

## Molecules key to melanoma research

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Keith Giles' research is aimed at finding new treatments for skin cancer.

A NEW research study led by Mullaloo scientist Keith Giles into possible treatments for aggressive skin cancer will receive a \$75,000 boost.

The WA Institute for Medical Research (WAIMR) associate will look for new approaches to prevent melanoma growth by focusing on two molecules found to be linked to the deadly disease.

Another WAIMR-based Molecular Discovery Systems' scientist, Robin Scaife, has also received a \$75,000 discovery grant from the Scott Kirkbride Melanoma Research Centre (SKMRC) for a similar study. The grants will begin at the beginning of next year.

Dr Giles said they would investigate if the molecules could slow the progress of melanoma cell growth, and if their presence could make the cells more sensitive to some chemotherapy drugs.

"We're very excited to be able to conduct this research as, unfortunately, melanoma rates continue to increase in Australia, with more than 10,000 cases diagnosed annually," he said.

Dr Scaife said while experimental drugs targeting growth pathways involved in melanoma were showing "promising clinical results", there were several ways to make current chemotherapy drugs more powerful.

The WAIMR Molecular Discovery Systems laboratory has powerful cell imaging and analysis equipment that the pair will use.