

**Media release
2 November 2023**

Community Bank backs research

The Creswick & District Community Bank Branch of the Bendigo Bank have lent their support to purchasing new vital equipment for the Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute (FECRI).

The QuantStudio Quantitative Real-time PCR System has been recently installed into the Ballarat laboratory to assist the team to scrutinize molecules expressed in diseased cancer samples.

This powerful research tool detects how much of a specific section of nucleic acid there is in a cancer sample, in real time. This latest technology enables large numbers of samples to be processed simultaneously and efficiently.

This donation assists to substantially progress the pace of the research.

The PCR System is particularly vital for Triple Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC) research at FECRI. The research team continues to learn the behaviour of cancer cells during disease progression and how immune system can fight cancer with a primary focus on identifying novel cancer therapeutics.

Accounting for 15 – 20% of all breast cancer diagnoses, TNBC subtype presents with an aggressive clinical course, heightened metastatic potential and poorest short-term prognosis.

Given the multiple applications possible with the QuantStudio Real-time PCR System, this equipment benefits all cancer researchers at the Institute for studies across multiple projects to maximize our research related to cancer genomics.

Quote attributable to Branch Manager, Community Bank – Creswick & District, Grant Hopkinson.

“Cancer impacts so many families. Our customers choose to bank with us, as they know that we return our banking profits to support Clubs, Projects and organisations, such as the Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute, who are at the heart of our community.”

Quote attributable to Chair of Community Bank – Creswick & District, Marcus Walsh.

“We are proud of our ongoing support of the Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute and delighted to be able to assist their research efforts by providing funding for the QuantStudio Quantitative Real-time PCR system.”

Quote attributable to Honorary Director for the Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute, Professor George Kannourakis.

“We are fortunate to have the support of the Creswick Community Bank for our laboratory. The QuantStudio Real-time PCR System increases the speed and outcomes for our research team.”

“As a community funded organisation, the Institute relies on the generous support of donors to continue and grow. We are proud to be Australia’s only regionally based cancer research facility,

based in Ballarat. We are an example that internationally recognised research can be performed outside of the metropolitan centres.”

Recent research results from FECRI include:

- Identification of proteins involved in chemo resistance in Ovarian cancer that can potentially be used as targets to prevent progression and circumvent chemoresistance in patients.
- World first work in describing the behaviour and function of a pregnancy associated plasma protein (PAPPA), in triple negative breast cancer. This research has led to understanding the mechanism for progression of cancer during pregnancy.
- Bowel cancer research team reported discovery on a subset of immune cells in the bowel that can misbehave and release chemical messengers that promote cancer and inhibit other immune cells.
- Identification of a new immune cell subset in histiocytic disorders.

Photo opportunity:

Friday 3 November, 11:30am
Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute
106-110 Lydiard Street (Sth), Ballarat.

In attendance: Grant Hopkinson- Creswick Community Bank, Marcus Walsh-
Chair of Creswick Community Bank, Professor George Kannourakis, Fiona Elsey
Cancer Research Institute, Dr Aparna Jayachandran

Media Enquires:

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