

MEDIA RELEASE

10 September 2024

Research award to advance breast cancer treatments

Dr Mark Schreuder, a researcher at the Centenary Institute's Centre for Cancer Innovations, has received the Kenyon Foundation Inflammation Award for 2024.

Valued at \$20,000, the award will fund Dr Schreuder's investigation into a new imaging technology designed to measure tumour cell death, with a specific focus on its application in breast cancer.

A leading cause of cancer-related deaths among Australian women, breast cancer claims over 3,200 lives in Australia each year.

Dr Schreuder's study will evaluate the effectiveness of an innovative agent called Cell Death Indicator (CDI) that is used in combination with standard PET scans. This new imaging technique, known as CDI-PET, enables precise identification of dying and dead tumour cells. CDI-PET will be tested in mouse models of breast cancer to see how well it works in showing the effects of cancer treatments.

Dr Schreuder said the research addresses a significant challenge in diagnosing and monitoring breast cancer.

"Currently, imaging methods have a hard time distinguishing the difference between tumour cells and surrounding inflammation, especially after treatments like radiation or immunotherapy. This makes it tough to accurately assess how well the treatment is working and can introduce uncertainty about what to do next," said Dr Schreuder.

"With CDI-PET, our goal is to give clinicians a much clearer picture of the tumour and the effectiveness of the treatments taking place. This clarity can help optimise and better personalise treatment plans for patients, allowing for quicker switches to alternative therapies when required or reducing unnecessary treatments," he said.

Mr David Kenyon AM, Trustee of the Kenyon Foundation, underscored the importance of supporting such ground-breaking research.

"Breast cancer impacts countless lives in Australia every year. We are proud to support Dr Schreuder's pioneering work, which holds the promise of driving positive change and improving outcomes in this vital area of healthcare," said Mr Kenyon.

Dr Schreuder said that CDI-PET could potentially lead to more personalised and efficient treatments not only for breast cancer but for other types of cancer as well.

[ENDS]

Images:

Dr Mark Schreuder (x2):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uRoL5y-y3BywjwyC4CHDpmlf-5F9dtyp/view?usp=sharing>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/17YiBl4bDh1Q7FmgF-hIRpl90jua5OD-c/view?usp=sharing>

For all media and interview enquiries, please contact

Tony Crawshaw, Media and Communications Manager, Centenary Institute on 0402 770 403 or email: t.crawshaw@centenary.org.au

About the Centenary Institute

The Centenary Institute is a world-leading independent medical research institute, closely affiliated to the University of Sydney and the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. Our research spans the critical areas of cancer, cardiovascular disease, rare diseases, inflammation, infectious diseases, healthy ageing and biomedical AI. Our strength lies in uncovering disease mechanisms and applying this knowledge to improve diagnostics and treatments for patients.

For more information about the Centenary Institute, visit centenary.org.au

About the Kenyon Foundation

The Kenyon Foundation is a Canberra based philanthropic fund established in 2016 by the children of the late Helen and the late Arthur Kenyon AM. The Kenyon family are long term residents of Canberra with Helen and Arthur bringing their young family to the National Capital in 1960. Helen and Arthur welcomed the opportunities that came with their new home city and they both contributed significantly to Canberra's social, commercial and charitable activities. The creation of the Kenyon Foundation by Helen and Arthur's children, sons David and Richard and daughter Louise, honours the hard work, aspirations and vision of their parents. The Kenyon Foundation provides financial support and encouragement to its community, in Canberra and beyond, through annual gifting programs and donations, particularly in the areas of education, sporting groups, cultural organisations, medical research and bodies assisting the disadvantaged, disabled and homeless.