

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate use
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\$3.6 million for Leukaemia Foundation research projects in 2014

The Leukaemia Foundation has announced \$3.6 million in funding for 21 additional national research projects, including three in Queensland, as part of its commitment to a cancer-free future.

The 2014 research allocation, funded through the Foundation's National Research Program, brings to 71 the research projects currently funded by the Foundation at leading research institutions across Australia.

These latest awards cover the spectrum of blood cancers, investigating their causes, epidemiology, diagnosis, treatment, psychosocial impact and management, and will support the Foundation's strategy to find better treatments and improve outcomes for blood cancer patients while searching for cures.

In Queensland this year, two new grants-in-aid and one PhD scholarship, totalling \$319,336, have been provided:

GRANTS IN AID

Dr S Lane et al
Queensland Institute of Medical Research, QLD
[New ways to optimise stem cell transplantation](#)
\$100,000 / Jan-Dec 2014

Dr S Mattarollo et al
Diamantina Institute, The University of Queensland, QLD
[Treating blood cancers by activating and boosting the immune system response to cancer](#)
\$99,336 / Jan-Dec 2014

PHD SCHOLARSHIP

Ms K Lineburg
Queensland Institute of Medical Research, QLD
[Identifying the cells and pathways that contribute to chronic GVHD](#)
\$120,000 / Jan 2014 to Dec 2016

Leukaemia Foundation of Queensland CEO Bill Petch said: "The three projects we are funding in Queensland are focused on improving the viability of stem cell transplantation, using a new vaccine to boost the body's immune response to non-Hodgkin lymphoma, and better understanding graft-versus-host disease (GVHD) which is a significant risk following a stem cell transplant."

"The Foundation is able to continue these vital investments in research thanks to the support we receive for our fundraising events such as *World's Greatest Shave*."

Blood cancer is the third biggest cause of cancer death in Australia¹. It is estimated that six Queenslanders will be diagnosed today with a blood cancer such as leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma or a related blood disorder. .../2

“Blood cancer can affect anyone, of any age, at any time and its causes remain largely unknown. It can't be predicted or prevented, so a vital part of our research program is basic research that studies the roles and effects of different genes and pathways in the development of blood cancers”, Mr Petch said.

“Understanding this better provides opportunities to manipulate the defect or pathway to slow down or prevent the development of blood cancer.”

Grant recipients were selected through a rigorous process. Independent expert peer review committees rank the applications and make selection recommendations to the Foundation's Medical and Scientific Advisory Committee, an independent panel of leading Australian blood cancer researchers, clinicians and consumer representatives.

Each year in Queensland, the Leukaemia Foundation commits around \$1.3 million to research into blood cancers and related blood disorders.

In addition to funding research, the Leukaemia Foundation provides free services to support people with blood cancers such as leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma, or related blood disorders.

¹ *Australian Bureau of Statistics, Causes of Death, Australia, 2011*

(See [accompanying list of 2014 national grant recipients](#))

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