**Top researchers to receive over $1.8 million in funding
to fight one of Australia’s deadliest cancers**

**\*\*\*** *STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 16 NOVEMBER 2023*

**Key points:**

* Seven of Australia’s top scientists will share over $1.8 million in research funding to accelerate cutting-edge pancreatic cancer research
* Pancreatic cancer is now a common cancer with the lowest survival rate of all major cancers at only 12.5%, dropping to 6.8% for people in rural & regional Australia
* The funding is announced on *World Pancreatic Cancer Day* as iconic structures and landmarks across the country are spectacularly lit purple to mark the day.

PanKind The Australian Pancreatic Cancer Foundation announces today, on *World Pancreatic Cancer Day*, the successful grant recipients in the 2023 grant round, committing a further $1.87 million in research funding into pancreatic cancer, a disease with the lowest survival rate of all major cancers.

The investment will be shared between seven 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 Grant* projects, which will accelerate new and improved treatments to patients, will receive a total of $1.7 million. An *Early Detection Grant* project, which focuses on the early detection of the disease to increase survival, will receive a $100,000 grant.

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 delighted to be supporting these world-class Australian project teams. They are progressing research into new and effective treatments which 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 the disease earlier. This is the largest single funding announcement from PanKind and we are only able to support these important projects thanks to our funding partners, community of donors and fundraisers, and to them we are incredibly grateful.”

The *New Treatment Grants* have been awarded to teams led by Prof John Hooper from The University of Queensland; Dr Daniel Croagh from the Australian Gastro-Intestinal Trials Group (AGITG) Prof Ricky Johnstone from University of Melbourne; Dr Enyuan Cao from Monash University; A/Prof Jennette Sakoff from Calvary Mater Newcastle, and Dr Robert Chapman from The University of Newcastle.

PanKind’s commitment to funding research that detects the disease earlier continues with an *Early Detection Grant awarded* to Dr Belinda Lee, from The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI) in Melbourne.

Read more about the successful projects on our website: [pankind.org.au/who-we-are/news/2023-research-grants-announced/](https://pankind.org.au/who-we-are/news/2023-research-grants-announced/)

Pancreatic cancer has recently been acknowledged as a common cancer due to more Australians than ever being diagnosed with the disease. The current 5-year survival rate is only 12.5%, and drops alarmingly to 6.8% for people living in rural and regional areas. Only 3 out of 10 people (36.4%) 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](https://pankind.org.au/who-we-are/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 to arrange an interview, please contact:**

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