

# Your comprehensive genetic testing service

Sonic Genetics brings together the national and international expertise of Sonic Healthcare to provide doctors, patients and families across Australia with a comprehensive range of accredited genetic tests.



## DNA relationship testing

Defining the genetic relationship between people or tissue samples, using DNA markers.



## Oncology

Mutation analysis of cancers, to help clarify diagnosis, prognosis and therapeutic decisions in cancer care.



## Familial disorders

Identifying the genetic basis of familial disorders that affect children and adults.



## Paediatric disorders

Childhood-onset disorders due to new cytogenetic abnormalities and inherited mutations.



## Genetic counselling

Providing access to counselling services to assist in the management of genetic testing in families.



## Pharmacogenomics

Analysis of genes involved in drug metabolism and hypersensitivity, allowing clinicians to prescribe with confidence.



## Immunology

Analysis of genes modifying the risk of disease or responsible for familial disorders of the immune system.



## Reproductive health

Screening of couples prior to conception, or during early pregnancy, including non-invasive prenatal testing.

With the ever-increasing expansion of genetics and genomics across all facets of medicine, we are constantly reviewing available test options and building on our assay menu.

For a full list of our assay menu, please visit [sonicgenetics.com.au](https://sonicgenetics.com.au)

All genetic testing and reporting nationally is overseen by a team of dedicated genetic pathologists, with our service including access to an experienced genetic counsellor.



**Dr James Harraway** MB ChB, FRCPA, DPhil  
*Director – Genetics, Sullivan Nicolaides Pathology*

Dr James Harraway's interest in genetics stems back to high school in New Zealand, when he was introduced to concepts such as round and wrinkled peas, and Punnett squares. After a few years working as a junior doctor, he learned about the (then) relatively new subspecialty of genetic pathology, and started his specialist training. Dr Harraway is interested in all areas of genetics and has particular expertise in inherited and somatic (oncology) genetic testing, and molecular cytogenetics.

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**Dr Melanie Galea** MBBS (Hons), BMedSc (Hons), FRCPA (Genetics)  
*Director – Genetics, Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology*

Dr Melanie Galea is a medical and medical science graduate from the University of Sydney, and attained her FRCPA in Genetics in 2014. Her genetic pathology career has involved exposure to a broad range of molecular and cytogenetic techniques in Australian diagnostic public and private laboratories in New South Wales and Queensland. Dr Galea has a special interest in the application of genetic technologies to clinical medicine, particularly in paediatric and reproductive medicine contexts.

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**Dr Marina Berbic** BMedSc, MBBS, MScMed (RHHG), PhD (Med), FRCPA (Genetics)  
*Deputy Director – Genetics, Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology*

Dr Marina Berbic has undertaken specialist training in genetic pathology at Prince of Wales Hospital and Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology. Dr Berbic is an Adjunct Senior Lecturer in the School of Women's and Children's Health at the University of New South Wales, a member of the Mackenzie's Mission (Reproductive Genetic Carrier Screening) Variant Review Committee, and a member of the Splice ACORD (Australasian Consortium for RNA Diagnostics) Committee. She has a particular interest in reproductive genomics and is passionate about integrating sequencing technologies in clinical decision-making and personalised patient care.

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**Dr Samantha Sundercombe** MBBS (Hons), BSc (Adv), FRCPA (Genetics)  
*Genetic Pathologist, Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology*

Dr Samantha Sundercombe graduated with First Class Honours in Medicine from the University of Sydney, as well as a Bachelor of Advanced Science (Genetics). After clinical training, including experience in obstetrics and gynaecology, she trained as a genetic pathologist at NSW Health Pathology (Prince of Wales and Royal Prince Alfred Hospitals) and Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology (DHM) and joined DHM as a pathologist in 2022. Dr Sundercombe is interested in all aspects of genetics and is more than happy to assist doctors with any enquiries relating to genetic testing.

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**Dr Lauren Akesson** MBBS (Hons), BMedSci (Hons), DCH, PhD, FRACP (Paediatrics, Clinical Genetics), FRCPA (Genetics)  
*Genetic Pathologist, Melbourne Pathology*

Dr Lauren Akesson graduated from the University of Western Australia in 2006 before completing a PhD in cystic fibrosis. She underwent specialist physician training in paediatrics and clinical genetics before qualifying as a genetic pathologist. Dr Akesson has experience in the breadth of clinical genetics, including reproductive genetics and hereditary predisposition to cancer. She holds honorary positions at the University of Melbourne and Royal Melbourne Hospital. Dr Akesson has a special interest in implementing new approaches to genetic testing and understands the importance of patient-centred care.

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**Belinda Dopita** BSc, MScHS, FHGSA (Genetic Counselling)  
*Genetic Counsellor, Sonic Genetics*

Belinda Dopita is an HGSA-certified genetic counsellor with a Master's degree in Genetic Counselling. She has more than 20 years' clinical experience in both the public and private settings and has practised in the USA and Australia. Belinda provides genetic counselling for high-risk Sonic Genetics patients and couples across Australia. She is the outgoing ACT state representative for the Australasian Society of Genetic Counsellors and has a long history of service with the Human Genetics Society of Australasia. With a background in psychology and counselling, she has a special interest in reproductive genetics and genetic education.

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### Sonic Genetics is Sonic Healthcare's centre of excellence in genetic pathology testing.

As the largest pathology provider in the country, Sonic Healthcare's state-of-the-art laboratories and extensive network of collection centres serve each state and territory capital, as well as regional and rural Australia.

- Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology
- Sullivan Nicolaides Pathology
- Melbourne Pathology
- Capital Pathology
- Clinipath Pathology
- Bunbury Pathology
- Clinipath Pathology
- Hobart Pathology
- Launceston Pathology
- North West Pathology
- Southern IML Pathology