

# HUMANS OF MEDICAL RESEARCH



## Understanding DISEASE...Finding a CURE

### PROFESSOR PETER HERSEY



Professor Peter Hersey is a true pioneer of immunotherapy for melanoma in Australia and in focusing on the properties of melanoma cells which make them resistant to successful treatment.

As a researcher, Professor Hersey has been a joint holder of a prestigious National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) program grant since 2005, which has been renewed for a third five-year period. He has participated in most of the key clinical trials on immunotherapy with immune checkpoint inhibitors (a drug which blocks certain proteins made by some immune system and cancer cells) and he is a member of the Melanoma Research Institute of Australia.

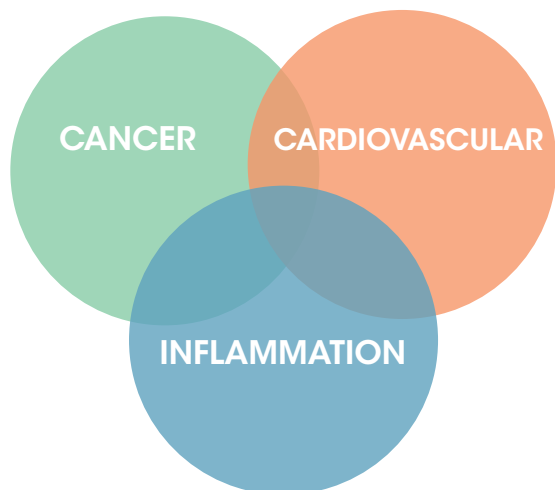
Professor Hersey says, throughout his long career, the most important lesson he has learnt and now passes on to others is, "As a researcher, to be committed and have thinking time and as a clinician, to listen to patients and have responsibility for them."

Professor Hersey has been treating melanoma patients and researching 'Australia's cancer' for decades, "business leaders have said, success is finding a need and then filling it. I have tried to do the same thing in melanoma. The need was great and not being filled by current therapies". He says, as a scientist today, you must be able to "rise to challenges, to think laterally and maintain focus."

Professor Hersey's vast knowledge and experience makes him one of the great mentors at Centenary, helping to advance the careers of scientists in his team. Professor Hersey is generous with his time, despite being a prominent and in-demand national health identity.

His work has been a true passion for Professor Hersey's, but of course his family and his hobbies are also important; sailing, swimming and dining among his favorite pastimes as well as spending time with his family. Professor Hersey has found the perfect balance thanks to "A supportive team, learning from others, respect and luck in finding great colleagues."

### WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?



#### CANCER

Cancer is a disease of the cells, which are the body's basic building blocks.

1 in 3 women and 1 in 2 men will be diagnosed with cancer by the age of 85.

#### INFLAMMATION

Inflammation is the body's natural response to protect itself against harm. There are two types: acute and chronic.

1 in 9 Australians have asthma, around 2.5 million people.

#### CARDIOVASCULAR

Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) is a collective term for diseases of the heart and blood vessels.

Almost 1 in 3 deaths in Australia in 2015 were due to cardiovascular disease.

*Together we are the solution...together we can save lives.*



Ask Peter a question here <https://www.centenary.org.au/meet-professor-peter-hersey/>