



The Hospital Research
Foundation Group

YOUR *impact*

Supporting life-changing medical research and patient care in WA



New
fellowships
announced –
thanks to you!

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FIGHTING FOR THE EVERYDAY

60 Years
LIFE-CHANGING
IMPACT

TOGETHER. FIGHT.



Catherine Woulfe, her son Kilian and Dr Kim Rice

A devastating cancer diagnosis

Nothing prepares a parent for the moment they hear their child has cancer – let alone the shock, grief and helplessness that follow as they begin an uncertain path ahead.

For mum-of-three Catherine Woulfe, that journey began when eldest son Kilian, then 21 and a fit, active, seemingly healthy university student, was suddenly diagnosed with a potentially deadly form of leukaemia as he prepared to sit his final exams.

Catherine said that her son had been feeling run down with constant sore throats, coughs and colds, but struggled initially to get an accurate diagnosis despite repeated blood tests and visits to his local GP.

Kilian was rushed to hospital after sitting what would be his last exam for some time and ended up in the emergency department of Royal Perth Hospital.

“He was close to dying and it was imperative they commence treatment immediately,” Catherine explained, clearly emotional as she recalled how close she came to losing her son.

“This points out how significant a delayed diagnosis can be and how dangerously close to an unavoidable fatality it was.”

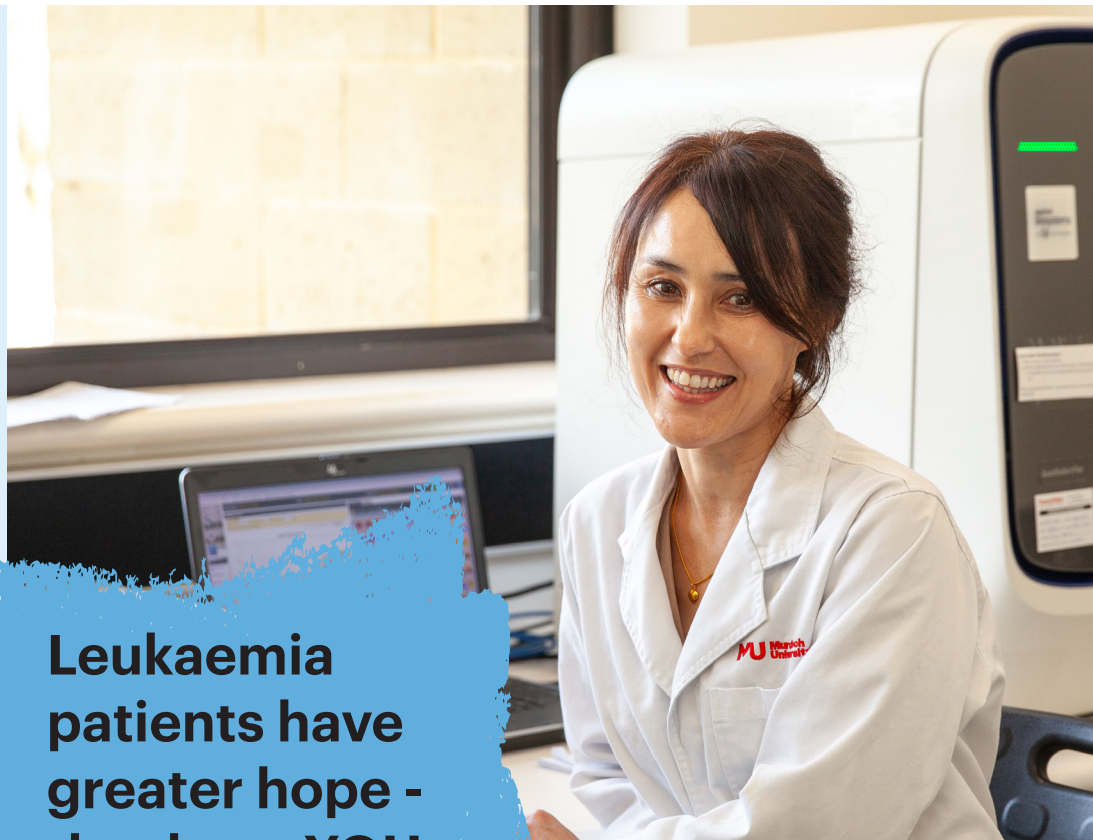
Kilian was ultimately diagnosed with Acute Promyelocytic Leukaemia (APML), which prior to the introduction of more targeted therapies, had a poor survival rate.

Kilian started aggressive treatment for APML in November



Kilian in hospital

2013, facing numerous challenges along the way with peripherally inserted central catheter lines failing, ongoing infections and painful bone marrow testing.



Dr Kim Rice,
Murdoch
University

Leukaemia patients have greater hope - thanks to YOU

He was unable to have regular chemotherapy due to the damage the disease had already done to his heart, so Kilian's doctor and family made the decision to treat him with a targeted combination of all-trans retinoic acid (ATRA) and arsenic trioxide (ATO).

Kilian was one of the first in WA to receive this targeted treatment – one that would ultimately save his life, albeit leaving him with side effects that the now successful 33-year old qualified clinical psychologist is still dealing with today.

Thanks to years of dedicated research, this powerful, chemotherapy-free approach is now widely used to treat standard-risk APML patients, with long term survival exceeding 90%.

And driving this research even further are experts like Dr Kim Rice, a lecturer at Murdoch University in Medical Genetics, who is focused on improving the survival rates of those diagnosed with different forms of leukaemia.

Dr Rice received a grant from The Hospital Research Foundation Group thanks to sponsor 'The Stan Perron Charitable Foundation', to help develop more targeted therapies for children diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML).

Dr Rice said people like Catherine who actively supported medical research were an asset to the research community, as they worked to improve survival rates and reduce long-term side effects of treatment.

"Families like Catherine's motivate me. Their lived experience of leukaemia helps us to understand the gaps in current treatments to refine our research questions, and they are passionate about supporting

WA scientists to keep striving for better outcomes," Dr Rice said.

"By joining forces with patients, their families and clinicians – collaborating, sharing ideas and resources – I'm hopeful that we will drive change for more effective leukaemia treatments for all children with AML."

Now a consumer advocate for Dr Rice's research program, Catherine agreed that advancing treatments relied heavily on investments in medical research, to ultimately give people a better chance of survival and to improve their quality of life, post-treatment.

"And we've witnessed that firsthand," Catherine said.

"Thanks to investment in medical research, survival rates for APML are now very high.

"It gives families like ours, time that you may never have had, and the chance to enjoy everyday moments that just become absolutely precious."



Dr Bernardo Dewey, Dr Vincent Mancini, Ben Wilson, Dr Kelsey Sewell and Liane Gilchrest

Four fellowships to strengthen healthcare in WA

Four pioneering healthcare fellowships have been awarded a total of \$1.6 million to address key areas of unmet need in Western Australia – focusing on support for new fathers, Aboriginal communities, regional areas and older Western Australians.

The three-year Early-to-Mid Career Research Fellowships will be jointly funded by the WA Government’s Future Health Research and Innovation (FHRI) Fund and The Hospital Research Foundation Group as part of a groundbreaking new partnership.

The fellowships were awarded after a competitive application process under the theme ‘Preventive Health for Priority Populations’.

Hon. Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Medical Research, said these fellowships were an example of how the FHRI Fund is

supporting work that benefits a range of communities.

“The Cook Government is committed to ensuring our State has the resources and infrastructure to be a leader in medical research and innovation,” Minister Dawson said.

“The FHRI Fund is more than just financial support, it is a catalyst for transformative change in WA’s health system and beyond.”

Ben Wilson, Growth Impact Lead at The Hospital Research Foundation Group WA, said

the fellowships reflect a strong commitment from both funding partners to improving the long-term health of Western Australians.

“These fellowships focus on real-world solutions for people often overlooked in traditional healthcare models,” Mr Wilson said.

“We’re proud to support these projects that will have a tangible and generational impact on our community’s health.”

**Your donations help
make these grants
possible – thank you!**

To further support research like this,
please consider a donation via the
enclosed coupon, calling our friendly
team on (08) 6215 8940 or visiting
www.HospitalResearch.org.au

**The successful applicants
come from across Western
Australia, including:**



Dr Vincent Mancini
The Kids Research Institute

Dr Mancini's research is focused on helping regional dads in Neonatal Intensive Care stay connected to their newborns.

This project will co-design new support systems to help regional fathers stay involved in their baby's care, reducing stress and improving family wellbeing during a difficult time.



Dr Kelsey Sewell
Murdoch University

Dr Sewell's research is designed to help reduce dementia risk in regional and remote areas where many older Australians struggle to find suitable programs.

The 'Small Steps' program will provide participants with personalised goals, online coaching and peer support to boost physical activity and brain health.



Dr Bernardo Dewey
Curtin University

Dr Dewey was successful for his research project aimed at supporting Aboriginal fathers during pregnancy.

Working with Aboriginal Elders, fathers and healthcare workers, the goal is to help Aboriginal dads feel more included in care, leading to better outcomes for parents and babies.



Ms Lianne Gilchrist
University of Western Australia

Ms Gilchrist's fellowship aims to improve health assessments for older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

This project will develop guidelines to help healthcare workers conduct better health and wellbeing checks for this cohort and make sure assessments are culturally respectful and sensitive to past trauma.



Dr Aaron Beasley, Edith Cowan University

This research
is only possible
thanks to you!

Driving innovation in melanoma treatments

Edith Cowan University based melanoma researcher, Dr Aaron Beasley, has a very personal motivation for pursuing a career in medical research.

As a young man, Aaron's father was diagnosed with late-stage melanoma and after dabbling in a range of non-medical careers, he decided to devote his professional life to improving outcomes for cancer patients.

It makes his latest research project focused on improving the treatment and survival rates of those facing late-stage melanoma, generously funded by AUSTAL through The Hospital Research Foundation Group, all the more meaningful.

Currently combination immunotherapy is the gold standard melanoma treatment for this cohort, however in reality only 50% of patients will respond.

It's critical, he says, to more accurately predict the non-responders as those patients could then be moved into other more promising clinical trials

in an effort to improve their chances of survival.

Dr Beasley's research project is focused on using a blood-based liquid biopsy to determine if a person with late-stage melanoma is going to respond to immune checkpoint inhibitors.

"This is important as we know around half of all patients treated will have long term benefits, and predicting if someone will respond will prevent patients from undergoing toxic therapies that are very likely to be unsuccessful," he said.

"If this is predicted, there may be other treatments or clinical trials that would be much more beneficial.

"Essentially, I am aiming to get the right treatment to the right patient at the right time."

He said supporting medical research is extremely important as a driver to improve survival rates of those facing cancer and other chronic diseases.

"In general, cancer prognosis and survival has significantly improved from even 10 years ago and this is primarily driven by generous donations – both financial and biological – from the broader community, companies like AUSTAL and charities like The Hospital Research Foundation Group.

"My research aims to prevent patients from undergoing toxic therapies that will likely not work. As more treatments become available, using precision medicine to get the right treatment to the right patient is critically important for improving outcomes," he added.



Austal's Shelley Sturgeon, Dr Aaron Beasley, THRF's Ben Wilson and Austal's Mathew Preedy

The 'why' behind Austal's support

Best known as a global leader in shipbuilding and Western Australia's strategic defence partner, Austal is also passionate about supporting its local community.

Austal has been supporting The Hospital Research Foundation Group in WA for more than 10 years, thanks to donations from staff and its annual sponsorship of research projects that align with the company's values.

Their support has helped advance a wide range of research over the years, spanning melanoma, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and prostate cancer.

Founded in WA in 1988, Austal has grown from humble beginnings to become a leader on the world shipbuilding stage, with a workforce in excess of 5000.

Throughout this growth, the company has always maintained a strong ethos of giving back and positively impacting their local community.

Mathew Preedy, Austal General Manager, said he believed the long-term partnership not only benefited local research but also staff – giving them a connection outside of work and the ability to see the impact their contributions make.

"We can see the impact that it is making for future generations," he said.

"That is why we really encourage our employees to support it if they are in a position to.

"Austal is very proactive in supporting organisations like The Hospital Research Foundation in the work they do, because of the impact they may ultimately have on our staff and on the broader community.

"I think one of the real highlights for us is that this research is taking place right here in Western Australia and that this partnership allows us to meet the doctors and researchers face-to-face and find out directly from them about the work they do."

Thank you Austal for your ongoing support!

If you're inspired to give back like Austal, please contact our friendly staff on (08) 6215 8940 or www.HospitalResearch.org.au

Celebrating Nobel Prize winner Professor Barry Marshall AC

The Hospital Research Foundation Group has been proud to celebrate 20 years since honorary patron Professor Barry Marshall AC was awarded his historic Nobel Prize.

Prof Marshall's outstanding career and contribution to medicine was celebrated at a special event at The University of Western Australia alongside the Hon Stephen Dawson, Minister for Medical Research, and some of WA's leading figures in science, research and medicine.

The evening also marked Prof Marshall's official retirement from what has been an outstanding, globally-recognised academic career.

He took to the stage with colleagues and band mates to mark the celebration and ensure his retirement was celebrated in truly unique style.

Prof Marshall and the late Prof J. Robin Warren AC received the esteemed Nobel Prize

in Physiology or Medicine in October 2005.

Their remarkable achievement has become part of medical folklore and has impacted the way ulcer sufferers are treated across the globe.

Seeking to prove that established conventional medical opinion at the time was wrong, then junior physician Dr Barry Marshall AC risked his life and swallowed a potentially harmful bacteria that would make him develop stomach ulcers before successfully treating himself with an antibiotic.



Nobel Laureates Prof Barry Marshall AC and Prof J. Robin Warren AC

The move shocked the medical and broader community at the time but went on to earn he and his then supervisor, Prof Warren, the Nobel Prize for Medicine and Physiology.

The remarkable breakthrough cemented both men's reputations as global leaders in medical research.

Prof Marshall is an honorary patron of The Hospital Research Foundation Group in WA.

Alongside his wife Adrienne, Prof Marshall continues to give back to young WA researchers via the Barry Marshall Travel Awards, which sponsor researchers to attend and present at conferences nationally and internationally – an opportunity he credits with kickstarting his remarkable career.



Prof Barry Marshall AC with past recipient Dr Lisa van der Lee

From WA to the world stage

Celebrating research on the world stage

Throughout 2025, there have been three rounds of recipients for the Barry Marshall Travel Awards.

These awards help fund travel to national and international conferences, giving our researchers the chance to share their groundbreaking work with global audiences and to network and collaborate with other researchers.

Congratulations to the following researchers who were successful throughout the year:

Dr Michael Hoskins

Institute for Respiratory Health

Mrs Sithara Dissanayaka

Edith Cowan University

Dr Vikas Bhat

South Metropolitan Health Service

Mr Joel Noble

University of Western Australia

Mr Andrew McAuliffe

University of Notre Dame

Mrs Taya Hamilton

Perron Institute

Dr Gayatri Shirolkar, PhD

Curtin University

Dr Patricia Martinet

Perron Institute

Miss Emily Jane Wood

Murdoch University

Mr Yiheng Lyu

University of Western Australia

Miss Caris Bogdanov

University of Western Australia

Dr Venkat Krishnamoorthy

South Metropolitan Health Services

Thank you to Professor Barry Marshall AC, Mrs Adrienne Marshall and Business Events Perth for continuing to make this opportunity possible and supporting the work of WA researchers.

Military and first responder support

We are proud to share that The Hospital Research Foundation Group - Military & Emergency Services Health Australia (MESHA) is expanding its lifesaving services into WA.

This expansion will help meet the growing need for health and wellbeing support among current and former service member communities in WA.

For more than 30 years, MESHA has delivered programs and research to support military and emergency services personnel across Australia, and we are excited to bring this critical work to WA.



MESHA's Kathleen Pisani and Dylan Williams

We are delighted to welcome Dylan Williams as our first WA-based Lived Experience Facilitator to the MESHA team and look forward to announcing further appointments and key partnerships in the coming months.

This is an important step in strengthening support for those who selflessly serve our communities and deserve our ongoing support.

Visit www.MESHA.org.au to learn more about their lifesaving work.

New WA team members

We are delighted to welcome two new staff members to help lead the Group's activities in Western Australia.

Ben Wilson joins the team as Growth Impact Lead WA and brings more than two decades of business development and partnerships experience in the corporate sector.

Chloe Partington also joins us as Corporate and Community Development Manager WA, with an extensive background in philanthropy.

Chloe and Ben join Georgie Sweeting, Communications Specialist WA, and Huey Yeo, Grants and Administration Officer WA.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to any of the team on (08) 6215 8940 if you have any queries.



Chloe Partington and Ben Wilson



Guests enjoying our past Awards Night and Meet The Researcher events

Celebrate your impact in WA!

You're invited to our next WA Impact Showcase and Awards Night, taking place on Wednesday 4 March 2026 at Fraser's Kings Park.

This special 2026 event will be a celebration of our expanded impact in WA, our generous sponsors and donors, our partnership with the WA Government, and of course our exceptional research community.

The night will share this widespread impact like you've never seen before, plus you will get a unique insight into our exciting Early-to-Mid Career Research Fellowships and other grant programs.

Stay tuned for further details and updates as the date gets closer.

We've also hosted an exciting range of events throughout the year to celebrate not just our brilliant research community but the amazing individuals and corporates whose support enables this life-changing work.

Two Meet the Researcher events were held in May and September, showcasing the breadth of research being conducted right here in WA thanks to our amazing donors.

We were also excited to be the charity of choice for a recent sold-out event held at the WA Comedy Lounge that premiered the comic – rather than sporting – skills of two West Coast Eagles legends, Dom Sheed and Jeremy McGovern.

It was a cracking night that raised more than \$3000 for The Hospital Research Foundation Group – thank you to all involved!

Sign up to receive the latest news about our research and events via our website www.HospitalResearch.org.au/WA



The Hospital Research Foundation Group

exists for every Western Australian

Our purpose is simple – to improve the health and wellbeing of the community through life-changing medical research and patient care initiatives, from birth to end-of-life.

Did you know?

We are a Group of charities and together we support more than 60 areas of disease and illness, from birth to end-of-life.



The Hospital Research Foundation Group



The Hospital Research Foundation Group
Military & Emergency Services Health Australia



Kidney, Transplant & Diabetes Research Australia



Australian Breast Cancer Research



Australian Heart Research



Australian Prostate Cancer



The Hospital Research Foundation Group
Palliative Care



The Hospital Research Foundation Group
Stroke



The Hospital Research Foundation Group
Parkinson's



The Hospital Research Foundation Group
Creative Health



The Hospital Research Foundation Group
Arthritis

TOGETHER. FIGHT.

WA Office:

GT17 – 135 High Street
Fremantle WA 6160

(08) 6215 8940

www.HospitalResearch.org.au



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