

Dr Louise Seymour (Haematology) 2013 RCPA Foundation Research Award

Project title: Circulating biomarkers in classical Hodgkin Lymphoma

“I received the 2013 RCPA foundation Research award for investigation into biomarkers in classical Hodgkin Lymphoma. Hodgkin Lymphoma (HL) is the most frequent lymphoma seen in young adults with a very high cure rate. As long-term disease control of HL in this age group is becoming the norm, the emerging issue is to minimize treatment related complications in survivors. These include secondary cancer, cardiopulmonary complications, stroke and infertility. The number dying from treatment-related complications exceeds the number dying from HL. The aim of my research is to identify easily measurable biomarkers that can accurately predict and monitor a patient’s response to therapy and guide treatment decisions to minimise long term effects of treatment in those likely to be cured early in treatment. They will also facilitate the identification of those with treatment resistant disease allowing a timely switch in therapy to occur. Early data collected so far appears very promising that we will be able to identify appropriate biomarkers. This type of research is so important for the discipline of pathology to evolve with the changing needs of clinicians in the age of personalised medicine. It is also wonderful, as a pathologist, to be in the position to develop these sorts of tests to offer clinicians, that will have such a profound impact on cancer treatment and quality of life of cancer sufferers.”