



**The Hon SUSSAN LEY MP**

Minister for Health  
Minister for Aged Care  
Minister for Sport

**UNDER EMBARGO**

**Until 1am, Monday 12 December 2016**

**Joint Media Release**

**Priority-driven Collaborative Cancer Research funding passes \$110m**

The Minister for Health and Aged Care, Sussan Ley, and Cancer Australia today announced a further \$10.39 million in funding for cancer research through Cancer Australia's *Priority-driven Collaborative Cancer Research Scheme* (PdCCRS).

Minister Ley said that the 2016 round of grants pushed the amount invested in the Scheme past the \$110 million milestone since its inception in 2007.

"The PdCCRS fosters collaboration in cancer research to improve outcomes and this year the Federal Government, through Cancer Australia, will invest \$5.54 million with an additional \$4.85 million contributed by funding partners to support 28 new research projects," she said.

"The 2016 cancer research projects cover a range of cancer research from biological research to prevention, precision treatment, palliative care and quality of life."

Cancer Australia CEO, Dr Helen Zorbas AO, said: "The PdCCRS provides an innovative national approach to funding cancer research across identified priority areas, bringing together government and non-government funding partners to maximise investment."

This year's successful applications include research into reprogramming the tumour microenvironment for the treatment of pancreatic cancer; improving the precision of lung cancer radiotherapy; use of aspirin to treat colorectal cancer; improving the cure rates of childhood brain cancer; improving natural killer cell responses to immunotherapy in haematological cancers; new therapeutic targets for breast cancer; behaviour change techniques to help Indigenous pregnant women quit smoking; novel approaches to screening for people at high risk of cancer; and modifying the immune response to melanoma.

The successful grants in the 2016 round of the PdCCRS are funded by Cancer Australia with funding partners the Australasian Sarcoma Study Group, Cancer Council Australia, Cancer Council NSW, Cure Cancer Australia, National Breast Cancer Foundation and The Kids' Cancer Project.

Cancer Australia collaborated with the National Health and Medical Research Council in the assessment of the research grant applications.

Further details of successful grant applications in the 2016 round of Cancer Australia's PdCCRS can be found on the Cancer Australia website – [www.canceraustralia.gov.au](http://www.canceraustralia.gov.au)

**Media enquiries**

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**Cancer Australia is pleased to announce the successful applicants in the 2016 Round of the Priority-driven Collaborative Cancer Research Scheme. These include:**

**Agar, Meera**

University of Technology Sydney

*Randomised double blind placebo controlled phase III trial of oral melatonin for the prevention of delirium in hospitalised advanced cancer patients*

Funded by Cancer Australia

**Batra, Jyotsna**

Queensland University of Technology

*Functional and mechanistic characterisation of a novel LncRNA at chromosomal locus 5p15 in prostate cancer*

Funded by Cure Cancer Australia

**Cao, Yuan**

Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre

*Targeting matrix metalloproteinase-12 (MMP12) promotes an immune response against breast cancer*

Funded by Cure Cancer Australia

**Carter, Daniel**

Children's Cancer Institute

*Targeting FACT to inhibit MYCN-driven transcription in neuroblastoma*

Co-funded by Cancer Australia and The Kids' Cancer Project

**Castano-Rodriguez, Natalia**

University of NSW

*The role of autophagy in gastric carcinogenesis*

Funded by Cure Cancer Australia

**Deans, Andrew**

St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research

*Are FANCC and FANCM breast cancer predisposition genes?*

Funded by the National Breast Cancer Foundation

**D'Souza, Rochelle**

QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute

*Understanding the tumour suppressive function of ephrin A5 signalling in adult brain cancer*

Funded by Cure Cancer Australia

**Gould, Gillian**

University of Newcastle

*Assessing Behaviour Change Techniques for Indigenous Pregnant Smokers attending Aboriginal Medical Services - a nested study in a cluster Randomised Controlled Trial*

Co-funded by Cancer Australia and Cure Cancer Australia

**Guillerey, Camille**

QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute

*Improving Natural Killer cell responses to immunotherapy in haematological cancers*

Co-funded by Cancer Australia and Cure Cancer Australia

**Hovey, Elizabeth**

Prince of Wales Hospital

*Phase III Intergroup Study of Radiotherapy with Concomitant and Adjuvant Temozolomide versus Radiotherapy with Adjuvant PCV Chemotherapy in Patients with 1p/19q Co-deleted Anaplastic Glioma or Low Grade Glioma: the CODEL trial*

Co-funded by Cancer Australia and Cancer Council NSW

**Lane, Steven**

QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute

*Dnmt3a loss contributes to disease progression in myeloproliferative neoplasm*

Co-funded by Cancer Australia and Cure Cancer Australia

**Lee, Gary**

University of WA

*FGF-Receptor Antagonist in Mesothelioma (FRAME) Study: A Phase II Clinical Trial*

Funded by Cancer Australia

**Lim, Su Yin**

Macquarie University

*Differential effects of MAPK inhibition on immune activity determine melanoma response*

Co-funded by Cancer Australia and Cure Cancer Australia

**Lock, Richard**

Children's Cancer Institute

*Reversing glucocorticoid resistance in paediatric acute lymphoblastic leukaemia - a novel epigenetic mechanism linked to lymphocyte-specific chromatin conformation*

Co-funded by Cancer Australia and The Kids' Cancer Project

**Mielke, Lisa**

Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research

*Transcriptional control of IL-17 producing T cells in gastrointestinal cancers.*

Co-funded by Cancer Australia and Cure Cancer Australia

**Morton, Rachel**

University of Sydney

*Computed tomography (CT) and positron emission tomography (PET)/CT surveillance imaging in asymptomatic Stage III melanoma patients - a prospective cohort study of clinical benefit and economic implications*

Funded by Cancer Australia

**Naylor, Matthew**

University of Sydney

*Targeting ACC1 as a novel therapeutic for the treatment of breast cancer*

Funded by the National Breast Cancer Foundation

**O'Brien, Ricky**

University of Sydney

*High Precision Radiotherapy: Dual Cardiac and Respiratory Motion Management*

Funded by Cancer Australia

**Phillips, Phoebe**

University of NSW

*Reprogramming the Tumour Microenvironment with the use of Nanomedicines for the Treatment of Pancreatic Cancer*

Co-funded by Cancer Australia and Cancer Council Australia

**Sahni, Sumit**

University of Sydney

*Molecular Role of the AMPK-Dependent Pathway in the Activity of Thiosemicarbazones Against Pancreatic Cancer.*

Funded by Cure Cancer Australia

**Segelov, Eva**

University of NSW

*ASCOLT: Aspirin for Dukes C and High Risk Dukes B Colorectal Cancers. An International, Multi-centre, Double Blind, Randomised Trial*

Co-funded by Cancer Australia and Cancer Council NSW

**Sharbeen, George**

Lowy Cancer Research Centre

*MutY-Homolog is a Potential Therapeutic Target for Pancreatic Cancer*

Funded by Cure Cancer Australia

**Sieber, Oliver**

The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research

*Development of a Clinico-Molecular Colon Cancer Nomogram for personalisation of adjuvant chemotherapy in the Australian population*

Funded by Cancer Australia

**Sjoquist, Katrin**

NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre

*Phase II clinical trial of the PARP inhibitor, olaparib, in HR- deficient advanced breast and ovarian cancer in women without inherited BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutations*

Co-funded by Cancer Australia and the National Breast Cancer Foundation

**Souza-Fonseca-Guimaraes, Fernando**

Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research

*Targeting suppressive TGF-beta to enhance innate lymphoid cell response against melanoma*

Funded by Cure Cancer Australia

**Taylor, Natalie**

Macquarie University

*Hide and seek with hereditary cancer: Improving detection of colorectal cancer patients with a high risk of Lynch syndrome*

Funded by Cancer Australia

**Thomas, David**

Garvan Institute of Medical Research

*A surveillance protocol for people at high risk of cancer using whole body magnetic resonance*

Funded by the Australasian Sarcoma Study Group

**Ziegler, David**

Sydney Children's Hospital

*Synthetic retinoid therapy for Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Gliomas*

Co-funded by Cancer Australia, Cancer Council NSW and The Kids' Cancer Project