



As the hot Queensland summer rapidly approaches we welcome you to the fourth issue of **QSkin News**. It is time to update you about our activities during the past few months.

**Professor David Whiteman  
and Dr Catherine Olsen  
QSkin Investigators**

## Study progress update

As we mentioned in our last newsletter, we have linked the QSkin study database with the Queensland Cancer Registry. We have now also linked the database with records from Medicare Australia, and we are now in the process of analysing these complex records. Medicare captures information on the treatment of non-melanoma skin cancers (basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma) for all QSkin participants who have consented to linking their data. We are also delighted to report two new study publications (see overleaf).



medicare

## QSkin study expands horizons

Several lines of scientific research have suggested that what we eat may influence the development of skin cancer. In addition to limiting our sun exposure, eating certain foods may help reduce our risk. So that we can examine the role of nutrition in the development of skin cancer, we plan to ask each of you to complete a questionnaire through our study website early next year. This questionnaire will ask how often you usually eat different types of foods and should take no more than 40 minutes to complete online. More information will follow on this exciting new development.



Study progress update  
Expanding horizons  
New scientific papers  
QSkin in the news  
Follow-up



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## New QSkin scientific papers

Morze CJ, Olsen CM, Perry SL, Jackman LM, Raineri BA, O'Brien SM, Cicero RA, Whiteman DC for the QSkin Study. A baseline survey instrument to capture self-reported melanoma risk factors in a large prospective cohort study of Australian men and women demonstrated good test-retest reproducibility. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*. (Accepted 27/06/2012)

Olsen CM, Green, AC. More evidence of harms of sunbed use, particularly for young people. *BMJ* 2012;345:e6101.

## QSkin in the news

The Sunday Mail,  
Sunday 9 September

# State of burnout

## Skin cancer hits four in 10

Samantha Healy

FOUR in every 10 Queenslanders have had at least one skin cancer removed.

The world's biggest study of skin cancer surveyed more than 43,000 Queenslanders aged 40-69 – and the results are "sobering".

Professor David Whiteman, from the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, said more than 18,000 respondents had reported having at least one skin cancer surgically removed, burnt or frozen.

"As a researcher you know it is a very, very common cancer, but when you look at the results of the initial surveys from real people, well, you just know a lot more will have developed skin cancer by the time this project is complete," Prof Whiteman said.

Nearly a quarter of those had also reported a family history of melanoma, he said.

"It is not just a funny mole gone

bad, and it can be lethal. That is why it is so important to understand not just their history of sun exposure but also the genetic factors, the environmental factors and so on."

Preliminary results from the QSkin Sun and Health Study were published in the *International Journal of Epidemiology* last week.

The research group chose the 40-69-year age group because the median age for a melanoma diagnosis in Brisbane is 59 years. The average age is even lower in central Queensland at 57 years old.

In total, 43,794 men and women aged 40-69 were selected randomly from the Australian Electoral Roll and will be followed for a decade or so.

Yesterday's National Shade Day started a month-long awareness campaign for the Melanoma Institute Australia.

50 Shades of Queensland  
POSTER P44

## Feedback?

If you have any comments or updated information (e.g. change of address), please contact us:

Tel: 1800 222 600 Email: [qskin@qimr.edu.au](mailto:qskin@qimr.edu.au) Web: [www.qskin.qimr.edu.au](http://www.qskin.qimr.edu.au)

**We wish to send future newsletters by email or by text message. If you have received this newsletter by post, please [email us](#) with your contact details or call the study helpline.**

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