



Media release
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Growing Tissue Bank vital for cancer research Institute

Kathryn expected to be dancing the night away with friends at our upcoming Cancer Research Gold Ball but instead she's showing her support by donating healthy tissue for medical research.

In Australia 1 in 2 adults will be diagnosed with cancer before they are 85 (Cancer Council). Many Ballarat families are touched by cancer and Kathryn Kosloff's family is no different.

Mrs Kosloff's mother is living with cancer and is doing well thanks to the long-term care of Professor George Kannourakis. Her mother-in-law was also a patient of Professor and her sister is currently a PhD Candidate with the Institute, researching ovarian cancer

Mrs Kosloff said, "...so supporting local cancer research is very close to my heart."

An upcoming medical procedure has opened an opportunity for Kathryn to assist with FECRI's research programs by donating healthy tissue samples that can be used to compare healthy cells to cancer cells.

"Medical research is vital in the fight against cancer. It affects families for generations. My children are growing up with their paternal Grandmother in heaven and maternal Grandmother living with cancer so this is extremely important to my family to find more treatment options. Supporting the incredible work being undertaken by the researchers at FECRI ensures that we're getting closer to becoming a cancer-free community. Tissue donation needs more awareness so that individuals know that they have the opportunity to save lives." Kathryn Kosloff

Professor George Kannourakis from the Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute said "Our research program is possible, because of our tissue bank of nearly 4000 patient samples- many from cancer patients as well as healthy samples like Kathryn's. More are needed to support the growing and developing program."

"The ground-breaking work that the team here at the Institute is into the immunology of cancer. It is only through research that we can improve the outcomes for patients. Our program is building great momentum and will continue to produce outcomes."

FECRI currently has 10 PhD students from Federation University and 10 senior scientific staff. The program is community funded and the only cancer research Institute in regional Australia. Recent achievements of FECRI have included:

- Identification of rogue immune cells, establishing potential new targets in treatment of Bowel cancer.
- Identification of potential new immunotherapy targets for ovarian cancer

- Identification of a new immune cell subset in histiocytic disorders.
- Further immune studies in various cancer and leukaemias.
- Identification of a new method for isolating new viruses.

If you have an upcoming medical procedure or are receiving cancer treatment and would like to donate tissue or blood samples to our research program, speak to your Doctor or call the Institute on (03) 53313101 for more information.

All media enquiries, please contact Sarah Stapleton- Marketing and Fundraising Manager at FECRI on 0475 383 687 or sarah@fecri.org.au

Please tag the Institute on all social media using [@fionaelseycrri](https://www.instagram.com/fionaelseycrri)