

**Dr Kevin Fenix** is a Postdoctoral Researcher in the Liver Metastasis Research Group at the Basil Hetzel Institute, The Queen Elizabeth Hospital. He is currently an Early Career Fellow supported by The Hospital Research Foundation.

**1. When did you start working at the BHI, and with which research group?**

I was recruited as a postdoctoral research officer at the BHI in July 2017 under Prof Guy Maddern and Dr Ehud Hauben within the Surgical Science/Liver Metastasis Research Group.

**2. What were you doing before you came to the BHI?**

Prior to joining the BHI, I completed my PhD based at The University of Adelaide (School of Biological Science, North Terrace Campus) studying the immune system in response to viruses and vaccines.

**3. What attracted you to work/study at the BHI?**

My biggest attraction for working here was access to clinical samples and close collaborations with clinicians from both the RAH and TQEH.

**4. What are the best things about working/studying at the BHI?**

The BHI is a friendly workplace that really promotes collaboration. During my time here, I was able to form multiple collaborations with various groups in the BHI. Something quite unique to the BHI is the amount of support it receives from The Hospital Research Foundation. I was privileged enough to be awarded a THRF Early Career Fellowship in 2018. This support also extends to opportunities to reach out to the public regarding my work.

**5. In a sentence or two, what research question are you working on at the moment?**

I am trying to determine the signals that make a bowel cancer capable of spreading to various organs in the body (metastasis). Metastasis is the leading cause of bowel cancer deaths, by understanding this mechanism, I hope to find new treatments and diagnostics to help bowel cancer patients. Another aspect of my research is studying the immune cells found in cancer tissue. As recent studies have shown, there is a close relationship between tumour-immune cell interactions and patient outcomes.

**6. What is your biggest career highlight so far?**

Being awarded an early career fellowship from The Hospital Research Foundation.

**7. Do you have a favourite memory of your time at the BHI to date?**

The 2017 End of Year celebration was particularly good, it had a good mix of interacting with people from the BHI, plus the lamb on the spit was great!

**8. Would you recommend the BHI as a place to work/study? Why?**

Yes, although the BHI is a lot smaller and maybe less famous compared to other institutes, I think it has unique advantages (access to clinical samples/funding support) that provided the right guidance can make your work/study here very fulfilling.