



MEDIA RELEASE

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LUDWIG INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH HELPING THE FIGHT AGAINST PROSTATE CANCER

Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research (LICR) has secured a grant from the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA) to examine novel ways of assessing prostate cancer.

Associate Professor Ian Davis, head of the LICR Uro Oncology Laboratory and senior oncologist in the joint LICR-Austin Oncology Unit, said the project is part of an ongoing research program to evaluate how useful PET scanning is in the management of prostate cancer.

“Our group was privileged to obtain research funding previously from PCFA in conjunction with Cancer Australia and the Diagnostics and Technology branch of the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aging. That funding was used to perform two clinical trials to determine the role of a special type of PET scan called carbon-11-choline PET in the management of men with prostate cancer that had not spread beyond the prostate.”

“In this new project supported by PCFA’s ‘New Directions Development Award’ we will take our research in a direction not previously investigated in prostate cancer. “

“Prostate cancers usually rely on male sex hormones but female sex hormones (also present in men) can also have effects. These hormones have important effects on how the cancer behaves. We will use PET to study how one of these female sex hormones attaches to prostate cancer cells in the test tube as well as in animal experiments. This could lead to better ways of scanning for prostate cancer in the future and might also suggest new ways of treating it,” said Associate Professor Davis.

Professor Davis also said there are close interactions and scientific collaborations between LICR and the Centre for PET, which have been integral to this grant.

Dr Anthony Lowe, Chief Executive Officer of Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia says the *New Directions Development Awards* were established to support exactly the kind of project being conducted at LICR.

“The New Directions Development Award has been established to stimulate prostate cancer senior investigators to pursue new, creative ideas that have the potential to catalyse work in the field and accelerate the pace of translation. The newly funded research proposed by Associate Professor Ian Davis fits perfectly into this category. It has the potential to generate important information in regards to a revolutionary treatment of men with localized prostate cancer, in a relatively short period of time,” said Dr Lowe.

LICR is the largest international academic institute dedicated exclusively to understanding and controlling cancer, with a number of laboratory and clinical sites around the world, working to improve patient outcomes through integrated programs that translate basic laboratory discoveries into patient benefits through conducting its own clinical trials.

LICR is also a founding partner of the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Centre at Austin Health, which has a focus on the development of innovative cancer therapies, and providing quality of life to patients with cancer.