

*December 2011*

### **LICR receives funding from Cancer Australia and Cancer Council Victoria 2011**

LICR's Dr Jason Waithman has been offered funding of \$196,836 over two years from Cancer Council Victoria and accepted co-funding of \$90,000 by Cancer Australia and Cure Cancer Australia Foundation for his project on the initiation of the cellular immune response to cutaneous melanoma.

Dr Waithman said "Tumour cells are sometimes mistaken for normal healthy cells, which stop killer T cells of the immune system from eliminating them. This study aims to address how dendritic cells (another white blood cell which controls T cell activities) distinguish tumour cells from infectious agents and how they disperse this information to killer T cells".

Director LICR Melbourne-Austin Branch, Professor Andrew Scott has received \$300,000 over three years from Cancer Council Victoria for siRNA Therapies for Colorectal Cancer. Professor Scott's team includes Vino Pillay, Postdoctoral Fellow, John Mariadason, Assistant Member/Laboratory Head and Niall Tebbutt, Medical Oncologist/Senior Clinical Research Fellow.

More effective therapies for colorectal cancer (CRC) are needed as CRC is a leading cause of cancer-related death in Australia despite improvements in diagnosis and treatment. LICR will use cancer targeting antibodies to deliver a potent new therapy called small interfering RNAs (siRNAs) to tumours to silence cancer-causing genes involved in CRC. This will yield a new class of therapeutics with greater combined specificity than any known class of current cancer therapies for the treatment of CRC.

Congratulations to all!