# Australian Melanoma Specialist Richard Scolyer Beats Brain Cancer with Novel Treatment



In Sydney, Richard Scolyer, a distinguished Australian melanoma specialist, continues to be free from brain cancer one year after his diagnosis. A seizure initially revealed his condition, identified as the aggressive glioblastoma. Scolyer, who is 57, has been undergoing a novel treatment influenced by his own melanoma research. This experimental approach includes a combination of pre-surgery immunotherapy and a personalized vaccine tailored to his tumor's specifics.

Professor Georgina Long and Scolyer, named the 2024 Australians of the Year, are co-directors at the Melanoma Institute Australia. Their work in immunotherapy has significantly elevated survival rates for advanced melanoma patients—up to 50% from less than 10%. The same principles are now being applied to Scolyer's treatment in hopes of finding a breakthrough for glioblastoma.

Despite the challenging prognosis and the experimental nature of the treatment, there is cautious optimism. This approach could potentially impact the approximately 300,000 people diagnosed with brain cancer globally each year.