

Australia's top cancer researchers to receive \$1.6 million to fight our third biggest cancer killer

EMBARGOED UNTIL 17 NOVEMBER 2022

PanKind The Australian Pancreatic Cancer Foundation announces today, on *World Pancreatic Cancer Day*, the successful grant recipients in the 2022 grant round, committing a further \$1.6 million in research funding into pancreatic cancer, the third biggest cancer killer of Australians.

The investment will be shared between eight promising research projects involving scientists from leading institutions around Australia and will fund important projects in the areas of early detection and new treatments.

The successful *New Treatment Accelerator Grant* projects, which will accelerate new and improved treatments to patients, will receive a total of \$1.2 million. The *Early Detection Innovation Grant* projects, which focus on the early detection of the disease to increase survival, will receive a total of \$400,000. The purpose of the grants is to grow capacity in pancreatic cancer research in Australia, accelerate research translation, and improve survival from pancreatic cancer in line with PanKind's mission to triple survival by 2030.

PanKind CEO, Michelle Stewart, said "we are extremely proud and delighted to be supporting these very talented project teams in two key areas of pancreatic cancer research. Progressing research into new and effective treatments is key to improving patient outcomes." Michelle continued, "We also know that patients have more options available when their cancer is diagnosed earlier, providing the greatest chance of survival. Our focus on early detection continues with this funding, which will help develop new strategies to detect and diagnose pancreatic cancer, earlier. We can only fund this important initiative with the support of our community of donors and fundraisers and to them we are incredibly grateful."

The *New Treatment Accelerator Grants* have been awarded to teams led by Dr Sean Porazinski, Garvan Institute of Medical Research; Prof Nigel Turner, Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute; Dr Alex Staudacher, Central Adelaide Local Health Network and A/Prof Jason Lee, QIMR Berghofer.

The successful *Early Detection Innovation Grants* have been awarded to teams led by Dr Zaklina Kovacevic from The University of Sydney; A/Prof David Cavallucci, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital; Dr Ying Zhu, University of Technology Sydney and A/Prof Jason Lee, QIMR Berghofer.

Read more about the successful projects on our website: pankind.org.au/who-we-are/news/2022-research-grants-announced/

Pancreatic cancer is one of the deadliest cancers with a current 5-year survival rate of only 12.2%, and Only 3 out of 10 people (35.5%) will survive one year after diagnosis of pancreatic cancer.

Over 4500 people are diagnosed each year, with the disease claiming virtually the same number of lives as breast cancer this year yet the disease remains chronically underfunded.

We would like to thank our esteemed [Scientific Advisory Panel](#) who provided a multi-disciplinary, global perspective and assessed the applications from a very high-quality field against predetermined assessment criteria.

About PanKind

PanKind, The Australian Pancreatic Cancer Foundation is exclusively dedicated to pancreatic cancer with a mission to triple the survival rate by 2030 and dramatically increase the quality of life for patients and their families. We aim to achieve this through a strategic focus on raising awareness, collaboration to increase progress, and investing in ground-breaking medical research.

For more detailed information, further commentary and case studies, please contact:

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