

Dr Cameron Snell (Anatomical Pathology) 2015 RCPA Foundation Research Fellowship

Project title: Dissecting oestrogen-receptor signalling to predict response to hormonal therapies in breast cancer.

“This research project is designed to interrogate binding partners of the oestrogen receptor (ER) in order to establish a test that may predict the response to endocrine therapy in breast cancer. Many women are treated with endocrine therapies for ER-positive breast cancer, yet receive little clinical benefit and suffer significant side effects. Receiving this award has been extremely important, and provides the basis for developing assays and assembling the retrospective cohort of patients. The project involves the collaboration of several units at the Mater Hospital, including Mater Pathology, the Mater Research Institute and the Mater Cancer Care Centre to provide a multidisciplinary approach to solving this problem. It is hoped that this work will provide the basis for a future prospective trial that will prove the efficacy of this test. Ultimately this will allow for endocrine therapies to be targeted to women that will benefit them, and allow others to pursue more beneficial treatments, including clinical trials, treatments designed to overcome endocrine therapy resistance and chemotherapy.”