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Experts study organ recipient cancers

ORGAN transplant patients are developing non-melanoma skin cancers at 30 times the rate of the Queensland population, prompting scientists to launch research into ways to reduce their risk.

Researchers from QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute and the University of Queensland have joined forces

with Princess Alexandra Hospital specialists to study kidney and liver recipients when they develop skin cancer to devise better prevention and treatment strategies.

If they can reduce skin cancer in transplant patients, it is also expected to have a knock-on effect to the rest of the population. Transplant pa-

tients' chances of developing skin cancer, living in the world's most at-risk region for skin cancer, are increased jointly by sun damage and the immunosuppressive drugs they take to prevent rejection of donated organs.

The project is being funded by the Australian Skin and Skin Cancer Research Centre.