

YOUR GENEROSITY AT WORK.

Research Program 2019



What we are funding.

This year*, we have allocated over \$3 million in funding to support local cancer research.



- Cancer Council WA Research Excellence Awards
- Cancer Council WA Research Project Grants
- Cancer Council WA Collaborative Cancer Research Grant Scheme
- Cancer Council WA Suzanne Cavanagh Early Career Investigator Grants
- Cancer Council WA Research Fellowships
- Cancer Council WA Postdoctoral Research Fellowships
- Cancer Council WA PhD Top Up Scholarships
- Cancer Council WA Paul Katris Honours and Masters Scholarships
- Cancer Council WA Student Vacation Research Scholarships
- Target-Specific Funding
 - Cancer Research Trust Enabling Grant
 - Cancer Council WA Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumour Initiative (GIST)
 - Cancer Council WA Professorial Chair
 - Cancer Council WA Cancer Prevention Unit
 - The Priority-driven Collaborative Cancer Scheme

*2018/2019 financial year allocation.

Funding world-class local research.

Our competitive research program aims to retain world-class researchers here in WA and foster a strong local research community. There are two main reasons we place such importance on funding the finest research across the best WA institutions:

- to ensure we're contributing to the global effort against cancer
- to ensure West Australians are connected with the latest research into prevention, understanding and treatment of cancer

Targeting every angle.

We are committed to funding research that enables us to target cancer from every angle. This includes prevention, detection and treatment, as well as improving the emotional and social impact of cancer. We support projects with the potential to translate into practice and result in real improvements for West Australians.

Ensuring the highest quality.

Thanks to the generosity of our incredible supporters we remain the largest charitable funder of independent cancer research in WA.

It is critical that we use every donation in the most effective and efficient way possible. As such, all applications for funding go through a competitive, peer-reviewed process to ensure we fund only the highest quality research.

Continued investment in high quality, locally-relevant research is the key to building momentum towards a cancer free future.

Cancer never rests...

So neither do we.

In addition to our research funding program, we provide a number of other vital services to the West Australian community.

- We work with the community to change laws and policies to reduce cancer risks and improve cancer care.
- We empower West Australians to reduce their cancer risk through prevention programs such as SunSmart, Make Smoking History and LiveLighter.
- We support all West Australians affected by cancer through our wide range of support services including;
 - our 13 11 20 cancer information and support line
 - our free wig service
 - free exercise, yoga and meditation classes for cancer patients and their carers
 - our transport to treatment service
 - our Lodges for country cancer patients who need to stay in Perth for treatment
 - practical and financial assistance and legal and financial planning advice
 - counselling and support groups
 - complementary therapies such as massage, reiki and reflexology

For more information about any of our services, please call our Cancer Nurses on 13 11 20.

Message from our CEO, Ashley Reid.

As WA's leading cancer charity, every day we're working to support families, prevent cancer and save lives.

From providing support to West Australians affected by cancer, to speaking out on behalf of the community, stopping cancer before it starts and finding new ways to better detect, treat and defeat cancer - we're working across every aspect of every cancer to achieve our vision of a cancer free future.

As a not-for-profit organisation, we rely on the generosity of people like you to continue this life-saving work.

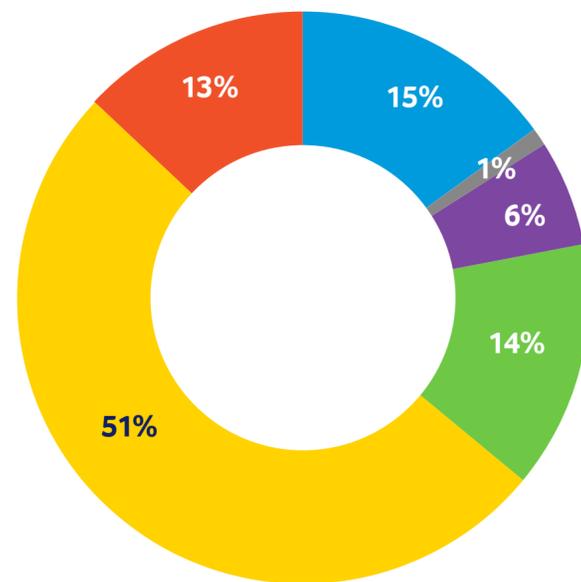
We can't do what we do without you.

Thank you.



Ashley Reid
Chief Executive Officer

Research funding highlights in 2019.



- Understanding how cancer works
- Causes of cancer
- Prevention
- Detection, diagnosis, prognosis
- Treatment
- Patient care and survivorship

Striving towards a cancer free future.

Since our research funding program began in 1963, we've contributed over \$50 million to 1014 local research projects. This incredible investment has only been possible thanks to the generosity of the West Australian community.

Thanks to cancer research, today's survival rates for the most common cancers are more than 90 per cent. The overall five-year survival rate for those diagnosed with cancer is 69 per cent.

Although we're making great advancements, there is still more to do.

Last year, around 12,000 West Australians heard the words "you have cancer" and these numbers will continue to grow.

Our latest estimates show 1.9 million Australians will have a personal history of cancer by 2040; that's another 800,000 people living with or beyond cancer.

This means in the coming years, our services - and cancer research - will be needed more than ever.

We hope you'll continue to support us as we strive towards a cancer free future.



Thanks to your generous support, we've committed over \$3 million in funding to new and ongoing local cancer research projects this year*.

Learn more:

To learn more about the groundbreaking research we're funding visit cancerwa.asn.au/research

Support cancer research:

If you would like to help fund life-saving cancer research please visit cancerwa.asn.au/research or call our donation hotline on 1300 65 65 85.

Thanks to you, we're getting closer to a cancer free future.

*2018/2019 financial year allocation.



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Chair of Clinical Research in WA



PROF MICHAEL MILLWARD
The University of Western Australia

This role is greatly improving the outcomes of WA cancer patients by increasing the number of patients who are able to participate in clinical trials.

CHAIR FUNDS: \$385,000

Developing blood tests to guide treatment of melanoma

DR ELIN GRAY
Edith Cowan University

The research aims to develop blood tests that will guide doctors treating melanoma patients. These tests will ensure that the best treatment option is being provided and will enable close monitoring of the disease throughout their treatment.

FELLOWSHIP FUNDS: \$100,000 in 2019
(total of \$400,000 for 2019-2022)

How does impaired energy production cause prostate cancer?

PROF ALEKSANDRA FILIPOVSKA
Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research

The aim of the research is to find a more reliable early indicator of prostate cancer using our knowledge of gene mutations. This will enable more accurate early diagnosis and help with treatment choices.

FELLOWSHIP FUNDS: \$20,000 in 2019
(total of \$80,000 for 2019-2022)

Cracking the code to successful cancer immunotherapy

DR JONATHAN CHEE
The University of Western Australia

This research aims to understand why some mesothelioma patients respond better to immunotherapy than others. The project will use mathematical models to determine gene changes and identify the patterns of change over time that can predict successful treatment outcomes. This will help guide doctors in determining optimal treatment plans.

This fellowship is funded in partnership with Reflections Through Reality.

FELLOWSHIP FUNDS: \$75,000 in 2019
(total of \$225,000 for 2019-2021)

Prognostic significance of physical activity and sedentary behaviour in people with advanced non-small cell lung cancer

DR VIN CAVALHERI
Curtin University

The research is investigating the link between time spent sedentary and time spent being physically active in people with inoperable lung cancer. The study is likely to show that prolonged time spent sedentary (sitting or lying) during the day is linked with shorter survival in those patients. It is the first time this research has been undertaken.

FELLOWSHIP FUNDS: \$75,000 in 2019
(total of \$225,000 for 2017-2019)

Mesothelioma is an asbestos related cancer with a poor prognosis. It also has one of the fastest growing incidence rates in Australia. WA has one of the highest rates of mesothelioma in the world, in contrast to other countries where it is considered a rare disease. We continue to enable cutting edge, world-class research in the study of mesothelioma which is providing hope to patients with this insidious disease. In 2019, five of the six grants are focussed on mesothelioma.

Novel molecules for the diagnosis and treatment of mesothelioma

A/PROF STEVEN MUTSAERS
The University of Western Australia

This project is working on developing better methods for the diagnosis and treatment of mesothelioma, by exploring the potential of using small particles of genetic material called transfer RNA-derived fragments located in a patient's blood. The study could lead to a simple blood test for early diagnosis and more targeted therapies.

PROJECT FUNDS: \$100,000

Studying the translational biomarkers from a positive clinical trial of chemo-immunotherapy

PROF ANNA NOWAK
The University of Western Australia

This study analyses blood specimens from patients involved in a cutting edge immunotherapy trial in mesothelioma, to help understand the body's response. This will fine-tune treatments and enhance outcomes, particularly in those patients who may otherwise not respond well.

PROJECT FUNDS: \$99,800

Optimisation of tumour vaccination strategies for cancer immunotherapy



PROF BRUCE ROBINSON
The University of Western Australia

This project will work on new mutation-based vaccines by investigating the targets of attack and subsequent immune responses to these vaccines. Optimising tumour vaccination strategies will help overcome obstacles in using this approach to treat cancer.

PROJECT FUNDS: \$100,000

Investigating how key immune cells contribute to cancer growth in the elderly and impair response to cancer treatment

DR CONNIE JACKAMAN
Curtin University

This project will compare key cancer-promoting immune cells known as macrophages in tumours from young versus elderly hosts. This will assist in identifying new avenues for anti-cancer therapy in the elderly.

PROJECT FUNDS: \$100,000

New therapies for hepatocellular carcinoma

PROF PETER LEEDMAN
Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research

Patients with liver cancer invariably develop resistance to current targeted therapies. The team will investigate new ways to overcome treatment resistance in liver cancer that may result in novel combination therapies and improved outcomes for these patients.

PROJECT FUNDS: \$100,000

Unveiling the interaction between tumour cells and bone cells

DR LAURENCE CHEUNG
Telethon Kids Institute and Curtin University

The research will investigate the microenvironment (neighbouring cells) of cancer cells in children with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia. There is an urgent need for new approaches to reduce the toxic side effects of current treatment and treat those children who have poor outcomes. Understanding the microenvironment in which leukaemia cells grow may lead to improved treatments for these patients.

GRANT FUNDS: \$34,700

Nutrients for brain tumours - fats or sugars

DR HAIBO JIANG
The University of Western Australia

The research team will utilise state of the art imaging technology to study brain tumours and in particular how they use nutrient sources to grow. The aim of the research is to yield new knowledge that can be used to develop better diagnosis and treatment strategies.

GRANT FUNDS: \$34,800

Improved diagnostic testing for better breast cancer outcomes

DAVID RANKIN
The University of Western Australia

It is very important that we determine what type of breast cancer a patient has so that they receive the best kind of treatment. This is particularly important for breast cancers that have high levels of 'HER2', a protein made in excess by certain breast cancer cells. The overall aim of this project is to prove that a new test developed by the research team is superior at measuring HER2 levels compared with existing diagnostic tests.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS: \$3,000

Determining what care is provided to patients with high grade Glioma and their carers

DAVINA DAUDU
The University of Western Australia

A larger study is being conducted, determining the efficacy of a supportive and educational intervention for carers of patients with High Grade Glioma (HGG). To determine how effective this intervention is, it is important to understand what care is currently available to these carers. This study is investigating the supportive care and allied health services available to both patients with HGG and their carers. This will help inform future policy recommendations.

This scholarship is funded in partnership with the James Crofts Hope Foundation.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS: \$3,000

Collaborative Cancer Grant Scheme for Early to Mid-Career Investigators. These grants are funded in partnership with Cancer Council WA, The Government of Western Australia, Curtin University, Edith Cowan University, The University of Western Australia and Telethon Kids Institute.

New type of radiation to treat triple negative breast cancers

DR ANABEL SOROLLA
The University of Western Australia

DR SERGII ROMANENKO
The University of Western Australia

DR ALMANTAS PIVRIKAS
Murdoch University

DR JULLY GOGOI TIWARI
Curtin University

This collaborative team of researchers are working towards developing a more tailored, less toxic, targeted treatment option for Triple Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC). This new therapy will use non-harmful millimeter radiation (heat) in combination with drugs to target the receptor TRPV1. The activation of TRPV1 is known to lead to cancer cell death. TNBC is a very aggressive type of breast cancer for which current treatments are not very effective, showing poor outcomes for patients with a diagnosis of TNBC.

GRANT FUNDS: \$50,000

A study to treat cancer-related weight loss in patients with mesothelioma



PROF FRASER BRIMS
Curtin University

DR CAROLYN PEDDLE-MCINTYRE
Edith Cowan University

DR SAMANTHA BOWYER
Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital

DR FELICITY HAWKINS
The University of Western Australia

This research joins early to mid-career researchers from four West Australian institutes to examine the potential of a new medicine, shown to work in some cancers, to reduce, or reverse weight loss in individuals with a diagnosis of mesothelioma. Every patient in the study will receive this medicine but in a random order so it can be tested against a placebo (inactive tablet). Medical imaging will be used to measure how body fat and muscle change. Quality of life will also be measured. This small, world-first study may lead to better quality of life of people with mesothelioma and improve our understanding of treating weight loss in cancer.

GRANT FUNDS: \$49,583

OUR RESEARCH INVESTMENT.

