

# Dr Camelia Quek PhD, BAdvSci, DipMolBiotech

Cancer Institute NSW Early Career Fellow | Honorary Senior Research Fellow and Senior Lecturer

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 Computational Biology at the University of Melbourne. Dr Quek is an international expert in translational science and has authored multiple publications in cancer research. 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 / Senior Lecturer – The University of Sydney
2016 – 2021	Postdoctoral Scientist (Oncology Bioinformatics) – Melanoma Institute Australia
2016 – 2021	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 <b>Sawyer Medal in Outstanding PhD and Melbourne Research Scholar</b>
2009 – 2011	Bachelor of Advanced Science (Hons Class 1) – Major in Molecular Biology, University of New South Wales <b>University Medal and Golden Jubilee Scholar</b>
2006 – 2009	Diploma in Molecular Biotechnology with Merit, Nanyang Polytechnic <b>Gold Medal</b>

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## KEY PUBLICATIONS \*co-first authors

1. Bai X, Attrill GH, Gide TN, Ferguson PM, Nahar KJ, Shang P, Vergara IA, Palendira U, Pires da Silva I, Carlino MS, Menzies AM, Long GV, Scolyer RA, Wilmott JS, **Quek C**. Stroma-infiltrating T cell spatiotypes define immunotherapy outcomes in adolescent and young adult patients with melanoma. **Nature Communications** 2024;15(1):3014. [Article Influence Score from Clarivate = 5.8]
2. **Quek C\***, Pratapa A\*, Bai X\*, Al-Eryani G\*, Pires da Silva I\*, Mayer A, Bartonicek N, Harvey K, Maher NG, Conway JW, Kasalo RJ, Ben Cheikh B, Braubach O, Palendira U, Saw RPM, Stretch JR, Shannon KF, Menzies AM, Scolyer RA, Long GV, Swarbrick A, Wilmott JS. Single-cell spatial multiomics reveals tumor microenvironment vulnerabilities in cancer resistance to immunotherapy. **Cell Reports** 2024;43(7):114392. [Scopus = Top Q1 in Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology research]
3. 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]
4. 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 from Clarivate's Essential Science Indicators]
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;

## OVERALL TRACK RECORD

### Publications

ORCID: 0000-0002-1244-961X

I have published >40 peer-reviewed articles (1 as co-last senior author, 3 as first-author and 5 as co-first author) and 7 invited reviews (2 as first author and 3 as last senior author).

### Funding

2025 – 2029	NHMRC Investigator Grant
2023 – 2024	Tour De Cure Early Career Research Grant Program
2023 – 2026	NHMRC Ideas Grants
2021 – 2023	Cancer Institute NSW 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 2 PhD students with merit.  
- Lead/Co-supervisor for Honours students; completed 4 Honours students awarded with all High Distinction Score and first-class Honours, and 1 as University Medal.

#### Contributions to analysis tools for research

- Multimodal Integration Toolkit – [https://github.com/cameliaquek/singlecell\\_spatial\\_multiomics](https://github.com/cameliaquek/singlecell_spatial_multiomics)
- FunRich: Functional Enrichment Analysis Tool – <http://www.funrich.org>
- iSRAP: Integrated Small RNA Analysis Pipeline – <https://israp.sourceforge.net>

#### Contributions to large datasets for research

- EGAS50000000238: <https://ega-archive.org/studies/EGAS50000000238>
- PRJEB52880: <https://www.ebi.ac.uk/ena/browser/view/PRJEB52880>
- EGAS00001006977: <https://ega-archive.org/studies/EGAS00001006977>
- PRJEB54666: <https://www.ebi.ac.uk/ena/browser/view/PRJEB54666>
- EGAS00001006982: <https://ega-archive.org/studies/EGAS00001006982>
- PRJEB45846: <https://www.ebi.ac.uk/ena/browser/view/PRJEB45779>
- PRJEB23709: <https://www.ebi.ac.uk/ena/browser/view/PRJEB23709>

#### Media

- MIA's LabLife blog series – Dr Camelia Quek  
<https://bit.ly/3xS1NkR> or [https://melanoma.org.au/news/camelia-quek-lablif/?utm\\_content=300715011&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=linkedin&hss\\_channel=lcp-720442](https://melanoma.org.au/news/camelia-quek-lablif/?utm_content=300715011&utm_medium=social&utm_source=linkedin&hss_channel=lcp-720442)
- Scientific Malaysian Magazine Issue 14 – Cancer. Article entitled "Untangling the genetic mysteries of cancer using computational tools")  
<https://www.scientificmalaysian.com/2018/02/04/scientific-malaysian-magazine-issue-14/>
- iSRAP – a one-touch research tool for rapid profiling of small RNA-seq data  
<https://www.rna-seqblog.com/israp-a-one-touch-research-tool-for-rapid-profiling-of-small-rna-seq-data/>

#### Impact of previous research

My research has biological and clinical impact. I was the first co-author for the Cancer Cell (IF38.5), first or mid senior co-authors for 6xClinical Cancer Research and Cell Reports, and co-last senior author in Nature Communications to report EOMES+CD69+CD45RO+ cells, intratumoural natural killer, T cells and stroma-infiltrating immune cells are sensitive or resistance 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.