

<b>Project title</b>	<b>Ultra-sensitive monitoring of Acute Myeloid Leukaemia using blood and urine</b>
Recipient	Dr Hun Chuah
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Research description	<p>Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML) is an aggressive form of blood cancer. Every year, 1000 Australians are diagnosed with AML. Despite treatment, only 25% of these patients survive more than 5 years after diagnosis. The major cause of death is relapsed disease. The aim of this project is to improve this poor outcome by developing sensitive disease monitoring tests so that relapse can be detected much earlier and treatment can be initiated in a more timely manner.</p> <p>Current blood tests available are too insensitive and bone marrow biopsy, currently the best method, is too invasive to be performed regularly to monitor AML. Ninety six percent of patients with AML have one or more changes in their genes (mutations) relevant for AML. This study will make use of this fact and use genetic analysis of blood and urine samples to monitor these mutations specific to each patient. The results will be compared with patient outcomes to see if they can predict relapse earlier. Doing so would improve outcome by earlier initiation of treatment.</p>
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