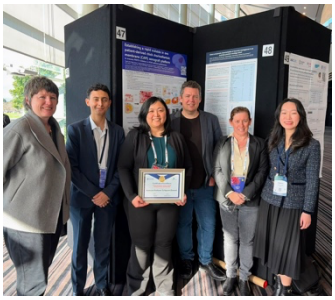
MoLBi Newsletter

August 2026 edition

Dear collaborators, partners, and members of the MoLBi community,

August has been a month where we have started to see more of the science emerging from the infrastructure we have built through MoLBi. With new investigators joining the platform, our genomics and patient-derived models being showcased nationally, and new projects beginning to use MoLBi biospecimens and translational platforms, the focus is increasingly shifting from establishing the platform to unlocking its research and translational potential.

360 tumours and an increasingly powerful research resource: Our living biobank has now grown to 360 tumour specimens, with 23 additional tumours collected since the end of July. Beyond the number itself, what is particularly exciting is how this growing collection is now being used. The increasing depth of our clinically annotated biospecimen resource is supporting new collaborations across tumour biology, genomics, drug delivery and functional modelling, while providing the foundation for an expanding pipeline of precision oncology research.

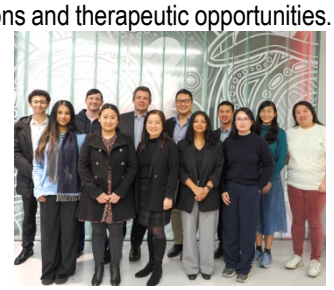


MoLBi at COGNO 2026: MoLBi was also well represented at the recent Cooperative Trials Group for Neuro-Oncology (COGNO) Annual Scientific Meeting (L-R: Liz Ahern, Yoseph Molano, Tu Nyugen-Dumont, Adrian Praeger, Sarah Tozer, Sandra Li). Associate Professor Tu Nguyen-Dumont presented "Decoding brain tumours with nanopore sequencing: early insights from benchmarking a single-assay approach", showcasing her work towards rapid and scalable genomic profiling of brain tumours. Yoseph Molano presented our developing patient-derived CAM platform and its application to evaluating PRMT5 inhibition in MTAP-deficient glioblastoma. Together, these presentations highlight two complementary arms of the MoLBi ecosystem: rapidly understanding the molecular biology of an individual tumour and developing functional patient-derived models in which potential therapies can be tested.

It was also wonderful to see members of the MoLBi team recognised for their research contributions during this period. Congratulations to Tu Nguyen-Dumont (COGNO Research Travel Award) and Yoseph Molano (COGNO Most Outstanding Poster Presentation) on these well-deserved recognitions. These recognitions reflect not only their individual contributions, but also the growing scientific output being generated through the broader MoLBi research community.

New science enabled by MoLBi: Our collaborative network continues to grow, with two exciting new projects. We are delighted to welcome Associate Professor Maggie Zhai and her student Yiping Fan from RMIT University, who will work with MoLBi to explore novel biomaterial-based approaches for local therapeutic delivery in glioblastoma. The collaboration will draw on our patient-derived GBM models, including CAM and PDX platforms, to evaluate innovative approaches to drug delivery and treatment response. This exciting partnership brings together expertise across engineering, biomaterials, cancer biology and patient-derived modelling, further expanding the multidisciplinary research enabled by MoLBi.

We are also pleased to welcome Dr Bhupinder Pal and his student Kurtis Green, who will work with the MoLBi CAM platform to investigate mechanisms involved in tumour angiogenesis and cancer invasion. Their work will use the CAM model to explore how emerging biological pathways may influence tumour growth and vascular development. These collaborations are a great example of what we hoped MoLBi would become: a platform where patient-derived models and high-quality human tumour biospecimens can bring researchers from different disciplines together to rapidly explore new biological questions and therapeutic opportunities.



MoLBi featured by Monash Health: We were delighted to see MoLBi recently featured by Monash Health, highlighting the growth of the living biobank and its role in accelerating research into personalised treatments for brain cancer. The feature reflects how far the platform has progressed since its launch in 2024 and comes ahead of Monash Health Research and Innovation Week, 7–11 September, where Justin and Gwo will present the MoLBi journey and share how the platform is bringing together patients, biospecimens, genomics, patient-derived models and clinical translation.

As MoLBi continues to evolve, it is exciting to see the platform bringing together researchers and clinicians who may not otherwise have had the opportunity to work together. The science emerging from these connections is exactly what we hoped MoLBi would enable, and we are looking forward to seeing these ideas develop into meaningful discoveries and, ultimately, new opportunities for our patients.

With best wishes,

Dr Gwo Yaw Ho
Founder and Chair, Monash Live-Biobanking

Professor Justin Moore
Director of Neurosurgery, Monash Health