

LIFEBLOOD

BEATING BLOOD CANCER TOGETHER



**Backing the
brightest minds
in blood cancer**

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MAKING THE NEXT BREAKTHROUGH POSSIBLE

We're committed to researchers who are dedicated to driving rapid advancements in treatments, discovering new therapies, and launching innovative clinical trials.

One of these researchers is Dr Siok Tey (pictured), a leading Australian expert in bone marrow transplantation and cancer immunotherapy.

"I fell into research by accident; towards the end of my specialist training, I had a teenage patient with very problematic Hodgkin lymphoma," said Dr Tey.

"Seeing how patients were struggling through the chemotherapy or radiotherapy



treatment is what inspired me to enter the field of immunotherapy, where the immune system is used to kill cancer cells instead.

"I wanted to help make this promising field a therapeutic reality for our patients."

"I was very fortunate the Leukaemia Foundation awarded me a PhD scholarship, enabling me to focus on my research training and develop my career as an academic clinician."

Dr Tey is a senior research fellow at the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute and a practising clinical haematologist at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH).

Dr Tey's current research focus is bone marrow transplantation and immunotherapy.

"Bone marrow transplantation is a type of immunotherapy where the transplanted donor cells are very good at killing leukaemia cells.

"Unfortunately, these cells can also damage other organs, causing graft-versus-host disease (GVHD)."

Dr Tey is currently part of a nationwide collaboration formed to tackle GVHD and improve bone marrow transplant outcomes.

The Leukaemia Foundation will contribute \$1million over five years to this effort which will have a huge impact for transplant recipients.

You can read more about this project and Dr Siok Tey at leukaemia.org.au/drsioktey

MEET OUR NEXT GEN RESEARCHERS

In partnership with the Haematology Society of Australia and New Zealand (HSANZ), we've helped fund three Clinical and Science PhD investigators to get their start in blood cancer research:



ELIZABETH LEISCHKE
Scientist - Walter and Eliza Hall Institute

Ms Leischke's study aims to understand why some blood cancer cells die, whilst others lead to patient relapse.



DR WEI JIANG
Haematologist - Westmead Cellular Therapies Group

Dr Jiang will be conducting trials to establish the safety and efficacy of T-cell immunotherapies.



DR KARTHIK NATH
Haematologist - Mater Research Institute

Dr Nath aims to develop a deeper understanding of the biology of follicular lymphoma.

By investing in new talent we're ensuring blood cancer research continues to have significant and real-world outcomes for people living with blood cancer. With special thanks also to the Bill Long Charitable Trust, Equity Trustees and Bridgestone Australia for their contribution to the program.

You can read more about the program at leukaemia.org.au/phd-scholarships-program/

DANIELA IS BACK ON HER FEET

Can you imagine this – you’ve just moved to a foreign country, without your support network of family and friends. Suddenly, a blood cancer diagnosis. Treatment is urgent.

This is exactly what Daniela Kohutova faced. She was just 24 and recently immigrated to Australia from Slovakia when she was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive form of lymphoma.

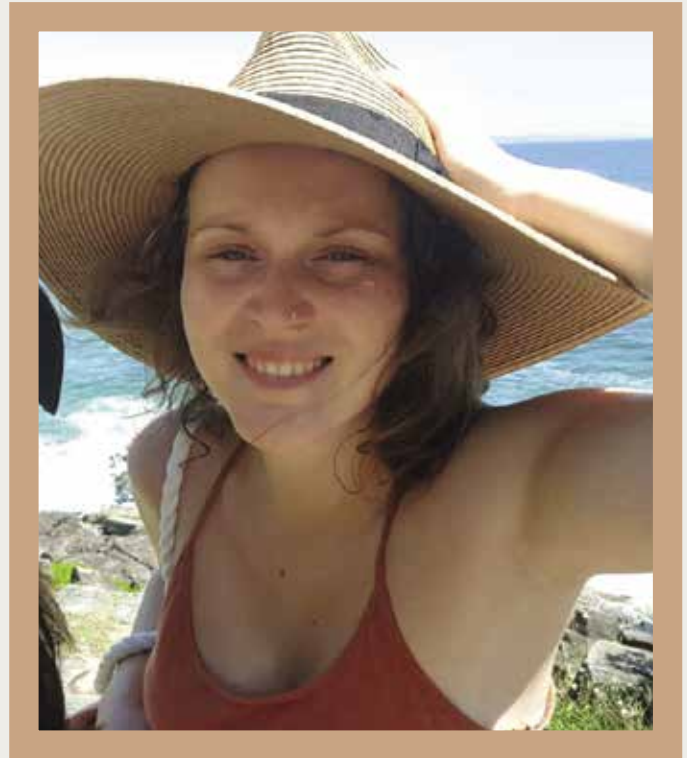
Daniela was working in a Brisbane restaurant and studying English when she started having lower back pain and head spins. When blood tests came back, Daniela had almost no white blood cells, red blood cells or platelets!

Daniela went through seven months of treatment and spent most of that time in hospital, going home only for a few days between cycles of intensive chemotherapy.

“Back in Slovakia, I was a biology teacher. I’d studied the human body and thought I knew about everything. Then I came to hospital and realised everybody hears about chemo, but nobody knows what it is,” said Daniela.

“The side-effects and what it does to you, that’s a completely different story.”

This is where the support of so many bighearted Australians comes in. Thanks to our generous supporters, Daniela was helped during her treatment by a visit from a blood cancer support coordinator while she was in hospital.



“I was helped out with some bills and also was able to attend a support group,” said Daniela.

Our support for people living with blood cancer works in so many ways – Daniela was also amongst the first group of people to benefit from the Fit to Thrive exercise program. This is a free 12-week exercise program helping patients of all ages cope with treatment and get back to normal life, faster.

Daniela’s remission continues and she is so grateful for the support she received.

You can read more amazing stories at leukaemia.org.au/inspiring-stories

KEEPING THE WHEELS IN MOTION

This year, generous donations helped volunteer drivers make 32,940 trips to ensure nearly 2,000 patients were delivered to and from treatment safely.

The Leukaemia Foundation is also extremely grateful to Holden, who for 16 years have supported the patient transport program with a fleet of spacious Commodores.

Later this year, Holden will complete their in-kind partnership as they continue to evolve their community support programs.



We thank Holden for providing this incredible service to people living with blood cancer for close to two decades.

Transport will continue to be a priority service for people living with blood cancer keeping volunteer drivers on the road.

GIFT IN WILL GIVES HOPE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Since being diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma in 2010, John-Michael Barrie and his wife, Belinda, have developed a keen interest in improving outcomes for those diagnosed and found leaving a gift in their Will the perfect way to be a part of something bigger.

"The current research is really exciting – it makes us so happy to think we can change outcomes for patients like John-Michael," said Belinda.

"The Leukaemia Foundation also saved us from financial ruin, providing us with accommodation for the duration of John-Michael's treatment and many other beautiful gestures of support, making us feel like we were not going through this terrible time alone."



The Leukaemia Foundation is extremely grateful to all our supporters who have chosen to leave a gift in their Will to beat blood cancer.

If you would like to know more about how your gift in Will can help beat blood cancer please contact Emma Quigley on 0435 962 162 or equigley@leukaemia.org.au

GO GENERIC FOR RESEARCH

There's now an innovative way for people living with blood cancer to support vitally needed medical research.

For Benefit Medicines (FBM) supports the Leukaemia Foundation through a partnership where 100% of profits from a generic drug called Cipla imatinib will be invested into important blood cancer research.

This drug, used to treat chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML), is approved and meets the same strict quality and safety regulations applied to the original brand of imatinib regarding quality, safety and effectiveness.

"By going generic, people living with CML can make a significant contribution to our patient support and research. We encourage individuals to have considered discussion with their family and haematologist before making the switch," said Leukaemia Foundation CEO, Bill Petch.

Find out how to make the switch at forbenefitmedicines.com.au

BRINGING THE CHRISTMAS CHEER

During December, families staying in our patient accommodation villages were surprised with a special Christmas hamper full of goodies to get them through the festive season.

In a team effort between our bighearted supporters and our principal partner, Bridgestone Australia, every family currently staying at our 169 apartments across Australia was given a hamper to ease the added stress of being so far from home over Christmas.

We are committed to making sure families going through a diagnosis didn't miss out on the magic of Christmas!



MAKING PERSONALISED CARE POSSIBLE

We recently launched a new personalised service for people living with chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL).

In Australia approximately 1300 people are diagnosed with CLL each year but around two-thirds are not calling for help.

So we launched a project to understand what people with CLL go through and how they can be better supported, sooner.

This project has now led to a new, personalised program called Cancer Concierge.

Cancer Concierge works with the individual to understand their experience with CLL and provides support throughout the challenges of the disease so they can live better with the condition.

Wayne Clark (pictured), diagnosed with CLL a decade ago, took part in the project;



"I really enjoyed being a small part of the committed team that worked on the project which will allow the growth, development and provision of wider support to people with CLL."

You can read more at:
leukaemia.org.au/cll-cancer-concierge

CHLOE & FAMILY SAY "THANK YOU"

Leukaemia Foundation Accommodation Villages across Australia were a home-away-from-home for many rural and regional families over the Christmas period.

One of those families were the Warrens, who are staying at our Stirling Cross Village in Perth while seven-year-old Chloe undergoes treatment for acute myeloid leukaemia (AML).

Lovely messages of support were sent to Chloe from our supporters - Chloe's Mum, Erin, said she adored reading every one of them.



The family were extremely grateful for the Christmas spirit! When they moved into the village the first thing that came to Chloe's mind when they moved into the village was if Santa would still be able to find her this year.

It shows you just how important



Christmas is, for children like Chloe. How much they look forward to this special time of year and how much that support can make all the difference.

Chloe has just finished cycle three of her chemo treatment and is waiting to start cycle four which will hopefully be her final treatment.

The good news is that Chloe's last bone marrow check came back with amazing results and she is hoping to return home soon.

You can read more about Chloe's journey at leukaemia.org.au/chloexmas

YOU CAN SHAVE THE WORLD FROM BLOOD CANCER!

In 2019 the Leukaemia Foundation will celebrate 21 years of the World's Greatest Shave campaign, and it's promising to be bigger and better than ever.

This March, more than 20,000 extraordinary Aussies will help beat blood cancer by getting sponsored to shave or colour their hair during the Leukaemia Foundation's World's Greatest Shave.

Following a proud history of "shaver chins", Shaverhands is the new chin in town on a mission to avenge the world from blood cancers - you may well have already spotted her on TV. With shavers for hands, the evil forces of cancer are no match for our new superhero, Shaverhands.

Will this year be your superhero moment?

Sign up Now and Shave the World from Blood Cancer! at worldsgreatestshave.com

SIGN UP NOW!



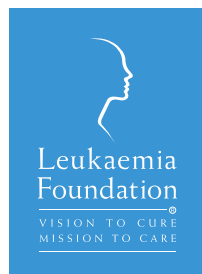
THANK YOU FOR 10 YEARS OF LIGHT THE NIGHT

30,000 people and 137 locations around Australia: so many of you came together at Light the Night to walk beside those facing blood cancer and remember loved ones lost.

Proud lantern holders at Light the Night raised over \$1 million this year to invest into research to improve treatment approaches for people living with blood cancer

Danny Poljak was our highest fundraiser in 2018 raising an amazing \$18,008.40. Thank you Danny!

Thank you to everyone who fundraised and walked to honour those going through their blood cancer journey, as well loved ones lost.



**BEATING
BLOOD
CANCERS
WITH LOVE,
SWEAT &
TEARS.**

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