

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June '17 at 1.00pm

Auditorium, Peter Doherty building, ground floor (Corner of Elizabeth & Grattan Streets)

DR MICHELE  
TENG

## The Science of Cancer Immunotherapy: where we are headed

Dr Michele Teng is Head of the Cancer Immunoregulation and Immunotherapy Laboratory at the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute in Brisbane, Australia. She completed her PhD in 2006 at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and University of Melbourne, Australia. Her group is investigating how tumour-induced immune suppression impedes the effective treatment of established cancer. Specifically, she is interested in examining the role of T regulatory cells (Tregs), T-cell anergy/exhaustion, and the IL-23-associated cytokine family in the local tumour microenvironment using experimental and de novo models of cancer. In addition, her group is determining how scheduling of immunotherapies can further improve their antitumour efficacy and have developed a preclinical mouse model to assess how different combination therapies impact on tumour immunity and immune related adverse events.

Cancer immunotherapy will be a major part of the combination treatment plan for many patients with many cancer types in the near future. There are many types of immune processes involving different antitumour and tumour-promoting leucocytes, and tumour cells use many strategies to evade the immune response. The tumour microenvironment can help determine which immune suppressive pathways become activated to restrain antitumour immunity. In the first part of my talk, I will discuss the stratification of the immune tumour microenvironment and design of optimal combination cancer therapies tailored to target different tumour microenvironments. In the second part of my talk I will discuss recent data generated from my laboratory dissecting the mechanistic pathways that are required to be activated by neoadjuvant immunotherapy to induce long-lasting immunity following cancer surgery.

Head, Cancer  
Immunoregulation &  
Immunotherapy  
Laboratory,  
QIMR Berghofer  
Medical Research  
Institute

**Seminar Convenor:** Dr Peter Crouch  
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*A light lunch is provided at 12.45pm*