Each September, something inspiring happens all over the world: the blood cancer community stands together to raise awareness about leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma and the many related blood disorders.

And so it’s during global Blood Cancer Awareness Month that I warmly welcome you to the Leukaemia Foundation’s Blood Cancer Conference.

I’m excited to join you today in glimpsing the pioneering work of Australia’s brightest blood cancer minds as they share the latest advances in cancer research, disease management, treatments and wellbeing.

This conference is part of the Leukaemia Foundation’s commitment to driving rapid advancements in treatments, encouraging the careers of promising scientists, discovering new diagnostics and novel therapies, and giving Australians access to global clinical trials. Our attention is firmly fixed on investment in innovation – in diagnosis, treatments and improving quality of life across the blood cancer spectrum.

Equal access is important, too, and so we’re going to share as much content from the day as possible on a new resources hub at leukaemia.org.au. I’d encourage you to visit and share that content when it becomes available.

Today wouldn’t be possible without the many thousands who choose to support the charity each year, including generous conference supporter Tour de Cure.

On behalf of everyone at the Leukaemia Foundation thank you for being here today, and thank you for being part of our wonderful community this Blood Cancer Awareness Month.

Bill Petch, CEO
Leukaemia Foundation
The conference will open with an official Welcome to Country, performed by a Wurundjeri Elder. This Welcome serves as an important reminder that we are gathering to meet on the lands of the traditional owners, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, and we take this opportunity to pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

**PROGRAM**

The conference will open with an official Welcome to Country, performed by a Wurundjeri Elder. This Welcome serves as an important reminder that we are gathering to meet on the lands of the traditional owners, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, and we take this opportunity to pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

### 9.45am Registration

#### WELCOME & KEYNOTE ADDRESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Welcome to Country</td>
<td>Wurundjeri Elder</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Leukaemia Foundation of Australia</td>
<td>Bill Petch, CEO</td>
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<td>Humanity into Healthcare</td>
<td>Dr David Joske</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Patient experience with personalised medicine</td>
<td>Deborah Sims</td>
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### 12.30pm Lunch

#### PLENARY SESSION 1 - TRANSPLANT AND SURVIVORSHIP

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.30pm</td>
<td>Allograft</td>
<td>Dr Amit Khot</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Autograft</td>
<td>Professor Andrew Grigg</td>
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<td>Physical wellbeing</td>
<td>Assoc Professor Prue Cormie</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Emotional wellbeing</td>
<td>Jane Fletcher</td>
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### 2.30pm PLENARY SESSION 2 - DISEASE SPECIFIC

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.30pm</td>
<td>Understanding adult acute leukaemia</td>
<td>Dr Chun Fong</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Understanding NHL</td>
<td>Dr Jake Shortt</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Understanding CML</td>
<td>Professor Tim Hughes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Understanding CLL</td>
<td>Dr Maryanne Anderson</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Understanding MM</td>
<td>Dr Micheal Low</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Understanding MDS</td>
<td>Dr Melita Kenealy</td>
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<td>Understanding MPN</td>
<td>Dr Lynette Chee</td>
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<td>Understanding WMs</td>
<td>Professor Judith Trotman</td>
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<td>Caring for the carer</td>
<td>Maryanne Skarpas/Amanda Ferguson</td>
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### 3.30pm Afternoon tea

#### CLINICAL TRIALS Q&A

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<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>3.45pm</td>
<td>What are clinical trials and how do they work</td>
<td>Delaine Smith (ALLG)</td>
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<td>Clinician-led clinical trials compared to company-led clinical trials in Australia</td>
<td>Professor Andrew Roberts</td>
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<td>How to find and access information on current clinical trials</td>
<td>Dr Gareth Gregory</td>
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### 5pm Close

**PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY**

TOUR de Cure

#5words2bloodcancer

Leave your message to blood cancer in five words!
Post it on our conference social media wall today!
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

PROFESSOR DAVID JOSKE
Humanity into Healthcare

David Joske is a clinical haematologist at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Western Australia, and was Head of Haematology 1994 – 2012. His clinical and research interests include the treatment of lymphomas and supportive care in cancer. He has held two NHMRC Grants, is a University of Western Australia Clinical Professor of Medicine, has published over 75 peer-reviewed publications and given a TED talk on “Re-humanising Cancer Care”. He founded Solaris Cancer Care in 2001, was the WA Social Entrepreneur of the Year, has been a finalist four times for Western Australian of the Year and plays guitar in a blues band.

DEBORAH SIMS
Patient experience with personalised medicine

Deborah Sims is a journalist by trade and was diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukaemia in 2011 at the age of 38. After failing chemotherapy she moved overseas to enter a phase 1 combination trial of two new therapies in 2015. She has commuted between Melbourne and London ever since to continue on the trial and secure access to her daily drug which is maintaining her remission. Deborah is currently the Director of Relationships and Engagement at the Institute of Public Affairs in Melbourne. Deborah has three children and works to raise awareness of the need for patients to have appropriate access to clinical trials.

DR AMIT KHOT
Allograft

After graduating from the University of Pune, India, Dr Khot trained in Internal Medicine in India and the UK, where he qualified as a Member of the Royal College of Physicians. He completed training in laboratory and clinical haematology in London, UK, obtaining a Fellowship from the Royal College of Pathologists. This was followed by a clinical research fellowship involving early phase clinical trials in cell therapies and myeloma at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. Dr Khot has published in international journals and presented in international conferences in his fields of interest of cell therapies, haematopoietic progenitor cell transplantation, myeloma and early phase clinical trials. He currently works as a Consultant Haematologist at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and Bendigo Health and is an investigator in clinical trials involving novel agents in myeloma and advanced haematologic malignancies.

PROFESSOR ANDREW GRIGG
Autograft

Professor Andrew Grigg is a clinical haematologist consulting at Eastern Haematology Oncology Group. He has been the Director of Clinical Haematology at the Austin Hospital, Melbourne since 2010. Andrew is an experienced haematologist with a broad interest across the spectrum of haematological disorders, both benign and malignant. In addition to 20 years of service at The Royal Melbourne Hospital, he has also been involved as an investigator in a number of national studies in acute myeloid leukaemia (AML), non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL), chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML) and acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL). He has recently established a new allogeneic bone marrow transplant program at the Austin and directs a special interest group in lymphoma and active research programme in immunotherapy for haematological malignancies.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR PRUE CORMIE
Physical wellbeing

Associate Professor Prue Cormie is an accredited exercise physiologist whose research and clinical work focuses on the role of exercise in the management of cancer. Her track record includes over $3 million in competitive research grant funding, over 70 refereed publications and book chapters and over 150 invited presentations including a TED talk. Prue has produced influential research exploring the efficacy of targeted exercise prescriptions in counteracting significant side effects of cancer and cancer treatments. Her work has been recognised with awards including the Cancer Council WA Early Career Cancer Researcher of the Year Award and the WA Young Tall Poppy of the Year Science Award. Prue is the inaugural Chair of the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia Exercise Cancer Group and leads the Exercise and Sports Science Australia Cancer Special Interest Group. A core component of her work is invested to translating research into practice for meaningful improvements in health care services for people with cancer.

JANE FLETCHER
Emotional wellbeing

Jane is a health psychologist with over 15 years’ experience working with individuals with cancer. Having established Melbourne Psycho-oncology Service in 2008, Jane continues to offer evidence based intervention to individuals, couples and families at all stages of the cancer experience from diagnosis to bereavement. She has extensive experience using cognitive-behavioural therapy, acceptance and commitment therapy, a range of existential approaches and mindfulness based interventions. She is qualified in medical hypnosis and uses this for the treatment of cancer related sleep disorder, phobic and conditioned responses. She has a special interest in sexuality and is experienced in a range of specific interventions for the psycho-sexual issues associated with a cancer diagnosis. Jane is passionate about offering care to those diagnosed with less common cancers.
**DR CHUN FONG:**
Understanding adult acute leukaemia

Dr Chun Yew Fong is a clinical haematologist consulting at Eastern Haematology Oncology Group and a staff specialist at Austin Hospital as the medical lead for acute leukaemias and myelodysplastic syndromes. After graduating from The University of Melbourne, he completed physician training and advanced training in haematology at Melbourne’s leading hospitals. He obtained dual Fellowships of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia. Ensuring that he remains abreast of developments in his field, Chun undertook formal research training at The University of Cambridge and at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre; working to apply scientific breakthroughs to the patients he treats. He has a special interest in the treatment of haematological malignancies.

**DR JAKE SHORTT:**
Understanding non-Hodgkin lymphoma

Dr Jake Shortt is a Clinician Scientist in the Cancer Therapeutics Program at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and a Consultant Haematologist at Monash Health. He is an Honorary Senior Fellow at the University of Melbourne and an Adjunct Senior Lecturer at Monash University. Dr Shortt is the Eva & Les Erdi Snowdome Foundation and Victorian Cancer Agency Fellow for new targets in haematological malignancy. Dr. Shortt’s research interests include novel and epigenetic therapies for haematological cancers. He treats a range of benign and malignant haematological conditions in the clinical setting and is a Principal Investigator on phase 1 - 3 clinical trials at Monash Health.

**PROFESSOR TIM HUGHES:**
Understanding chronic myeloid leukaemia

Professor Tim Hughes holds a faculty appointment at South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) where he is the Head of Translational Leukaemia Research. He is also Head of the Department of Haematology at SA Pathology, and Consultant Haematologist at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. He teaches as a Clinical Professor of Medicine and holds a Practitioner Fellowship from the National Health and Medical Research Council. His clinical interests include chronic leukaemias and myeloproliferative disorders. His current research interests are in molecular monitoring for leukaemias, clinical resistance to targeted therapies in leukaemia and the development of assays to predict response and resistance to targeted agents. He has published over 100 articles in peer-reviewed journals.

**DR MARY ANN ANDERSON:**
Understanding chronic lymphocytic leukaemia

Dr. Anderson finished her training in haematology in 2011. Since then she has been working at Royal Melbourne Hospital, Walter & Eliza Hall Institute and the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer centre as a haematologist and clinician scientist. As a clinician scientist, her focus is on new treatments for leukaemia and lymphoma. Her studies investigate potential anti-cancer agents that target proteins that keep cancer cells alive. The long term goal is to develop better treatments for people with cancer, without the serious side effects of chemotherapy. Dr Anderson’s research has focused on the BH3 mimetic agent, ABT-199, assessing it as a potential new treatment for people with certain leukaemias and lymphomas.

**DR MICHAEL LOW:**
Understanding multiple myeloma

Dr Michael Low is a Haematologist at the Monash Medical Centre. Dr Low undertook his PhD studies jointly at Monash University as well as the Walter and Eliza Hall Research Institute for which he was awarded the prestigious Gus Nossal Award by the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia for his studies into survival pathways in myeloma. Dr Low continues to be the principal investigator on a number of clinical trials in myeloma being undertaken at Monash Medical Centre. Dr. Low’s clinical and research interests include haematological malignancies (eg lymphoma and myeloma) as well as treatment of iron deficiency. He has published in numerous international journals including Journal of Nutrition, Canadian Medical Association Journal, British Journal of Haematology and Cochrane Library of Systematic Reviews.

**DR MELITA KENEALY:**
Understanding myelodysplastic syndromes

Dr Melita Kenealy is a Consultant Haematologist at Cabrini Hospital, Victoria. She manages patients with all blood and bone marrow disorders including lymphoma, myeloma, leukaemias and myeloproliferative and myelodysplastic disorders. Dr Kenealy is a consultant physician and a specialist in Clinical Haematology as well as having a qualification as a Haematopathologist. Dr Kenealy has an active research interest in Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS) and in epigenetic therapies. She was awarded the Max Whiteside Leukaemia Foundation Scholarship in 2006, and has been an active member of the Australasian Leukaemia and Lymphoma Group pioneering new treatments in MDS. Dr Kenealy has an interest in translational research, investigating the mechanism of action of epigenetic and immunologic treatments and researching biomarkers which may predict a good response to therapy.
DR LYNETTE CHEE: Understanding myeloproliferative neoplasms

Dr Chee is a Consultant Haematologist and Bone Marrow Transplant Physician at the Royal Melbourne Hospital and has a keen interest in the management of myeloid malignancies; specifically myelodysplasia, myeloproliferative disorders and acute myeloid leukaemia. Dr Chee’s PhD and post-doctoral research investigating novel retinoids in the treatment of AML1-ETO leukaemia has been published in leading Haematology journals and presented at both national and international conferences. She is actively involved in clinical and translational research through the Australian Cancer Research Foundation Translational Research Laboratory and Haematology Department at Royal Melbourne Hospital.

PROFESSOR JUDITH TROTMAN: Understanding Waldenstrom’s macroglobulinaemia

Professor Judith Trotman is Director of the Haematology Clinical Research Unit, Concord Hospital, Sydney. Dr Trotman is a leading recruiter in the INNOVATE study of Rituximab +/- Ibrutinib in WM, and leads the WM cohort analysis of a large study of Zanubrutinib presented at recent international conferences. She is principal investigator on a number of ALLG lymphoma studies and co-PI on the Waldenstrom’s Macroglobulinaemia Study Involving CART-WHEEL (WhiMSICAL), an innovative research partnership with patient investigators from the W MOZzies and the IWMF. Patients consent online and enter their own patient-derived data at www.cart-wheel.org. More than 310 patients globally have entered their symptoms, haemoglobin, IgM and treatment data into WhiMSICAL. The inclusion of validated patient reported outcomes will comprehensively chart the patient voice through their journey with WM.

MARYANNE SKARPARIS: Caring for the carer

Maryanne is very experienced in supporting patients and their carers on the emotional rollercoaster following a diagnosis of blood cancer. Maryanne holds a diploma of Applied Science, Community Welfare and Health and has successfully completed a variety of certificates in crisis counselling, grief counselling, ego state therapy, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, mindfulness, Lifeline Counsellors Training (Certificates 1 and 2) and a Certificate IV in Workplace Health and Training. Maryanne believes her greatest teachers have been the people living with blood cancer who she has met whilst working with the Leukaemia Foundation.

Maryanne has a natural ability and great empathy in supporting people with emotional, financial and practical needs that arise from a blood cancer diagnosis.

AMANDA FERGUSON: Caring for the carer

Amanda joined the Leukaemia Foundation in early 2013. She is based in Brisbane and is a senior member of a team of Blood Cancer Support Coordinators who provide support to people living with blood cancer, their carers and their family, after a blood cancer diagnosis. Her role involves assessing the needs of the individual while they undergo treatment and beyond and assisting, where possible, in navigating these pressures. Amanda has a special interest in myeloma, runs Cooking for Chemo in Brisbane, and supports people living with blood cancer and their families at the Lady Cilento Children’s Hospital. Amanda is a Registered Nurse who has worked exclusively in the Haematology/Oncology area since she graduated in 1991. Since joining the Leukaemia Foundation she has also been trained in Acceptance and Commitment Therapy.

DELAINE SMITH: What are clinical trials and how do they work?

Delaine is the Chair of the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA) Executive Officer Network, and has held a range of advisory appointments in key government and industry sectors. Delaine is the CEO of the Australasian Leukaemia & Lymphoma Group (ALLG), she recently lead the ALLG to commence its own in-house trial centre which opened in July 2013. A key priority for the ALLG research effort is the sustained functions of the Tissue Bank facility.

PROFESSOR ANDREW ROBERTS: Clinician-led clinical trials compared to company led-clinical trials in Australia

Professor Andrew Roberts is Research and Education Lead for Haematology across the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre. An experienced haematologist and laboratory researcher, he champions the role of research in continuing to improve the care that we provide to people with blood cancers. Joint appointments with the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute and the University of Melbourne ensure that clinical care provided by the integrated clinical haematology department of Royal Melbourne Hospital and Peter Mac is linked to the precinct’s world leading research. The major focus of his research includes the molecular basis of leukemogenesis and lymphomagenesis; molecular basis of resistance to chemotherapy and targeted therapies; BCL-2 inhibitors and BH3 mimetics; and clinical trials of novel therapies.

DR GARETH GREGORY: How to find and access information on current clinical trials

Dr Gareth Gregory is a Consultant Haematologist and Clinical Lead for Aggressive Lymphoma at Monash Health, Research Fellow at Monash University and Project Manager for the Melbourne Genomics Health Alliance Lymphoma Project. He completed a PhD on targeted therapies in lymphoma and is passionate about translating innovative molecular genetic approaches to guide clinical practice and improve outcomes for patients with poor risk lymphoma.