

HUMANS OF MEDICAL RESEARCH



Understanding DISEASE...Finding a CURE

DR KATRINA FRANKCOMBE



Centenary's scientists do incredible work – making medical breakthroughs in the lab. But how do those breakthroughs come to be real-life health solutions? That's where Katrina Frankcombe comes in.

Katrina is in charge of Translation and Commercialisation. A large part of her role requires her to look at what research is being undertaken at Centenary, identify opportunities where it could be translated into diagnostics, therapeutics or other health outcomes and then help see that through. She also deals with agreements between Centenary and third-parties involving intellectual property, whether that's collaborations, confidentiality agreements or material transfer agreements.

As her job title would suggest, Katrina needs to be able to translate and communicate complicated medical research in a way collaborators outside the organisation will understand.

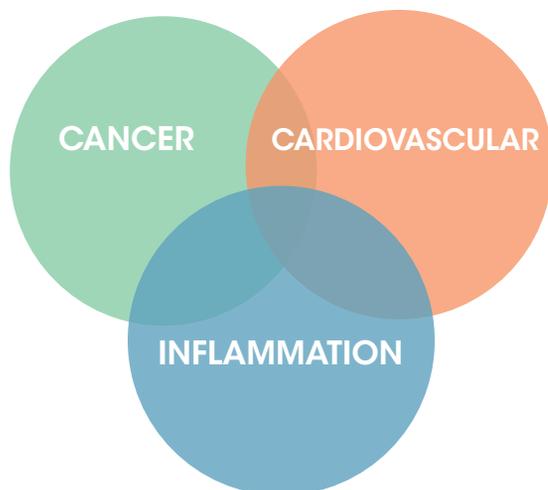
"While I studied medicinal chemistry at university, it's a completely different level here. The scientists are talking about signalling processes and physiological effects, which I don't have a background in. It can be quite challenging and Centenary's scientists need to 'dumb' it down a bit for me. But that's also good because most of the people I talk to will be more business people, so they don't necessarily have that background either."

But for Katrina, it hasn't always been about science. She's had a diverse career – even moonlighting as a nightclub manager!

"I went to the UK to do a post-doctorate at Cambridge University, but I became a bit disillusioned with academia. So, I left and managed a nightclub for three years. I went back into science, working for a biotech company, before moving into business development."

Katrina moved back to Australia in 2006 after spending eight years in the UK where she met her now husband. They have two children (currently 6 and 8 years old), which keeps Katrina busy outside work. But when she does have a spare moment, Katrina enjoys snowboarding and bushwalking with her family, especially back in her home state of Tasmania.

WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?



CANCER

Cancer is a disease of the cells, which are the body's basic building blocks.

1 in 3 women and 1 in 2 men will be diagnosed with cancer by the age of 85.

INFLAMMATION

Inflammation is the body's natural response to protect itself against harm. There are two types: acute and chronic.

1 in 9 Australians have asthma, around 2.5 million people.

CARDIOVASCULAR

Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) is a collective term for diseases of the heart and blood vessels.

Almost 1 in 3 deaths in Australia in 2015 were due to cardiovascular disease.

Together we are the solution...together we can save lives.



Ask Katrina a question here <https://www.centenary.org.au/meet-dr-katrina-frankcombe/>