

ANNUAL REPORT 2017/2018



For over thirty years the Children's Leukaemia & Cancer Research Foundation (Inc.) has been raising funds for research into childhood cancers.

The Foundation relies on the generous support of the community to continue its vital research, as we do not receive State or Federal funding.



WHO ARE WE?

The creation of the Foundation was inspired by nine year old Jennifer Harper, who was diagnosed with leukaemia in 1977. When her father, Peter Harper, discovered that there was no research into children's leukaemia being done in Western Australia, he set out, together with other parents of children with cancer, to raise funds for this purpose. Sadly Jennifer passed away in 1978.

Australia has one of the highest incidences of childhood cancer worldwide. One in 500 Australian children will develop a cancer before 15 years of age – that's 600 Australian children diagnosed every year. Childhood cancer is the single greatest cause of death from disease in Australian children, with three children losing their lives to cancer every week. In Australia, childhood cancer is second only to breast cancer in terms of the number of years of life lost by the disease.

The quest to find cures for childhood cancer is one of medicine's greatest success stories. Fifty years ago only two percent of children with



cancer survived. Medical research alone has improved overall survival rates to 80 percent. With childhood cancer still the leading cause of death from disease in Australian children, there is more work to be done. There are still particular childhood cancers – such as brain tumours and neuroblastoma – with survival rates as low as 50 percent.

CLCRF has a commitment to ensure this groundbreaking research continues so that the future generations will be the ones to live cancer free. The Foundation relies on the generous support of the community to continue its vital research, as we do not receive State or Federal funding.

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Committee of Management AS AT 30/06/2018

Mr Geoffrey CATTACH, AM (Chairman)

Mr Philip BRUCE (Vice Chairman)

Mr Kim WILLIAMSON (Treasurer)

Mr Justin BRUCE (Secretary)

Mr Kimon ANDERSON

Professor Ursula KEES

Mr Michael PARKER

FOUNDER Mr Peter HARPER

Life Members Mr Philip BRUCE Mr Geoffrey CATTACH, AM Mr Peter FALCONER, OAM Professor Ursula KEES Mr Kim WILLIAMSON

Administration Staff

Mrs Andrea ALEXANDER (Chief Executive Officer)

Mrs Wendy KEARNS (Executive Officer)

Miss Katelyn LUSH (Executive Assistant)



Chairman's Report

It is with pleasure that I once again report to members on the operations of the Children's Leukaemia & Cancer Research Foundation (Inc) for the year ended 30th June 2018.

The economy continues to challenge us in terms of both community and corporate support however we have managed to maintain and, in some instances, increase our research funding given our excellent accumulated fund position.



Finance:

In my Chairman's Report last year I advised that, after consultation with the Foundation's Auditors, we had adopted a different mode of financial reporting for that which is consistent with "Not for Profit" (NFP) organisations as distinct from commercial trading enterprises.

Accordingly, rather than a specific profit or loss each year, we report on fundraising achieved less the cost of that fundraising with the difference being applied to funding current research projects with support from accumulated funds if required. The Treasurer will go into more detail of both the reporting format and the financial outcomes in his report.

Funding of Grants:

I am pleased to report that for the period under review our Foundation has been able to maintain the high level of research funding during 2017/18, a snapshot of the research grants currently being funded are as follows:

- (i) Triennial Block Grant (2015 2018) Researchers: Dr Rishi S Kotecha and Dr Laurence C Cheung Titled: Testing New Drugs for Infants with High Risk Leukaemia - amount funded 2017/2018 was \$523,319.
- (ii) \$1M Recognition of Excellence Funding Grant Researchers: Dr Laurence C Cheung and Dr Rishi S Kotecha Titled: Molecular Genetics of Childhood Tumours – amount funded 2017/2018 was \$62,888.
- (iii) Novel Therapies NUT Midline Researcher: Dr Anja Stirweiss Titled: Novel Therapies for Patients with Drug Resistant NUT Midline Carcinoma - amount funded 2017/2018 was \$2,471.
- (iv) CLCRF Fellowship Grant Researcher: Dr Mark Cruickshank Titled: Molecular and Immuno-Therapy Targets for High Risk Leukaemia - amount funded 2017/2018 was \$134,641.
- (v) Molecular Targets for High-Risk Leukaemia Researcher: Dr Mark Cruickshank Title: Are there germ-line molecular targets in high-risk leukaemia? - amount funded 2017/2018 was \$140,139.

(vi) Publication Costs

Researcher: Associate Professor Alex H Beesley **Titled:** *Publication costs of NMC Manuscript (Genetics) -* amount funded 2017/2018 was \$7,588.

(Vii) Ursula Kees Fellow

Researcher – Dr Sebastian Malinge **Titled:** *To develop new tools to identify cancer cells resistant to current therapy and test a new drug therapy to destroy them* - amount funded 2017/2018 was \$123,553.

We are extremely grateful and accordingly extend our congratulations, in the first instance, to Professor Ursula Kees and, following Ursula's retirement, Professor Terrance Johns, and our dedicated team of researchers for their continued achievements both locally and internationally.

The past 12 months has been a year of transition from our operational format we have used for over thirty years to the new format as a \$1 MILLION PARTNER OF TELETHON and to this end extend our appreciation to Professor Johns who has been instrumental in bedding in the new format.



Telethon Trust:

In my last year's report, I announced that our Foundation had been invited to become a "MILLION DOLLAR PARTNER" of Telethon, and it was through this partnership that in this current calendar year we were able to expend \$1.5M in research to benefit children with childhood cancers thereby improving their quality of life and to hopefully live normal lives.

Whereas our overall brief is to support research into all forms of childhood cancers, our focus over the past 38 years has been primarily leukaemia, then brain tumours and other rare cancers. With the additional \$500K triggered by our partnership with Telethon we have been able to expand our research endeavours to continue paediatric brain cancer research as well as new funding for paediatric sarcoma research.

I want to clearly advise our own very generous and loyal donors that nothing has altered in our current research funding arrangements as we already contribute around \$1M annually to research projects undertaken at the Telethon Kids Institute and it is these funds that represent the "Million Dollar Partnership".



Telethon Kids Institute:

Once again we are proud to acknowledge the wonderfully cooperative working relationship we enjoy with the Telethon Kids Institute and, in particular, extend our thanks and appreciation to Professor Jonathon Carapetis, the Institute's Director, and Tim McInnis, Head of Development.

Our relationship with TKI has reached a new level given that during the year we signed off on a new "Funding Agreement Memorandum of Understanding" that encompasses the research funded through the \$1 MILLION PARTNERSHIP with TELETHON and, of course, the additional funding (\$250K or higher) triggered by the \$1M Partnership.

The true value of this partnership is best measured by the fact that our Foundation, in collaboration with TKI, was able to increase our research funding programme in the 2018 calendar year by 50% being \$500K.

I would like to take this opportunity of congratulating Professor Jonathon Carapetis who recently was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours for significant contribution to medicine and paediatrics.

Marketing Strategy & Development:

We have been very fortunate with the appointment of Kylie Dalton and Michele Seymour of Absolute Edge Media (AEM) to create, manage and coordinate all of the Foundation's public relations, events management, social media, digital communications streams, marketing, branding and promotion over the past five years.

AEM have been instrumental in creating new income streams and in particular, the very successful innovative and creative "Dance for a Cure" and the annual Quiz Night. AEM continue to work closely with the CLCRF researchers and our Ambassadors to bring public awareness to our cause.

Accordingly, I am pleased to announce that we extended AEM's contract to bring it in line with triennial block grant funding and we look forward to the continued development of community and media relationships.



Corporate Support Committee:

I would also like to commend our Corporate Support Committee under the Chairmanship of Kimon Anderson, who has undertaken the challenge of creating new income streams from the corporate sector.

It is exciting to experience the evolution of the "Bench to Bedside" programme that is now up and running as well as the innovative and exciting "Board Room Series" designed to meet with 'captains of industry and commerce' in order to create an awareness of our future research funding requirements.

It is sincerely hoped that the ultimate success of these strategies will be a definitive signpost to our future successes and financial viability.



Community Activities:

Once again we are amazed at the wonderful and diverse support we receive from benefactors, businesses and the community at large.

Whilst such contributions will be individually acknowledged in our Chief Executive Officer's Report, I would pay particular mention of the wonderful contribution of the 2017 South West Bike Trek which raised \$31,186 and I am delighted to announce that the 2018 trek, which finished on the 13 Oct, has raised \$36,376. Since its inception in 2002, this event has now the raised the amazing total of \$703,274.

In acknowledging the wonderful success of the South West Bike Trek over the past 16 years. I would like to specifically thank and congratulate Eric Maddock and his wife, Annette, for the tremendous effort and dedication that they have given to this event over the past two years. I would also like to thank first time participant Katelyn Lush for competing and promoting the Foundation at many locations between Perth and Augusta during the 2018 ride. When not 'biking' Katelyn doubles as a most valuable member of our administration team.

I congratulate members of our Community Fundraising Committee, under the chairmanship of Justin Bruce who have worked cohesively with Kylie Dalton and our own Foundation staff together with the many volunteers who assisted in our fundraising endeavours. I would also like to acknowledge that it is not just monies that are raised from these events but the awareness created which in turn initiates even greater support of our research endeavours.

Governance Issues:

I reported in last year's Annual Report that the Foundation was addressing governance issues, in particular, with regulations with the new ACNC Act (Australian Charities & Not for Profit Commission) and the drafting of a new Constitution which requires updating after 30 years and the need for compliance with the ACNC. The new constitution has now been formally adopted and addresses all statutory requirements.

It is pertinent to note that the purpose of the ACNC is to set out a minimum standard of governance and to promote public trust and confidence in registered charities.

Patron:

We are extremely pleased that Justin Langer, our inaugural Patron, has, once again, agreed to continue in this role for the next appointment period of 2019.

We were extremely fortunate to have Justin accept the position of our first Patron and it is no surprise that he still holds this position. Notwithstanding his many commitments he has always given his support to the Foundation whenever called upon.









Ambassadors:

I am also extremely pleased to advise that Dr Ros Worthington OAM and Radio personality, Lisa Fernandez, along with Lisa Scaffidi are continuing in their role of Ambassadors to the Foundation.

Our CLCRF Ambassadors, who, together with our Patron, Justin Langer, help provide a public and community awareness of the Foundation. This last year we have seen the emergence of former Telethon Child, Georgia Lowry, who has taken on the role of our "Young Ambassador" assisting generally in our fundraising endeavours.

Georgia is a wonderful role model to children who are dealing with cancer and uses her experiences on her journey to inspire a whole new generation of child cancer patients with hope.

We are excited that all our Ambassadors will support our Foundation in any way they can and help showcase the need for continued funding into childhood cancer research.



Professor Ursula Kees:

The Chairman's Report for last year regrettably included an announcement of the retirement of Professor Ursula Kees from her role as Head Researcher for the TKI's Leukaemia & Cancer Research Laboratory.

Ursula's wonderful contribution to research into childhood cancers over the past 33 years are well documented and acknowledged both nationally and internationally and it was at our last AGM that we announced, in collaboration with both TKI and our Foundation, the following honours to mark her retirement:

- Life Membership of the CLCRF
- Naming by TKI of the Ursula Kees Fellow
- A Symposium by TKI to honour Professor Ursula Kees

I am pleased to further announce that Ursula's outstanding

not be lost to us as she is now an invaluable addition to our Board of Management.

Foundation Staff:

Our Foundation is fortunate to have competent and enthusiastic staff looking after our administrative needs. Such is their enthusiasm there is no such thing as a 9 to 5 work environment nor is it a surprise to see them as an integral part of the Foundation's overall endeavours voluntarily contributing their time in all sorts of ventures out of working hours.

To our CEO, Andrea, Executive Officer, Wendy and Executive Assistant, Katelyn, I extend my personal appreciation for your passion towards the Foundation, your, expertise and efficiency plus outstanding loyalty in your collective administrative roles.







Vale Lou Giglia:

It is with great sadness that I acknowledge the passing of Lou Giglia earlier this year.

Lou was an inaugural and long term Board Member (1980 – 1997) and invaluable contributor to the formation and growth of this Foundation.

To his lovely wife, Maria, we pass on our condolences on the loss of your beloved Husband, Father and Nonno – Lou will always be remembered as a great supporter and a true gentleman.

Committee of Management:

We are also fortunate to have very dedicated and enterprising members of our Committee of Management, all of whom give willingly of both their time and expertise as well as business acumen ensuring that our Foundation operates efficiently and effectively in their stewardship of our operations.

I am personally extremely grateful to each and every member of the Committee of Management, all who certainly make my role as Chairman a pleasure.

CONCLUSION

Our Foundation has now been in existence for 38 years, during this period of time we have raised in excess of \$34M, the research we have funded has made wonderful advances in the treatment of childhood cancers, our membership continues to grow and best of all we have been able to save young lives and give them the opportunity of a future.

To all of our wonderful members who have supported and contributed to this success, please accept our sincere thanks and grateful appreciation.

I wish everyone a very Merry Xmas and look forward to an exciting and challenging New Year.

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Geoffrey R Cattach AM CHAIRMAN

5 December 2018



Chief Executive Officer's Report

I am pleased to report to the Members of the Children's Leukaemia & Cancer Research Foundation (Inc) for the financial year 2017/2018.

Corporate Benefactors

Beyond Bank Community Reward Grant Program

For the month of August, 2017 CLCRF was one of three charity organisations competing in the 'Vote for Good' Community Reward Grant Program held by Beyond Bank. The charity which had the greatest number of online votes on the Beyond Bank website, by the end of August, was to be awarded a \$10,000 grant.

At the award night, held in October, it was announced that our Foundation had gathered the greatest number of votes from the community and had won the \$10,000 grant.

Our thanks to Beyond Bank for this support, we are delighted to be forging a great relationship with this organisation.





Toolmart

CLCRF was once again one of two beneficiaries to benefit from funds raised at 2018 Toolmart's Tradie Expo. During the June weekend Foundation volunteers collected \$5,182 from patron donations at the gate. Thank you to our volunteers and board members who gave up time on their weekend.

Additional donations of \$1,791 were also received via the 'Toolmart's Loyalty Program' catalogue sales and proceeds from vending machine sales at Toolmart locations.

Benefactors

Royal Perth Golf Club – Ladies Charity Committee \$45,000

The Royal Perth Golf Club Ladies Charity Committee run a large golf day in October every year to raise funds for charity. CLCRF was chosen to be the major beneficiary in 2017. The ladies raised funds from the day (with close to 200 ladies playing golf), a bridge club (with over 50 members) and other activities, such as market stalls, fashion parade and raffles.





Mr John Hughan \$75,000

Mr Hughan has been supporting CLCRF since 1998. His generosity continues to amaze us.



Tate Family Foundation \$25,000

This gift represents the seventh year of the Tate Family Foundation's support of childhood cancer research.



Stan Perron Charitable Foundation \$10,000

Mr Perron and his Foundation have been a very loyal and generous supporters of the Foundation since 1996.



2018 Dance for A Cure Quiz Night

Our second Dance for a Cure Quiz Night was held on Friday 8 June at Lathlain Function Centre with \$16,000 being raised. Thank you to the many wonderful people who gave generously, attended and supported the cause.

50% of the participants had attended the previous year, which was very encouraging. We would like to thank our wonderful volunteer team for their

fantastic efforts from obtaining all the prizes, to setting up and running the night. Special thanks to the team at Perth Demons Football Club for their support of the night and CLCRF and to our MC Mark Gibson.

The funds raised this year will assist with the organisation of the 2018 Dance for a Cure.

Gifts in Wills:

During the year under review the Foundation received, in total, **\$556,101** from the below-mentioned estates.

Bloomfield, Maxine	Cormack, Esma
Croker, Irene	De Gennaro, Daisy
Edwards, Ruth	Heath, Jean
Jenkins, Marjorie	Johnson, Walter
Leidl, Helen	Miller, Nigel S
Money, Phyllis	O'Brien, Marie
O'Connell, Lottie	Panaia, Antonio
Roach, Lola M	Wood, Margaret
CLCRF was unaware of these gifts until the benefactors had passed.	

To these individuals and organisations, we extend our sincere thanks for their generous support of the Foundation.

There were many others who have provided support and financial assistance during 2017/2018. Their generosity is greatly appreciated. Donations of \$500+ are listed elsewhere in this report.







2017 Friends of Finlay Camp Out

The Friends of Finlay Camp Out was held on Saturday 25 November. A great experience for the whole family, this event saw 150 people camp out under the stars for a good cause.

The Camp Out kicked off at 3pm with the campers setting up their tents, followed by footy drills and cricket playing with the Perth Demons.

There was face painting, bubble-blowing, sack races, obstacle courses and a very popular bouncy castle which kept the children thoroughly entertained for hours.

A barbecue dinner was served and everyone kicked back to listen to musicians Sally Jane and Double Shots. The main lights were then turned off at 10pm.

On Sunday morning, families awoke to continue the camping experience, kids played on the bouncy castle and giant snakes and ladders game whilst their parents sat back with a coffee before starting to pack up their tents to head home. Those that attended really appreciated the chance the turn off the technology and camp together as a family.

A total of \$9,040 was raised from this event. Thanks to Lotterywest for their support of the camp out, West Coast Eagles, Perth Demons Football Club, Royal Life Saving Society, Corporate Security Australia, Absolute Edge Media and to our volunteers who helped on the weekend.







Donation Appeal Campaigns

From each raffle campaign the Foundation has been able to establish a database of donors in addition to raffle supporters. Tax and Xmas donation appeals were sent to this donor database in 2017/18, as well as to a select number of donors from the Foundation database.

All four campaigns were successful and represent an effective complimentary fundraising program to the raffles. Net cash received from the campaigns was \$82,500, which was an increase from last year.

Western Charity Alliance

During the year under review CLCRF joined forces with Diabetes WA, Rebound WA & Royal Life Saving WA to form the Western Charity Alliance (WCA). WCA is a charity collective that allows the public to support four West Australian charities simultaneously.

This is by the purchase of a joint ticket which has one ticket in each charities current raffle. This allows the public to give more back to the community. It also allows the Alliance partners to minimise fundraising costs and share the resources required to connect supporters with the impact each charity makes in WA.

A unique example on how charities can work together to make a difference. To date the public have been very supportive of this concept.







Tele-Marketing Raffles

There were three raffles completed during the year ending June 2018. Revenue from these raffles totalled \$219,046 which, after expenditure, resulted in a surplus of \$70,892. Donations received via the raffles were included in the revenue figure.

Although the surplus figure was down compared with 2017 and 2016, it must be noted that there are even more charities now undertaking this type of fundraising.

Our raffles continue to increase our profile in the community around Australia.

The Royal Life Saving Society WA (RLSSWA), through its call centres in Manjimup and Bridgetown, continues to undertake our telemarketing calls and the Hello Call Centre look after the administration of the raffle funds.

It should be noted, that these raffles are on a cost recovery basis and RLSSWA make NO profit from the services provided to the Foundation. We are extremely grateful to RLSSWA for their continued support of our cause; this relationship goes back well over 17 years to 2001.

Romsey House – Christ Church Grammar



The Foundation has a very long history with Romsey House at CCG dating back to 1991. That's over 27 years Romsey House have been supporting CLCRF.

In 2017 Romsey House held a quiz night for CLCRF. Through the generous donations of the Romsey families, a number of raffles and silent auctions a total of \$9,661 was raised. CLCRF is truly indebted to the students, parents and staff for their ongoing dedication to our cause.

Other Schools

Other funds were raised by Beaumaris Primary School, holding a free dress day and Harvey Primary School, donated and participated in the South West Bike Trek.

Poseidon Primary held a 'hairraising' fundraising event supporting one of their students who had recently been diagnosed with leukaemia, whilst Mount View Primary School held a market day, Bunbury Primary School did a lolly jar guess fundraiser and Yerecoin Primary School held a crazy hair day.

We thank all of these schools for their generous donations.



2017 South West Bike Trek

The Foundation's 14th South West Bike Trek kicked off in Mandurah on Monday the 9th October and finished in Augusta on Saturday the 16th, covering approximately 600 kilometres.

This event would not be possible without the support of the many service clubs, shires, companies and individuals and in particular our new Bike Trek Organiser – Eric Maddock and his wife Annette. A total of \$31,186 (under community activities) was raised from the trek.

Community Fundraising

During the 2017/18 period \$207,908 was raised from community based activities, and increase from last year.

There have been many events raising awareness and funds for CLCRF from a Cookie Fundraiser at TAFE, our Italian friend, Antonio Argentieri being part of a "Cooking Charity Show" in Italy, Mandurah Over 55's Kayak Club (20th year) paddle, Pyjamas and Dancing at the Sharon Biddle School of Dance, Nambung Country Music Muster and the Wellard Campdraft.

This figure also included Bench to Bedside donations, entertainment book sales, Friends of Finlay donations, merchandise and event sales, annual donation from NIBA, regular giving from donors and service club support.











Website

www.childcancerresearch.com.au

Absolute Edge Media continue to update our website regularly with details of events, stories, etc. This past year saw a dramatic increase in the amount of stories written for the website and then shared across our social media channels and eNewsletters.

During the period under view \$9,780 was donated via the website. This is a reduction from last year's figure, but this would be because when a donation comes in via the website, if it's for the tax/xmas appeals etc – the donation is allocated to that campaign not the website.

Regular Giving

A number of CLCRF supporters chose to donate on a regular basis during 2017/18. Donations received from these gifts totalled \$13,660, and increase from last year (under community activities).

Workplace Giving

This area of support has increased since 2017/18. CLCRF is registered with Good 2 Give Workplace Giving which enables employees to make pre-tax donations to registered charities direct from their pay.

CLCRF also received donations directly from a number of companies for their employees. A total of \$18,780 (under community activities) was received via this method of giving.



Foundation Update

Two editions of the Foundation Update were published during the period under review. Thank you to Michele Seymour from Absolute Edge Media for her expertise in this area of graphic design and support with the creation of stories.

We believe it is important for the members who receive these newsletters to be kept up to date with what we are working towards and achieving each month.



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Fund Raising Platforms

Support for the Foundation has continued to come from many people around the world. CLCRF's fundraising profile continues to be strong via the online fundraising entities such as Everyday Hero, Go Fundraise and My Cause.

Funds raised via these platforms totalled \$22,200 during 2017/18. The Everyday Hero Giving Hub built into the website has been regularly used by supporters when creating their own events.

Social Media

https://www.facebook.com/CLCRF

Currently CLCRF has 3,882 Facebook followers and provides a powerful communication platform for our members & supporters. This also allows us to engage further with our supporters and reach a wider audience.

Content of our page is varied and includes:

- information about events
- supporters who choose CLCRF to fundraise for
- donations received
- items relevant to childhood cancer
- CLCRF Flashbacks. Stories from our over 30-year history
- competitions
- social content

https://twitter.com/CLCRF

We currently have 157 followers on Twitter. The Twitter account is mainly used when at events.

These social media platforms have proved to be of great benefit to the Foundation.



CLCRF Annual Report - 2018



Membership

As at 06/11/18, the Foundation has 582 members of which 221 are financial for the 2017/18 period. Only financial members can attend the AGM and vote. Members of CLCRF are critical to the ongoing success of our foundation, as all funds raised are directed toward our research.

Please help support The Foundation in its research efforts by encouraging your friends, family and colleagues to become members. CLCRF is a low maintenance, low involvement charitable organisation and as a member you can be confident that your financial donation goes directly to research.

As a member you will be sent newsletters keeping you informed about the foundation and its successes. You will be invited to participate in our events each year to share with us as we grow. Each year you will have voting rights at our AGM and we encourage all of our members to participate. In 2019 we will be conducting a membership drive to increase our CLCRF Member family.





CONCLUSION

This has been another year of challenges in the not-for-profit environment. Some areas of our fundraising have increased, whilst others have decreased. It's all about getting the right mix for the public eg appeals, events, etc.

We look forward to our association with 2018 Telethon, as a \$1M partner, and we are already investigating new avenues of fundraising and making new connections.

In December 2017 the Foundation was awarded the inaugural Fundraising Institute of Australia (FIA) WA Award for 'Fundraising Team of the Year'. Unfortunately, we did not win the national award but we were very proud to represent CLCRF at the FIA international conference in Sydney. Our thanks to the Committee for their support of this professional development.

My appreciation to Wendy Kearns and Katelyn Lush, for their tireless efforts and support during the past year. We make a great team and I am very proud of both of them.

Also to the entire team at Absolute Edge Media who go above and beyond for the Foundation, their support and expertise is invaluable.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Board of Management who officially appointed me as Chief Executive Officer in May this year. I truly appreciate their belief in my abilities and dedication to CLCRF. In doing so Wendy is now Executive Officer and Kate is now Executive Assistant.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe and peaceful 2019.

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Andrea Alexander CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

6 November 2018

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CHILDREN'S LEUKAEMIA & CANCER RESEARCH 2017/2018

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Overview of the Telethon Kids Cancer Centre

Its nearly 12 months since commencing my role as Head of the Telethon Kids Cancer Centre (TKCC). As you might imagine it has been a busy year getting on top of the individual programs within the TKCC, as well as building relationships across Perth.

The Leukaemia Program has had another exceptional year with several high-profile publications. Sébastien Malinge joined the program in late 2017, relocating from France to continue his leukaemia research program here at TKCC. The leadership of Telethon Kids Institute formally appointed Sébastien Malinge and Rishi Kotecha as Group Leaders of the Leukemia Programs following Prof Ursula Kees' retirement last year.

In October 2018, Willem (Joost) Lesterhuis commenced work at the TKCC where he is establishing a sarcoma research program focused on immunotherapy; one of the most current exciting areas of cancer research. We are very fortunate to recruit Joost who is considered one of Australia's best young scientists. This would not have been possible without the support of CLCRF.

During this year we ran an internal competitive grant initiative using CLCRF funding. This initiative supported several projects that the leadership team felt could be accelerated by additional funding. More importantly, 2 of our young students were awarded travel grants to conferences to present their data. This funding will give them an opportunity to meet international scientists working in their field. As part of this award, the researchers are required to visit an international/national laboratory relevant to their research.

Finally, as noted below I have commenced a research program focused on children's brain cancer, which I hope to expand in the coming years.

CLCRF is our most important supporter and your funds help ensure that TKCC becomes a world class research centre for children's cancer research.

Your Sincerely,

mous

Prof Terrance Johns



Researcher:Professor Terrance JohnsTitle:Oncogenic Signalling Laboratory



CLCRF agreed to support a new initiative in the children's brain cancer research during 2018. The funds were used to support the ongoing pre-clinical development of CT179, a novel drug that targets OLIG2. OLIG2 is a protein found in most adult and childhood brain cancers and has a central role in the growth of these tumours.

Even though this research program has only been going for 6 months, the work has progressed quickly, as we have used our knowledge from our studies of CT179 in adult brain cancer.

We have shown that CT179 is effective in the laboratory against several children's brain cancers including medulloblastoma, diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG) and ependymoma.

Data obtained in the past couple of months show that CT179 in combination with radiotherapy significantly inhibits the growth of medulloblastoma (the most common type of childhood brain cancer) in mouse models.

This is an important observation as radiotherapy is standard of care for children with medulloblastoma. Additional mouse studies in DIPG and ependymoma have commenced.

Even though this research is still early it has generated a lot of interest. I have been invited to talk about our CT179 research at 3 international conferences already:

1. International Symposium on Paediatric Neuro-Oncology (ISPNO), 2018

 2. 3rd central nervous system
(CNS) Anticancer Drug Discovery and Development Conference,
2018

3. Society for Neuro-Oncology Annual Meeting, 2018

I would like to acknowledge my key collaborators, Dr Raelene Endersby (Telethon Kids Institute) and Prof Bryan Day (Queensland Institute of Medical Research). Funding:Triennial Block Grant (2015 - 2018)Researcher:Dr Rishi S Kotecha and Dr Laurence C CheungTitle:Testing New Drugs for Infants with High-Risk Leukaemia



Leukaemia is a cancer of the blood and is the most common cancer in children. Leukaemia cells multiply uncontrollably, such that they crowd out healthy blood cells.

Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia or ALL is the most frequently occurring type of childhood leukaemia. International research over the past sixty years has led to massively improved cure rates. Around 90% of children and adolescents with ALL can expect to be cured of their disease. In sharp contrast, newborns and babies who are less than 12 months of age at diagnosis face a dismal outlook, with an event-free survival rate of less than 40%.

In an attempt to find better treatment for these infants, international study groups have conducted many therapeutic studies with more intensive therapy. Unfortunately, this led to a large number of toxic deaths and did not improve overall survival. We urgently require novel therapies. Understanding the biology of this disease holds the key.

То study the biology we investigated genetic features of the leukaemia cells from babies, and performed genetic analyses using state-of-the-art next generation sequencing technology. We gained novel insight into genes that are involved, their contribution to disease progression and resistance to chemotherapeutic drugs. We confirmed that a gene called MLL is not in its normal position on chromosome 11 where it normally is located, but chromosome 11 is broken at the site and fused to part of another chromosome. We know that such fusions are only present in the leukaemia cells and not in the patient's normal cells, and confer poor prognosis for the patient.

We used the leukaemia specimens from the patients to generate cell lines, so that the cells can be kept alive in the laboratory. These cell lines allow us to determine which drugs are effective in killing the leukaemia cells. We have generated a panel of ten cell lines and used the same methods to analyse their genetic features, as was done for the leukaemia cells from the patients.

This confirmed that the cultured cells showed the identical fusions of the MLL gene as present in the leukaemia cells from the patients. We then screened the cell lines against a large panel of approved cancer drugs, which is the first comprehensive assessment of drug response in leukaemia cells from babies.

The information obtained clearly showed that some of the currently used drugs are not very effective at killing the leukaemia cells in the test tube. However, some of the novel drugs, for example romidepsin, were very effective yet are not used in contemporary protocols to treat patients. In order to determine whether these new drugs would be able to enhance the efficacy of currently used drugs we conducted a large screening experiment. We tested each new drug in combination with the ten cytotoxic drugs that are currently used to treat babies with leukaemia. There were several drug combinations that were shown to enhance the killing of the leukaemia cells.

One of these successful drug combinations was further tested in our preclinical model system. We could demonstrate that this therapeutic approach effectively reduced the leukaemia burden and improved survival in vivo – the drug combination was more powerful than each drug alone. Our studies have identified new drug combinations that could be of benefit for babies with leukaemia. Our results have been presented to the international infant acute lymphoblastic leukaemia study group, and our findings will be proposed for integration into future international clinical trials for infants with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia.

These and other studies have generated a number of research publications and have allowed us to leverage additional funding to support the work. These details are provided below:

Additional funding leveraged

National Health and Medical Research Council Early Career Fellowship (2018-2021): Combinatorial Therapeutics in High-Risk Infant Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (Kotecha RS, \$344,657)

Tour de Cure Scott Canner Young Researcher Research Grant (2018-2019): Identifying Novel Translatable Treatments to Improve the Outcome for Infants with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (Kotecha RS, \$125,000)

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians Research Establishment Grant (2018-2019): Combinatorial Therapeutics in High-Risk Infant Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (Kotecha RS, \$180,000)

The Kid's Cancer Project Grant (2017): Combinatorial Therapeutics in High-Risk Infant Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (Kotecha RS, \$133,537)

Raine Medical Research Foundation Clinician Research Fellowship (2016-2018): Combinatorial Therapeutics in High-Risk Infant Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (Kotecha RS, \$404,676)

Department of Health WA Merit Award (2016): Evaluation of Demethylating Agents against Infant Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia Models In Vitro (Kotecha RS, \$25,000)

Telethon-Perth Children's Hospital Research Fund (2015-2017): Combinatorial Therapeutics In High-Risk Infant Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (Kotecha RS, Kees UR, Cruickshank, MN, Lassmann T, \$237,180)

Relevant Publications:

Cheung LC, Cruikshank MN, Hughes AM, Singh S, Chua GA, Ford J, Ferrari E, Oommen J, Malinge S, Lock RB, Kees UR, Kotecha RS. Romidepsin enhances the efficacy of cytarabine in vivo, revealing histone deacetylase inhibition as a promising therapeutic strategy for KMT2A-rearranged infant acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Submitted manuscript 2018.

Cruickshank MN, Ford J, Cheung LC, Heng J, Singh S, Wells J, Failes TW, Arndt GM, Smithers N, Prinjha RK, Anderson D, Carter KW, Gout AM, Lassmann T, O'Reilly J, Cole CH, Kotecha RS, Kees UR. Systematic chemical and molecular profiling of MLL-rearranged infant acute lymphoblastic leukemia reveals efficacy of romidepsin. Leukemia 2017;31(1):40-50.

Kotecha RS, Kees UR, Cole CH, Gottardo NG. Rare childhood cancers - an increasing entity requiring the need for global consensus and collaboration. Cancer Medicine 2015;4(6): 819-824.

Kotecha RS, Gottardo NG, Kees UR, Cole CH. The evolution of clinical trials for infant acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Blood Cancer Journal 2014;4:e200.

Kotecha RS, Ford J, Beesley AH, Anderson D, Cole CH, Kees UR. Molecular characterization of identical, novel MLL-EPS15 translocation and individual genomic copy number alterations in monozygotic infant twins with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Haematologica 2012;97(9):1447-1450.

Kotecha RS, Murch A, Kees U, Cole CH. Pre-natal, clonal origin of t(1;11)(p32;q23) acute lymphoblastic leukemia in monozygotic twins. Leukemia Research 2012;36(1):46-50.

Funding:Million Dollar Recognition Award (2012 - 2018)Researcher:Dr Laurence C Cheung and Dr Rishi S KotechaTitle:Molecular Genetics of Childhood Tumours



Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia or ALL is the most commonly occurring childhood cancer. Seventy years ago a few clinicians pioneered the use of what we now call chemotherapy - drugs that are toxic and preferentially attack leukaemia cells.

tremendous international А cooperation by clinicians and scientists identified drug combinations that can eliminate ALL cells and cure patients. Steady progress has pushed the cure rate for favourable risk leukaemia subgroups to 90%; however, despite such advances leukaemia remains the second most frequent cause of death from cancer in children.

The burden of disease, calculated in "person years of life lost" due to disease, is 69 years for children with leukaemia, whereas for adult cancer it ranges from 9 to 35 years. Patients with leukaemia are treated with up to ten different chemotherapeutic drugs. These regimens are also very toxic to normal cells of the patients, and lead to short and long-term sequelae. Children who survive leukaemia suffer from these sideeffects throughout their lives.

Sadly, in some patients the disease comes back and the patients relapse. Most relapses of ALL occur in the bone marrow where the disease originates. At the time a patient is diagnosed, the bone marrow does not contain many normal cells, but instead is almost totally replaced by ALL cells.

The cause of relapse is often due to the fact that the chemotherapeutic drugs are no longer toxic to the leukaemia cells, as they have modified their genetic features and as a result have become resistant. Leukaemia cells also use another escape method which is triggered by a response in the bone marrow by the normal cells and bone cells that surround the leukaemia cells. These surrounding cells are commonly referred to as the microenvironment. The response ultimately leads to protection of the leukaemia cells by the microenvironment. Our work has discovered that ALL cells have the capacity to influence their environment.

Destruction of the bone is commonly seen in children with leukaemia, and many patients suffer from bone pain at diagnosis, yet little is known about the association of bone loss and the progression of leukaemia. We have successfully developed a novel in vivo model that allows comprehensive investigation of the bone cells and surrounding normal cells in the bone marrow during leukaemia development.

Importantly, this model faithfully replicates human disease and the clinical symptom of increased bone fragility and reduced bone mineral density in children with a diagnosis of ALL. We first investigated development of the disease in our model system and monitored each population of the surrounding normal cells. We could clearly show that during the initial phases the leukaemia cells did not expand, however the environment was remodelled facilitate the subsequent to support of the cancerous growth. Notably, the normal production of blood cells and immune cells in the bone marrow were affected during leukaemia development. The combined reactions of the surrounding cells then appear to trigger expansion of the leukaemia cells, and this happens very rapidly. Understanding this cascade of

events opens up new avenues to interfere with the disease process and to design new therapeutic approaches. Our goal is to find inhibitors of these mechanisms to stop the development of leukaemia.

We further discovered that boneeating cells were highly active during the development of leukaemia. We tested an inhibitor of bone-eating cells, zoledronic acid, which has the capacity to reduce bone loss in patients with other conditions. We found that treatment reduced leukaemia progression and extended survival in our model. In addition, zoledronic acid improved treatment outcome

when combined with currently used chemotherapeutic drugs. Unlike chemotherapeutic drugs, zoledronic acid is safe and well tolerated by children, and is already in clinical use in children for a wide variety of indications. Our findings suggest restoration of the normal microenvironment in the bone marrow to control cancer progression as a promising therapeutic avenue.

These and other studies have generated a number of research publications and have allowed us to leverage additional funding to support the work. These details are provided below:

Additional funding leveraged

Cancer Council WA (CCWA) Suzanne Cavanagh Early Career Investigator Grant (2018-2019): Unveiling the interaction between leukaemia cells and bone cells (Cheung LC, \$34,723)

Perth Children's Hospital Foundation Project Grant (2018-2020): Exploiting the use of zoledronic acid to improve the outcome in childhood leukaemia (Cheung LC, Kotecha RS, Tickner J, \$78,554)

Telethon-Perth Children's Hospital Research Fund (2017-2019): Zoledronic acid to improve outcome of children with high risk leukaemia (Cheung LC, Kotecha RS, Tickner J, Kees UR, \$242,470)

Cancer Council WA (CCWA) Collaborative Cancer Grant Scheme (2017-2018): Dissecting the leukaemia microenvironment (Cheung LC, Mullin B, Tang D, Kotecha RS, Tickner J, \$43,395)

Telethon Kids Institute Competitive Working Group Project Grant (2016): The bone marrow microenvironment during leukaemogenesis (Cheung LC, Foley B, Tickner J, He B, Kees UR, Cole C, \$25,000)

Relevant Publications:

Cheung LC, Tickner J, Hughes AM, Skut P, Howlett M, Foley B, Oommen, J, Wells JE, He B, Singh S, Chua GA, Ford J, Mullighan CG, Kotecha RS, Kees UR. Dissecting the pre-B leukemia bone marrow microenvironment reveals new therapeutic opportunities. Leukemia 2018. [Epub ahead of print]

Wells JE, Howlett M, Halse HM, Heng J, Ford J, Cheung LC, Samuels AL, Crook M, Charles AK, Cole CH, Kees UR. High expression of connective tissue growth factor accelerates dissemination of leukaemia. Oncogene 2016;35(35):4591-4600.

Wells JE, Howlett M, Cheung LC, Kees UR, 2015. The role of CCN family genes in haematological malignancies. Journal of Cell Communication and Signaling 2015;9(3):267-278.

Cheung LC, Strickland DH, Howlett M, Ford F, Charles AK, Lyons KM, Brigstock DR, Goldschmeding R, Cole CH, Alexander WS, Kees UR. Connective tissue growth factor is expressed in bone marrow stromal cells and promotes interleukin-7-dependent B lymphopoiesis. Haematologica 2014;99(7):1149-1156.

Funding:CLCRF Research Fellowship (2017 – 2019)Researcher:Dr Mark CruickshankTitle:Molecular and immuno-therapy targets for high-risk leukaemia



While the survival rate for patients with childhood leukaemia has improved dramatically, approaching 5-year survival of 95% for some patient groups, several sub-types of leukaemia are refractory to current treatments.

Furthermore, in cases where treatment is successful, the toxicity of the drugs results in severe acute side effects and long-term morbidity. Strikingly, in patients less than 18 months at the time of diagnosis, the survival rate is only 30%. In many studies more intensive therapy was administered to infants to improve survival. Unfortunately, this led to a large number of toxic deaths, and did not improve overall survival. We urgently need to find novel therapy for these patients. Since treatments using highly toxic chemotherapies are not successful, understanding the biology of this disease holds the key.

Dr Cruickshank was awarded the CLCRF Woolworths Fellowship from 2017 – 2019 and has been centrally involved in building the infant leukaemia research program. In these studies, the CLCRF-research team have been investigating the novel genetic and molecular features of infant leukaemia and performing extensive pre-clinical drug development using patient derived cell lines.

In recognition of the important role the immune system plays in controlling and preventing cancer and leukaemia, Dr Cruickshank has been collaborating with A/Prof Jason Waithman, head of the Cancer Immunology Unit at Telethon Kids Institute on new ways to harness the immune system for cancer therapy. Together Dr Cruickshank and A/Prof Waithman's teams have investigated how immunotherapy can be effectively combined with epigenetic therapies using multiple mouse models of cancer. This work has resulted in three joint manuscript submissions.

Funding:	Molecular targets for high-risk leukaemia
Researcher:	Dr Mark Cruickshank
Title:	Are there germ-line molecular targets in high-risk leukaemia?



In this study, we have assembled the largest collection of infant leukaemia samples (n=42) with next-generation sequencing data, many of which have been sequenced by both genome/exome and transcriptome sequencing.

The patient sequencing data was compared to a large collection of normal controls that have had their exomes sequenced (n=64,752). The sequencing data was analysed to detect genes with potentially pathogenic DNA variants that are present in the patients normal cells as well as cancer cells.

The infant patients were found to express such DNA sequence variants in a gene known as KEAP1. Many of the DNA sequence variants detected in infant patients have also been found as somatic mutations in adult lung cancer patients. In adult lung cancer patients, these mutations can drive cellular changes promoting cancer progression but also can be targeted by specific drugs. We have been investigating if the same changes could occur in blood cells to promote leukaemia. These include changes to metabolism, redox control, cell growth and response to drugs. Together these results suggest that germ-line DNA sequence variations in infant leukaemia patients could alter disease progression and therapy response.

Findings from research conducted during Dr Cruickshank's Fellowship have been presented in the following scientific forums and community groups:

- March 2018: "Expression of rare alleles at cancer associated loci in KMT2A/MLL-rearranged infant acute lymphoblastic leukaemia suggests a role for RAS-pathway and KEAP1". Keystone Precision Medicine in Cancer Conference.
- October 2017: "Infant leukaemia: are we targeting a one-hit wonder". Invited presentation for Murdoch Childrens Research Institute; Functional Genomics Seminar Series.
- August 2017: "Infant leukaemia: are we targeting a one-hit wonder". Invited presentation for University of Western Australia; Molecular Sciences Seminar Series.
- March, 2016 "Expression of rare alleles at cancer predisposition loci in MLL-rearranged infant acute lymphoblastic leukaemia". 6th New Directions in Leukaemia Research (NDLR) meeting.
- September 2015: "Precision Medicine in Cancer". Telethon Kids Institute; Chronic Disease RFA.
- September 2015: "MLL-rearranged infant acute lymphoblastic leukaemia". WA Health Translation Network
- October 2014: "Epigenetic drugs and technologies". Telethon Kids Institute; Discussion and Technical Seminar Series, Perth
- July 2013: "Targeting the epigenetic machinery in infant acute lymphoblastic leukaemia" Perth Cancer Club.
- The 'Beyond the Genome' Conference, San Francisco, USA (2013).
- The American Society for Human Genetics, Boston, USA (2013).

Together these studies have generated a number of important research publications and have allowed us to leverage additional funding to support the work:

Additional funding leveraged

2018 "Dissecting gene interactions modulating cancer progression", Cancer Council WA - CIA Dr Cruickshank - \$50,000

2017 "ACRF Centre for Advanced Cancer Genomics", ACRF equipment grant - CI A Forrest, AI Dr Cruickshank - \$1,750,000

2017 "Precision medicine for relapse leukaemia", Department of Health, Telethon – Perth Children's Hospital Research Fund 2016 (Round 5) - CIA Dr Cruickshank - \$234,170

2017 "Single Cell Cancer Genomics Consortium", Cancer Research Trust, Collaborative Cancer Research Grant - CIA Forrest, Al Dr Cruickshank - \$3,750,000

2016 "Combinatorial therapeutics in high-risk infant acute lymphoblastic leukaemia," Kids Cancer Project - CIA Kees, Dr Cruickshank, Dr Kotecha - \$100,000

2015 "Precision genome editing for precision drug discovery," Telethon Kids Institute Blue Sky Research Grant - CIA Dr Cruickshank - \$100,000

2015 "A platform to identify cancer neo-antigens," Telethon Kids Institute RFA - CIA Dr Waithman, Dr Cruickshank - \$25,000

2015 "Personalized therapeutic peptide vaccination targeting mutated cancer antigens," Telethon Kids Institute Blue Sky Research Grant - CIA Dr Waithman, Dr Cruickshank - \$50,000

2015 "Identifying novel, effective and translatable drugs for high-risk infant acute lymphoblastic leukaemia," Telethon Perth Children's Hospital Research - Dr Kotecha, Dr Kees, Dr Cruickshank - \$240,000

2015 "Combinatorial therapeutics in high-risk infant acute lymphoblastic leukaemia," Kids Cancer Project - CIA Kees, Dr Cruickshank, Dr Kotecha - \$100,000

Recent Publications:

Wang E, Sorolla A, Cunningham PT, Bogdawa HM, Beck S, Golden E, Dewhurst RE, Florez L, Cruickshank MN, Hoffmann K, et al: Tumor penetrating peptides inhibiting MYC as a potent targeted therapeutic strategy for triple-negative breast cancers. Oncogene 2018.

Cruickshank MN, Ford J, Cheung LC, Heng J, Singh S, Wells J, Failes TW, Arndt GM, Smithers N, Prinjha RK, et al: Systematic chemical and molecular profiling of MLL-rearranged infant acute lymphoblastic leukemia reveals efficacy of romidepsin. Leukemia 2017, 31:40-50.

Taylor RL, Cruickshank MN, Karimi M, Ng HL, Quail E, Kaufman KM, Harley JB, Abraham LJ, Tsao BP, Boackle SA, Ulgiati D: Focused transcription from the human CR2/CD21 core promoter is regulated by synergistic activity of TATA and Initiator elements in mature B cells. Cell Mol Immunol 2016, 13:119-131.

Cruickshank MN, Dods J, Taylor RL, Karimi M, Fenwick EJ, Quail EA, Rea AJ, Holers VM, Abraham LJ, Ulgiati D: Analysis of tandem E-box motifs within human Complement receptor 2 (CR2/CD21) promoter reveals cell specific roles for RP58, E2A, USF and localized chromatin accessibility. Int J Biochem Cell Biol 2015, 64:107-119.

Funding:CLCRF – Ursula Kees Fellow (2017 - 2021)Researcher:Dr Sébastien MalingeTitle:Development of preclinical models of childhood leukaemia to test
new therapeutic approaches and improve outcomes



Acute Leukaemia is the most common type of childhood malignancy, accounting for 30% of all paediatric cancers worldwide. While the five years overall survival currently 80-85%, a subset of patients are refractory to treatment and patients that relapse have a poor prognosis.

Treatment options for these patients are limited to more intensive, toxic chemotherapeutic protocols requiring longer hospital admissions and ongoing hospital care, thereby increasing disease burden.

Current therapeutic approaches have now reached their maximum

potential, highlighting the need for new efficacious treatments.

Gain of chromosome 21 is one of the most common genetic alteration seen in childhood leukaemia. Children with Down Syndrome (DS) that carry a three chromosome 21 (trisomy 21) at birth have a 10 to 20-fold increased risk of developing leukaemia during childhood. Of importance, DS children with B-cell leukaemia strongly suffer from treatment related toxicity and have a higher rate of relapse than other children with leukaemia.

Therefore, a more complete understanding of the biology of

DS-leukaemia and of the role the chromosome 21 in leukaemia development will allow us to identify new druggable targets that will be of benefit for many children with leukaemia.

Over the last year, we investigated the role of trisomy 21 in leukaemia. First, we reproduced the multi-step process of leukaemia development seen in Down syndrome children. In this study, we showed that trisomy 21 acts in cooperation with other genetic alterations (such as GATA-1s and JAK3 mutations) to alter haematopoiesis during foetal life, providing new insights into leukaemia predisposition in Down syndrome children. Importantly,
this work also revealed for the first time that trisomy 21 cooperates with JAK3 mutations after foetal life to progressively enhance the pool of T-cells in several organs (blood, lymph nodes, thymus, spleen and bone marrow) as observed in patients with an aggressive form of cutaneous T-cell lymphomas.

Together, we have developed new experimental models allowing us to 1- identify the key regulators of leukaemia development located on the chromosome 21 and 2- test new therapies to improve the outcomes of children with carrying gain of the chromosome 21, whether they are Down syndrome or not.

In parallel, we extended our cohort of preclinical models of B-cell leukaemia (B-ALL) through fruitful collaborations with clinicians and biobanks in Australia by enrolling five new primary samples (total number in this cohort: 42 B-ALL samples). To better understand the biology of B-cell leukaemia development, these samples were submitted to high-throughput sequencing approaches to identify new genetic alterations that cooperate with gain of chromosome 21. These primary patient samples were also engrafted in vivo to develop new models, suitable to analyse disease progression and response to treatments in a preclinical setting.

We are continuously extending this cohort of B-ALL samples to build a comprehensive repository of in vivo models in Western Australia. From these models, we are also developing B-ALL cell lines, which will serve as important preclinical tools for testing thousands of therapeutic agents in vitro, prior to be assessed in vivo in combination with conventional chemotherapy currently used to treat childhood leukaemia. This strategy will enable us to identify new drugs with strong efficacy tested directly on human leukaemia samples, to facilitate a rapid translation of our research into clinical trials.

Altogether, we have built a solid framework to assess the role of gain of the chromosome 21 in childhood leukaemia in a preclinical setting, allowing us to identify new targetable weaknesses and improve the outcomes of a significant number of children with leukaemia in Western Australia and across the world.

These results, as well as other collaborative studies, have generated several research publications and allowed us to leverage additional funding (see details below):

Additional funding leveraged

- 2018 "Building Excellence in Research Experimental Grant", Telethon Kids Cancer Centre (11200 AUD)
- 2017 Lexus Ball (25000 AUD)
- 2016-2018 Fondation GEFLUC (France, 20800 EUR)
- 2016-2019 Institut National du Cancer (INCa-PLBIO, France, 202000 EUR)
- 2016-2018 Fondation Jérome Lejeune (France, 26000 EUR)

Recent Publications

Rivera-Munoz P, Laurent A, Siret S, Lopez CK, Ignacimouttou C, Cornejo MC, Rameau P, Bernard OA, Dessen P, Gilliland GD, Mercher T and Malinge S. Partial trisomy 21 contributes to T cell malignancies induced by JAK3 activating mutations in murine models. Blood Advances 2018 Jul 10;2(13):1616-1627.

Anso E, Weinberg SE, Diebold LP, Thompson BJ, Malinge S, Schumacker PT, Crispino J and Chandel N. Mitochondrial oxidative metabolism is essential for maintenance of hematopoietic stem cell function. Nature Cell Biology. 2017 Jun;19(6):614-625.

Lopez CK, Malinge S, Gaudry M, Bernard OA, Mercher T. Pediatric Acute Megakaryoblastic Leukemia: Multitasking Fusion Proteins and Oncogenic Cooperations. Trends Cancer. 2017 Sep;3(9):631-642.

Thirant C, Lopez C, Malinge S and Mercher T. Molecular pathways driven by ETO2-GLIS2 in aggressive pediatric leukemia. Molecular & Cellular Oncology. 2017(vol 4), e1345351.

Thirant C, Ignacimouttou C, Lopez CK, Le Mouël L, Diop M, Thiollier C, Siret A, Dessen P, Aid Z, Rivière J, Rameau P, Lefebvre C, Khaled M, Leverger G, Ballerini P, Petit A, Raslova H, Carmichael CL, Kile BT, Soler E, Crispino JD, Wichmann C, Lobry C, Pflumio F, Schwaller J, Droin N, Vainchenker W, Bernard OA, Malinge S and Mercher T. ETO2-GLIS2 hijacks transcriptional complexes and control super-enhancers to drive cellular identity and self-renewal in pediatric acute megakaryoblastic leukemia. Cancer Cell. 2017 Mar 13;31(3):452-465.

Jeremy Wen Q, Yang Q, Goldenson B, Malinge S, Lasho T, Schneider RK, Breyfogle LJ, Schultz R, Gilles L, Koppikar P, Abdel-Wahab O, Pardanani A, Stein B, Gurbuxani S, Mullally A, Levine RL, Tefferi A, Crispino JD. Targeting megakaryocytic-induced fibrosis in myeloproliferative neoplasms by AURKA inhibition. Nature Medicine. 2015 Dec;21(12):1473-80.

Thompson BJ, Bhansali R, Diebold L, Cook DE, Stolzenburg L, Casagrande AS, Besson T, Leblond B, Desire L, Malinge S and Crispino JD. DYRK1A controls the transition from proliferation to quiescence during lymphoid development by destabilizing Cyclin D3. Journal of Experimental Medicine. 2015 Jun 1;212(6):953-70.

Lane AA, Chapuy B, Lin CY, Tivey T, Li H, Townsend EC, van Bodegom D, Day TA, Wu SC, Liu H, Yoda A, Alexe G, Schinzel AC, Sullivan TJ, Malinge S, Taylor JE, Stegmaier K, Jaffe JD, Bustin M, Te Kronnie G, Izraeli S, Harris MH, Stevenson KE, Neuberg D, Silverman LB, Sallan SE, Bradner JE, Hahn WC, Crispino JD, Pellman D, Weinstock DM. Triplication of a 21q22 region contributes to B cell transformation through HMGN1 overexpression and loss of histone H3 Lys27 trimethylation. Nature Genetics. 2014 Jun;46(6):618-23.

Malinge S, Chlon T, Doré LC, Ketterling RP, Tallman MS, Paietta E, Gamis AS, Taub JW, Chou ST, Weiss MJ, Crispino JD, Figueroa ME. Development of acute megakaryoblastic leukemia in Down syndrome is associated with sequential epigenetic changes. Blood. 2013 Oct 3;122(14):e33-43.

Malinge S, Thiollier C, Chlon TM, Doré L, Diebold L, Bluteau O, Mabialah V, Vainchenker W, Dessen P, Winandy Y, Mercher T and John D. Crispino JD. Ikaros inhibits megakaryopoiesis through functional interaction with GATA-1 and NOTCH signaling. Blood. 2013 Mar 28;121(13):2376-7.

Malinge S., Bliss-Moreau M., Kirsammer G., Diebold L., Chlon T., Gurbuxani S, and Crispino JD. Increased dosage of the chromosome 21 gene Dyrk1A promotes megakaryoblastic leukemia in Down syndrome. Journal of Clinical Investigation. 2012 Mar 1;122(3):948-62.

DONATIONS \$500 & ABOVE 2017/2018

Many generous people and organisations gave to the Foundation during July 2017 - June 2018. We have tried to make the following list as accurate as possible but please forgive us if we have omitted details of your gift. Space does not permit us to list the numerous other donations given.



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G

Galati Cono & Trudy

Garas Mounir Garner Family Geddes David & Charlotte Genovese/Fox Family Germain Terrence Germs Leanne Giglia Maria **Ginbey Maria** Glass Thelma Gobby Geoffrey Godfrey Allan Goetz Marilyn Graham Rory & Christine Graham Valerie Gray Jill Grosser Kerry

Η

Haederle Mike & Judi Hall Michelle Hambley Rita Han Edward & Francis Hargrave Steve Harris Eileen Harris Murray, Helen & Justin Hart Roy & Linda Heal Valda Heal Eric & Judy Heil Adrian Hesketh John & Barbara Hicks David & Pam Hill Charles & Joan Hill Anne **Hill Christopher** Hill Stan & Beryl Hogben Terry Howarth Family

I

leraci Stefan leraci Tony & Loran ltaliano Robert & Minnie lvory Valma

J

James Errol Jarvis Stephen Dr Jennings Brian Jennings Ian & Val Jupp Allan & Cheryl

Κ

Keane Brian Kearns Gary & Wendy Kees Ursula Prof Life Member Kelly Linda Kelly J Kelly-Cook Danielle Kenda Renato & Annette Kirkwood Kerrin Kitchen Mary

L

Lamb Phil Langer Family Larke Graham & Althea Lazzarich Family Leeflang Carine Love Murray Lush Katelyn Lychlander Sheila Lydon Larry & Isabell

Μ

Maddock Eric & Annette Mancuso Maruzza Marchant Family Matthews Daniel Matthews Neville McCallum Family **McClymont Frank** McCorkill Ron Dr & Michelle McCormick Dorothy McCormick Steve & June McCusker Malcolm, AC, CVO, QC McDonald Ian McLaurin David & Diane Miller Rusty & Barbara Mills Nancy Milner Warren Milton John & Nui Drs Mincherton Glyn Mischin Michael MLC Morrissy Jenny Muir Darryl

Murray Wendy Myers John

Ν

Newton Tony Norton Daniel Nottle Pat Nyenhuis Harry & Brigitte

0

Oldham Neil & Shirley Oldham Tracey Oliveri Antonio & Santina

Ρ

Parker Michael & Catherine Parkin Peggy Paulin Antony Pintabona Charles & Sharon Powell Sandra Preece Christine

Q

Quinn Judy Quinones Susanne

R

Ratcliffe Alan & Sue Riley Geoff & Mary Rodoreda Greg & Michelle Rotary Club of Harvey

S

Salamone Rebecca Savage Dean & Paulette Schulze Dean Sealy Harold & Jeanette Segal Leah Seidelin Erik & Helen Senior Sue Sequeira Andre & Neicha Seymour Michele Seymour Patricia Silbert Lindsay & Suzanne Silsbury Robin Sim Paula Simons Eileen Sims Wendy Sinclair Family Skinner James & Patricia Slatter Brian Smith Jim Stanley Fiona Prof, AC Stokman Gerda Stuchbury Mark & Laura

Т

Tate Noelene Tate Franklin Taylor JR Dr & MM Terms Alexandra Thomas Family Turner Jim Turner Glen

U

Udinga Alex & Jan

V

Van Burge Gerrit (Gary) OAM, JP Villa Gillian Vogel Reto

W

Walker Richard Wallace M-J Wannberg Family Warn Rosalie Warwicker Shirley Webb Brian & Maxena White Ron & Cheryl Wilborn Bernie Williamson Kim Life Member Williamson Jenny Wilson Lorna Wood Brendan & Margaret

Children's Leukaemia & Cancer Research Foundation (Inc)

ABN: 42 030 465 053

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year Ended 30th June 2018





STATEMENT BY THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

The Committee Members have determined that the Foundation is not a reporting entity, and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial report.

In the opinion of the Committee of Management, the accompanying financial reports:



PO Box 1118 West Perth WA 6872

> PATRON - Justin Langer AM ABN: 42 030 465 053

- 1. (a) The financial statements and notes are in accordance with Part 5 of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015; and
 - (b) The accompanying Operating Statement gives a true and fair view of the deficit of the Foundation for the financial year; and
 - (c) The accompanying Balance Sheet gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Foundation as at the end of the financial year.
- 2. At the date of the statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Foundation will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee of Management and is signed by and on behalf of the Committee of Management by:

Chief Executive Officer – Andrea Alexander

Treasurer - Kim Williamson

Date: 07/11/2018

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CHILDREN'S LEUKAEMIA & CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION (INC)

NICK DEL POPOLO CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT 9 CARRINGTON STREET NORTH PERTH, WA, 6006 Ph: 0419 922 776

7 November 2018

TO THE MEMBERS

THE CHILDREN'S LEUKAEMIA & CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION (INC)

We have audited the financial statements of Children's Leukaemia & Cancer Research Foundation (INC)(The Foundation) for the year ended 30 June 2018.

The Foundation's Management Committee are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. We have conducted an independent audit of these financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to the members of the Foundation. The Management Committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the Management Committee's determine necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether in all material respects the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards so as to present a view of the Foundation which is consistent with our understanding of its financial position and the results of its operations.

The financial statements include fundraising receipts. It has not been practicable to determine whether pledged monies from external fundraising activities have been received and banked through the Foundation's accounts.

The Audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

INDEPENDENCE

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

AUDIT OPINION

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly the financial position of Children's Leukaemia & Cancer Research Foundation (INC) as at 30 June 2018 and the results of its operations for the year ended 30 June 2018 in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1. In addition;

a. The financial statements satisfy the requirements of Part 5 of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015;b. We have been given all information, explanations and assistance necessary for the conduct of the Audit;

c. The Foundation has kept financial records sufficient to enable financial statements to be prepared and audited;

d. The Foundation has kept other records as required by Part 5 of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015

EMPHASIS OF MATTER- BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Out audit opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Nick Del Popolo Chartered Accountant Registered Company Auditor

AUDITORS INDEPENDENCE DELCLARATION TO THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT OF THE CHILDREN'S LEUKAEMIA & CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION (INC)

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2018 there have been no contraventions of:

i.Any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit

Name of firm: Name of partner: Date: Address: N DEL POPOLO N DEL POPOLO 1st July 2018 9 CARRINGTON STREET NORTH PERTH WA 6006

Nick Del Popolo Chartered Accountant Registered Company Auditor

OPERATING STATEMENT 01/07/17 - 30/06/18

REVENUE	2017/2018	2016/2017
Subscriptions	\$ 2,361	\$5,357
Donations & Promotions	\$ 197,829	\$ 170,366
Community Activities	\$ 207,908	\$ 205,352
Raffles & Direct Mail Campaigns	\$ 301,547	\$ 343,284
Schools & Associations	\$ 12,930	\$ 11,683
Commercial Support:		
Triple Vend/Austway	\$ 1,350	\$ 1,321
United Fundraisers	\$ 1,108	\$ 1,172
VLT	\$ 2,744	\$ 2,204
Grants & Bequests:		
Bequests	\$ 556,101	\$ 529,917
3BL (Brain Tumour Research Project)	\$ 250	\$ 50
Interest Received	\$ 148,335	\$ 108,256
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 1,432,463	\$ 1,378,962
EXPENDITURE		
Admin/Salaries & Other Costs	\$ 383,782	\$ 361,768
Depreciation	\$ 34,354	-
Raffles & Direct Mail Campaigns	\$ 150,178	\$ 180,316
Promotions & Events	\$ 162,602	\$ 145,076
Property Outgoings / Refurbishment	\$ 43,805	\$ 46,321
SUB-TOTAL	\$ 774,721	\$ 733,481
APPROPRIATIONS		
Research / Funding Grants:		
Triennial Block Grant	\$ 523,319	\$ 376,251
\$1Mio Grant of Excellence	\$ 62,888	\$ 207,889
CLCRF F/Ship - Assoc Prof A Beesley	\$ -	\$ 50,551
Woolworths F/Ship - Dr M Cruickshank	\$ -	\$ 39,958
Midline Carcinoma Grant	\$ -	\$ 901
Morpholino Therapy for Cancer	\$ -	\$ 8
Novel Therapies NUT Midline - Dr A Stirnweiss	\$ 2,471	\$ 63,752
Molecular Targets for High-Risk Leuk - Dr M Cruickshank	\$ 140,139	\$ 2,900
CLCRF Fellowship - Dr M Cruickshank	\$ 134,641	\$ 51,511
Assoc Prof A Beesley - manuscript costs	\$ 7,588	\$ 5,712
Dr S Malinge - Ursula Kees Fellow	\$ 123,553	\$ -
Unexpended (Jan to June 2018)	\$ 2,184	
SUB-TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$ 996,784	\$ 799,433
EXCESS/(DEFICIT) TRANSFER TO ACCUMULATED FUNDS	\$ (339,041)	\$ (153,952)

BALANCE SHEET - 30/06/2018

ACCUMULATED FUNDS	NOTE	2017/2018	2016/2017
Balance as at 01/07/2016		\$ 6,811,217	\$ 6,965,169
Excess/(Deficit) from Operating Statement		\$ (339,042)	\$ (153,952)
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS		\$ 6,472,175	\$ 6,811,217
These Funds are represented by:			
CURRENT ASSETS:		2017/2018	2016/2017
Cash on Hand		\$ 100	\$ 100
Cash At Bank		\$ 330,448	\$ 162,882
Gaming Commission		\$ 30,567	\$ 48,278
Term Deposits		\$ 3,832,708	\$ 4,748,534
TOTAL CASH AVAILABLE		\$ 4,193,823	\$ 4,959,794
Pre-payment		\$ 500,000	\$ -
Trade Debtors		\$5,642	\$ -
Shares - At Cost		\$ 17,166	\$17,166
Share Options - At Cost		\$ 1	\$ 1
Provision for Diminution in Value		\$(13,006)	\$(9,166)
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		\$4,703,625	\$4,967,795
NON-CURRENT ASSETS:		2017/2018	2016/2017
Property Land & Buildings			
100 Hay St Subiaco	2	\$ 886,630	\$ 886,630
Capital Improvements - Subiaco		\$121,626	\$121,625
Provision for Diminution in Value		\$ (198,256)	\$ (198,256)
Provision for Depreciation		\$(42,518)	\$ (16,200)
Computer Equiment At Cost		\$10,153	\$7,183
Less: Accum Deprecation		\$(8,036)	\$ -
Collectables		\$2,199	\$ -
Property - Vacant Land			
26 Parnell Pde Bassendean	2	\$ 572,928	\$ 572,928
28 Parnell Pde Bassendean	2	\$ 553,588	\$ 553,588
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		\$1,898,315	\$ 1,927,498
TOTAL ASSETS		\$ 6,601,940	\$ 6,895,291
CURRENT LIABILITIES		2017/2018	2016/2017
Trade Creditors		\$ (39,057)	\$ (31,775)
Accrued/Sundry Creditors		\$ -	\$ -
Leave Liabilities		\$ (84,044)	\$ (83,874)
Provision for AL/LSL on-costs		\$ (10,500)	\$ (6,800)
Total Years Tax Liabilities		\$ 3,835	\$ 38,373
TOTAL LIABILITIES		\$ (129,767)	\$ (84,076)
TOTAL ASSETS/LIABILITIES		\$ 6,472,175	\$ 6,811,217

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS - AS AT 30/06/18

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	NOTE	2017/2018	2016/2017
Receipts from:			
Subscriptions		\$ 2,361	\$ 5,357
Donations and promotions		\$197,829	\$ 170,366
Community activities		\$207,908	\$ 205,352
Raffles and Direct mail campaigns		\$301,547	\$ 342,343
School and Associations		\$12,930	\$ 11,683
Commercial Support		\$ 5,202	\$ 4,697
Grants and Bequests		\$ 556,351	\$ 529,967
Interest		\$148,335	\$ 108,256
Payments to clients, suppliers, employees and for research grants		\$ (2,175,556)	\$ (1,626,501)
Net cash used in operating activities	3	\$ (743,093)	\$ (248,480)

CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	2017/2018	2016/2017
Investment in Term Deposits	\$ (1,905,173)	\$ (2,511,180)
Withdrawl of Term Deposits	\$ 2,821,000	\$ 2,534,000
Acquisition of PPE	\$ (5,168)	
Net Cash provided by investing activities	\$ 910,659	\$ 22,820
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	\$ 167,566	\$ (225,660)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	\$ 162,982	\$ 388,642
	\$ 330,548	\$ 162,982



CHILDREN'S LEUKAEMIA & CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION (Inc)

NOTE 1 - Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

The significant accounting policies which have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report are:

BASIS OF PREPARATION

The Financial Report is a special purpose financial report, which has been prepared to meet the requirements of the Management Committee to provide information to the Children's Leukaemia & Cancer Research Foundation (Inc). The Foundation is not a reporting entity and is not obliged to adhere to the mandatory reporting requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards. Notwithstanding the special reporting status of the foundation, the Management Committee have, unless otherwise stated followed generally accepted accounting principles in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards. The accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical costs and do not take into account the changing value or fair value of non-current assets. The Accounting policies are consistent with those prepared in 2017.

TAXATION AND GST

Children's Leukaemia & Cancer Research Foundation (Inc) is an income tax exempt body.

The Net amount of Goods and Services Tax and GST recoverable from or payable to the Australian Taxation Office is included as a current asset or liability in the Balance Sheet.

Revenue, Expenses and Assets are recognised net of GST.

EMPLOYEE ENTITLEMENTS

The amounts expected to be paid to employees for their pro-rata entitlement to long service leave and annual leave are accrued annually at current pay rates.

NOTE 2 - Valuation of Non-Current Assets - Property

Hay Street, Subiaco was purchased on 02/09/2010 and is valued at market valuation. The Market Valuation is at 19/06/15 and is prepared by an independent licensed property valuer. 26 and 28 Parnell Parade, Bassendean, were transferred to the Foundation on 17/09/2013 by a deceased estate. They are valued at Committee of Management valuation based upon a real estate agents Appraisal and Report dated 18/09/2012 and a second real estate agents drive-by valuation dated 08/11/2013.

NOTE 3 - Operating Cash Flow

Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities with current year deficit.

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	2017/2018	2016/2017
Net deficit for the year	\$ (339,041)	\$ (153,952)
Non-cash flows in operating deficit:		
Deprecation	\$ 34,354	\$ -
Diminution in share investments	\$ 3,840	\$ (6,401)
Net changes in working capital:		
Change in trade and other receivables	\$ (487,931)	\$ (1,933)
Change in trade and other payables	\$ 41,815	\$ (92,509)
Change in provisions	\$ 3,870	\$ 6,315
Net cash from operating activities	\$ (743,093)	\$ (248,480)



CONTACT US

Children's Leukaemia & Cancer Research Foundation (Inc.)

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ABN: 42 030 465 053