



Media Release

Wednesday 25 September 2019

Ballarat Lamb sales for cancer research

A western districts grazier from Morri Morri will this Tuesday sell a pen of prime lambs at the Ballarat Sale Yard with proceeds going to the Ovarian cancer research program at the Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute.

1400 Australian women are diagnosed with Ovarian cancer each year, and nearly 800 die annually, making ovarian cancer the fourth most common cause of cancer-related death in women in Australia. The high mortality rate in patients results from the diagnosis of the disease at an advanced stage. Devastatingly, the five-year survival period of ovarian patients has remained unchanged and has been as low as 40% for the last thirty years.

Farmer, Rod Marshall, wants to support this crucial ongoing research in memory of his late partner Marg Nicholson, who recent passed from the disease. The sale will see the prime lambs sold by Landmark at the Ballarat sale yards with 100% of the proceeds of the sale going to research into ovarian cancer.

The need for research into the early detection of this cancer and treatment is critical as it continues to be a difficult to treat. Despite a good initial response to chemotherapy, most ovarian cancer patients' relapse, with nearly 60 percent dying within 5 years. The cause of this is that the patients develop a chemo-resistant strain of the disease. Research being conducted at the Ballarat based research centre is focused on the differences between responsive and non-responsive ovarian cancer protein cells.

As Australia's only regional cancer research institute, the Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute is making a world class contribution to cancer research and is based in Ballarat. Focusing on the role of the immune system and cancer, our signature projects include ovarian cancer, Immunology, leukemia and histiocytic disorders.

Professor George Kannourakis, Honorary Director at the Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute said "As a non-government funded research facility, we rely on community donations to continue our important research. It is wonderful people like Rod that make it all possible."

FECRI currently has 9 PhD students from Federation University Australia and 11 senior scientific staff. Recent achievements of FECRI have included:

- Identification of potential new immunotherapy targets for ovarian cancer
- Discovered that immune cells in the walls of the bowel can misbehave and release chemical messengers promoting Bowel 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.

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 @fionaelseycr

Sale Details:

9am Tuesday 1 October

Miners Rest Sale yards (Ballarat)

129 Sunraysia Hwy, Miners Rest VIC 3350

Landmark pens- Southside of yard

Sarah Stapleton will be onsite to assist.