

Dr Camelia Quek is a Senior Scientist and Research Fellow at Melanoma Institute Australia and The University of Sydney. Dr Quek originally did a first degree (University Medal) in molecular biology at the University of New South Wales before moving on to do a PhD (Sawyer Medal) in Neuroscience and Bioinformatics at the University of Melbourne. Dr Quek is an international expert in translational science and has authored multiple publications in cancer. Dr Quek is a regular invited speaker at international conferences and received several awards for high-impact translational research.

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## EMPLOYMENT AND APPOINTMENT

2021 – Present Cancer Institute NSW Early Career Fellow

2021 – Present Honorary Senior Research Fellow – The University of Sydney

2016 – Present Postdoctoral Scientist (Oncology Bioinformatics) – Melanoma Institute Australia

2016 – Present. Research Affiliate – The University of Sydney

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## EDUCATION AND HONOURS

2012 – 2016 Doctor of Philosophy in Medicine and Health Science, The University of Melbourne  
**Sawyer Medal in Outstanding PhD and Melbourne Research Scholar**

2009 – 2011 Bachelor of Advanced Science (Hons Class 1) – Major in Molecular Biology, University of New South Wales  
**University Medal and Golden Jubilee Scholar**

2006 – 2009 Diploma in Molecular Biotechnology with Merit, Nanyang Polytechnic  
**Gold Medal**

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## KEY PUBLICATIONS \*co-first authors

1. Lee H\*, Ferguson AL\*, **Quek C\***, Vergara IA, Pires daSilva I, Allen R, Gide TN, Conway JW, Koufariotis LT, Hayward NK, Waddell N, Carlino MS, Menzies AM, Saw RPM, Shklovskaya E, Rizos H, Lo S, Scolyer RA, Long GV, Palendira U, Wilmott JS. Intratumoral CD16+ macrophages are associated with clinical outcomes of patients with metastatic melanoma treated with combination anti-PD-1 and anti-CTLA-4 therapy. *Clinical Cancer Research* **2023**; OF1-2. [2023 Finalist for UniSyd Outstanding Publication]
2. **Quek C**, Bai X, Long GV, Scolyer RA, Wilmott JS. High-Dimensional Single-Cell Transcriptomics in Melanoma and Cancer Immunotherapy. *Genes* **2021**; Oct;12(10):1629. [Invited Review]
3. Gide, T. N.\*, **Quek, C.\***, Menzies, A. M., Tasker, A. T., Shang, P., Holst, J., Madore, J., Lim, S. Y., Velickovic, R., Wongchenko, M., Yan, Y., Lo, S., Carlino, M. S., Guminski, A., Saw, R. P. M., Pang, A., McGuire, H. M., Palendira, U., Thompson, J. F., Rizos, H., Silva, I. P. D., Batten, M., Scolyer, R. A., Long, G. V., and Wilmott, J. S. (2019). Distinct Immune Cell Populations Define Response to Anti-PD-1 Monotherapy and Anti-PD-1/Anti-CTLA-4 Combined Therapy. *Cancer Cell* **2019**; 35, 238-255 e236. [2022 Cancer Institute NSW Wildfire Highly Cited Publication, and 2023 Highly Cited Paper in Molecular Biology and Genetics (Clarivate's Essential Science Indicators)]
4. Edwards, J., Tasker, A., da Silva, I. P., **Quek, C.**, Batten, M., Ferguson, A., Allen, R., Allanson, B., Saw, R. P., and Thompson, J. F. Prevalence and Cellular Distribution of Novel Immune Checkpoint Targets Across Longitudinal Specimens in Treatment-naïve Melanoma Patients: Implications for Clinical Trials. *Clinical Cancer Research* **2019**; 25, 3247-3258. [Top 8% globally in cancer research field]
5. Edwards J, Wilmott JS, Madore J, Gide T, **Quek C**, Tasker A, Ferguson A, Chen J, Hewavisenti R, Hersey P, Gebhardt T, Weninger W, Britton W, Saw R, Thompson J, Menzies AM, Long GV, Scolyer RA, Palendira U. "CD103+ tumor-resident CD8+ T cells are associated with improved survival in immunotherapy naive melanoma patients and expand significantly during anti-PD1 treatment." *Clinical Cancer Research* **2018**; 24, 3036-3045. [2023 Highly Cited Paper in Clinical Medicine from Clarivate's Essential Science Indicators]

## OVERALL TRACK RECORD

### Publications

ORCID: 0000-0002-1244-961X

Being a researcher with 4.5 years post-PhD (1 year maternity leave from Oct 2018 to Nov 2019 and 8 months carer responsibilities as sole parenting from Mar 2020 to Oct2020 due to COVID-19 pandemics), I have published 30 peer-reviewed articles (3 as first-author and 3 as co-first author) and 3 reviews (2 as first author).

### Funding

2023 – 2024	Tour De Cure Early Career Research Grant Program
2023 – 2026	NHMRC Ideas Grants
2021 – 2023	Cancer Institute New South Wales Early Career Research Fellowship
2020 – 2024	Melanoma Research Alliance
2020	The University of Sydney – Charles Perkins Centre Early- and Mid-Career Researchers Seed Funding Award
2020	Sydney Catalyst Pilot and Seed Funding Award
2020 – Present	CLEARbridge Foundation

### Awards and Prizes

2023	Best Oral Talk at International Society for Computational Biology ASCS 2023, virtual, worldwide
2022	CINSW Premier's Award for Wildfire Highly Cited Publication, Australia
2021	10x Millennium Science Start Single Cell Award, Australia
2020	Immuno-Oncology Summit Europe – Invited Speaker Award
2018	Best Poster – IAP (International Academy of Pathology) conference
2017	NSW Premier's Awards for Outstanding Cancer Research (Excellence in Translational Research to MIA Research Team) - Dr Camelia Quek
2017	Sawyer Medal in Outstanding Research Achievements PhD students, The University of Melbourne
2017	Most Outstanding Oral Presentation – Anti-Cancer Agents and Drug Development 1 session, The University of Sydney Cancer Research Network 2017 Postgraduate & ECR Cancer Research Symposium, Australia
2017	Best Poster – Immunotherapy@Brisbane Conference, Australia
2014	Poster Prize Winner – Wellcome Trust Computational RNA Biology Conference
2011	University Medal in Molecular Biology, University of New South Wales
2011	Undergraduate Student Encouragement Award, University of New South Wales, Australia (Australian Society for Microbiology NSW-ACT)
2009	Gold Medal in Molecular Biotechnology, Nanyang Polytechnic

### Professional activities

2023 – Present	Associate Editor of Molecular Carcinogenesis
2023 – Present	Special Issue Editor for International Journal of Molecular Sciences
2020 – Present	Cancer Research Network - The University of Sydney (Steering Committee)
2016 – Present	European Association for Cancer Research (Ambassador)
2016 – Present	Reviewer (Nature, Cell, Frontiers, International Journal of Molecular Sciences, Modern Pathology, Pigment Cell Melanoma Research)

### Mentorship

2016 – Present	Supervisor for PhD, Honours, MD-PhD students – The University of Sydney - Lead supervisor for PhD students; completed 2x PhD students with merit.
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- Lead/Co-supervisor for Honours students; completed 3x Honours students awarded with High Distinction Score and first-class Honours.

#### Impact of previous research

My research has biological and clinical impact. I was the first co-author for the Cancer Cell (IF38.5) and mid senior co-authors for 3xClinical Cancer Research and 1xOncology to report EOMES+CD69+CD45RO+ cells, intratumoural natural killer and T cells are sensitive to immune-based drugs. The signature-driven response markers are now translated into our Personalised Immunotherapy Program at Melanoma Institute Australia. Clinicians can now use these markers to manage treatment decision making for patients.