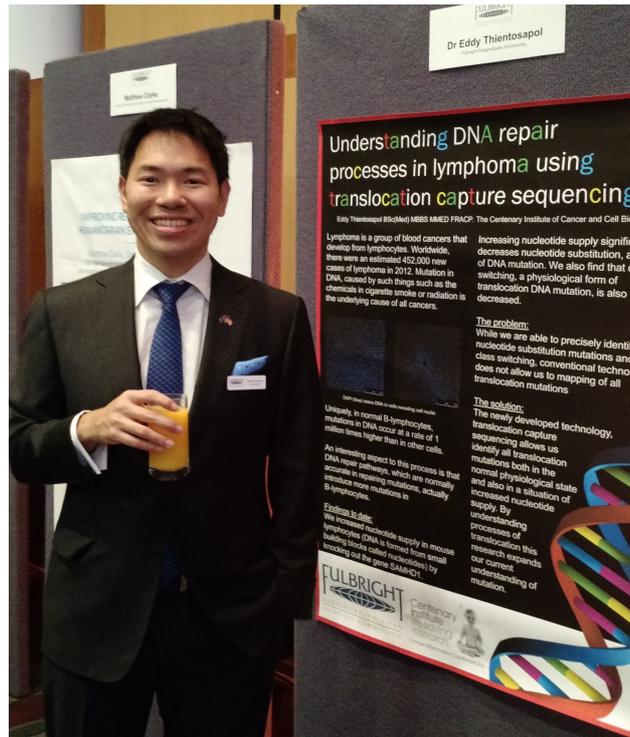


# MEDIA RELEASE

## New York City beckons for Dr Eddy Thientosapol, awarded prestigious Fulbright Postgraduate Scholarship to attend Rockefeller University!



The Centenary Institute is proud to announce, one of our most promising young scientific talents, Dr Eddy Thientosapol has topped an impressive pool of applications, to become one of 12 Australians to be awarded the prestigious Fulbright Postgraduate Scholarship, to attend the exclusive Rockefeller University in New York City.

Dr Thientosapol is in the highly valuable position of working as both a researcher in the laboratory and with patients in the clinic. He is a medical oncologist and PhD student at Centenary Institute, within the DNA Repair Laboratory, led by Dr Chris Jolly. For the Fulbright Scholarship, Dr Thientosapol will train under Professor Michel Nussenzweig, mastering recently developed molecular biology techniques to identify and characterise cancer-causing genetic damage.

DNA damage is the underlying cause of all cancers and to fight this, our cells have DNA repair enzymes that can reverse damage. Incorrect or incomplete repair of DNA is involved in gene translocation, which is the rearrangement of whole groups of genes leading to activation of cancer-causing genes. Gene translocations are especially important in the development of lymphoma and leukaemia. Understanding this process further, will lead to better, more targeted treatments for patients who currently have few options.

During the Fulbright program at Rockefeller University, Dr Thientosapol will be working with the latest techniques and technologies. He will learn translocation capture sequencing, a tool which helps to precisely identify the gene translocations present in a population of cells. On his return to Australia, he hopes to train fellow scientists in these methods to advance cancer research and clinical practice.

Dr Thientosapol's position as a practising doctor, working with patients as well as being a researcher, places him in an ideal position to be able to work towards understanding disease and finding cures. Dr Thientosapol is greatly motivated by the patients he works with and hopes to be in a position to be able to offer his patients novel medical options in the future and to ultimately save more lives.

"My patients with advanced cancer inevitably progress through standard systemic therapies, including chemotherapy, and are then left with no other options," said Dr Thientosapol. As a result of his research, he hopes to one day be able to offer patients better, more effective, targeted treatments. "One of the hardest things I have to do as a doctor, is to tell patients there are no other options available for them."

Dr Thientosapol will be based in New York for a period of 12 months and he will then return to Centenary Institute to share his knowledge with fellow colleagues, enhancing our domestic research resource.

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