



Jane Humby.

2018 has been another successful year for the Charlies Leukaemia and Lymphoma Fund (CLLF). Generous donations from patients and their family and friends have allowed us to continue bringing the most advanced treatments for blood cancers to Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. Special mention must go to Jane Humby who is always on the look-out for fund raising ventures. Her Patchwork and Craft stalls held at SCGH and in Waroona raise funds and fly the flag for the CLLF. Jane's collaboration with Peter Nosow at Landsdale Rose Gardens led to the development of the charity fundraising rose, "A Daughter's Gift", whose petals symbolise the red and white cells found in the blood.

Our goal to make new drugs available to patients with blood cancers was very successful in 2018. With assistance from the CLLF, the haematology clinical trials department has expanded and we opened clinical trials in non-Hodgkin lymphoma, Hodgkin disease, multiple myeloma, acute myeloid leukaemia and amyloidosis. Many of these trials are exploring new ways of treating blood cancer based on a better understanding of the disease. Unlike chemotherapy, these "targeted drugs" aim to specifically kill the cancer cell and not damage other cells in the body.

Clinical trials are vital as they help our patients now and in the future. The importance of these trials is nicely demonstrated by the story of ibrutinib, a drug used to treat patients with chronic lymphocytic leukaemia which has come back after chemotherapy

(relapsed CLL). At SCGH, we were involved with a study called RESONATE comparing ibrutinib (a tablet) with intravenous infusion therapy for relapsed CLL. Ibrutinib was much better at getting the CLL under control and patients reported a big improvement in their quality of life. This clinical trial led to registration of ibrutinib in Australia and on December 1st, 2017, the drug was reimbursed by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, making it available for many patients with relapsed CLL.

Funding from the CLLF also supported a number of projects to help improve our understanding of blood cancers. We are strong supporters of the national Multiple Myeloma Registry and Lymphoma Registry, both of which are providing very valuable information on these diseases in Australia. We have also been able to sponsor research looking at genetic predisposition and genetic defects in lymphoma and myelodysplasia.

There has been a rapid increase in the number of new drugs to treat leukaemia, lymphoma, multiple myeloma and other blood cancers. Our aim is to facilitate early access to these drugs through clinical trials which benefits patients now and in the future. Your ongoing support is much appreciated and by making a donation to the CLLF you can be sure of making a real difference.

Gavin Cull, Director, CLLF



Meet our team

The clinical trials department comprises nurses and clinical trials assistants who work with the medical staff to run clinical trials. Here we introduce two of our dedicated team.



Christina Crosbie – Tina is the nurse practitioner and stem cell transplant coordinator for the haematology department. She provides specialised and high quality care to patients receiving chemotherapy. She is an expert in the management of chemotherapy related side-effects and her aim is to make the journey for patients undergoing treatment for blood cancers as smooth as possible. She is known for her friendly nature, loud laugh and dodgy sense of humour.



Bradley Augustson – Brad is a clinical and laboratory haematologist at Charlies. He is a graduate of the University of Western Australia and completed a fellowship in myeloma research in Birmingham. He treats all forms of blood cancer and has a particular interest in multiple myeloma. He is principal investigator on a number of clinical trials bringing new treatments to patients with myeloma and is a member of the Myeloma Scientific Advisory Group of Australia. Unfortunately, he is a Carlton supporter.

