

# Foundation in Focus

Autumn Issue 2017



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## Cancer Survivor Gives Back

*Daniel George: former pro-basketballer, cancer survivor turned financial advisor, and now proud Icon Cancer Foundation Ambassador hoping to help drive awareness and support patients and their loved ones through their personal cancer experience.*

As a former professional basketballer, Daniel was lucky enough to travel the world having played at the World Junior Championships, USA college basketball and has also spent time in the NBL with the Hunter Pirates, Brisbane Bullets, Wollongong Hawks and the Cairns Taipans. "One of the highlights in my basketball career was playing on an Australian select team on tours of China in 2007 and 2008 which was coached by Andrew Gaze ... I feel eternally grateful to have enjoyed playing sport for so long," he said.

In April 2012 Daniel was diagnosed with stage two testicular cancer. "It was a bizarre experience. I went from playing basketball on a Friday night, feeling healthy and strong to noticing my testicle was slightly enlarged and rock hard. Monday morning scans and blood tests then straight to meeting a specialist and scheduling surgery at 3.00pm Monday afternoon."

He was 29 when diagnosed with cancer with two young daughters, Halle and Emme [pictured], aged two and one at the time. "I cried on the day I was diagnosed because the word cancer means life threatening. I cried as I drove past my kid's school, on the way home from the GP and before meeting with the surgeon because in that moment I didn't know if I was going to be alive to see my kids complete primary school."

Daniel had surgery to remove the tumour followed by 28 chemotherapy sessions across 13 weeks at Icon Cancer Care South Brisbane. The initial shock of having cancer and the overwhelming thought that it could be life threatening did not last long as Daniel's fighting spirit kicked in. "Once the team at Icon educated me on the fact that testicular cancer is actually quite treatable, my emotion quickly transitioned into one of fight and I remained focused and mentally strong during my treatment."

Daniel has struggled with the wave of emotions he experienced post treatment and the feeling of relief that he survived cancer is still occasionally offset by the challenges of returning to normality. "I still struggle today despite it being five years, this April since my diagnosis. A friend told me that 'you'll always be the guy who had cancer.' Meaning it's never going to leave my mind despite the illness leaving my body. The more time passes, the more I believe that to be true."

During Daniel's time as a professional basketballer, he also completed a business degree in the USA and maintained a passion for providing quality financial advice. He now runs his own business, enjoying his role as a financial advisor and feels it's an incredible profession to work in, knowing he is trusted with a very important aspect of someone's life. So whilst being a financial advisor, he and a group of friends discovered there weren't many not-for-profit organisations providing counselling services and the *Still I Rise Foundation* was born. The *Still I Rise Foundation* believes that patients need more than medicine, they need emotional support and someone to listen to their fears and concerns.

The charity has provided over 800 counselling sessions free of charge to patients and their family over the last two and a half years. >>



They have continued to fund a counsellor at Icon Cancer Care South Brisbane who provides much needed emotional support to Icon patients and their families.

As an extension of his work with *Still I Rise* Daniel is delighted to be the newest brand ambassador for Icon Cancer Foundation. For Daniel, being an ambassador doesn't simply mean being the face of something, or even bringing credibility to a cause, it's about actively supporting people and working directly with organisations to make a difference. He agreed to be an ambassador for Icon Cancer Foundation as he believed the work being done was not only important, but also has significant and measurable benefits.

"To me, Icon Cancer Foundation's research and clinical trial programs are tangible, you can see the benefit of the work being done. I once sat in the waiting room at Icon Cancer Care and saw a man literally walk out of a doctor's room fist pumping the air because his clinical trial, which was his absolute last hope, was working. The more we can do in this space, the better."

He is looking forward to working with the Foundation to increase awareness of clinical trials and help deliver more emotional and physical support to patients and their loved ones particularly during and after treatment.

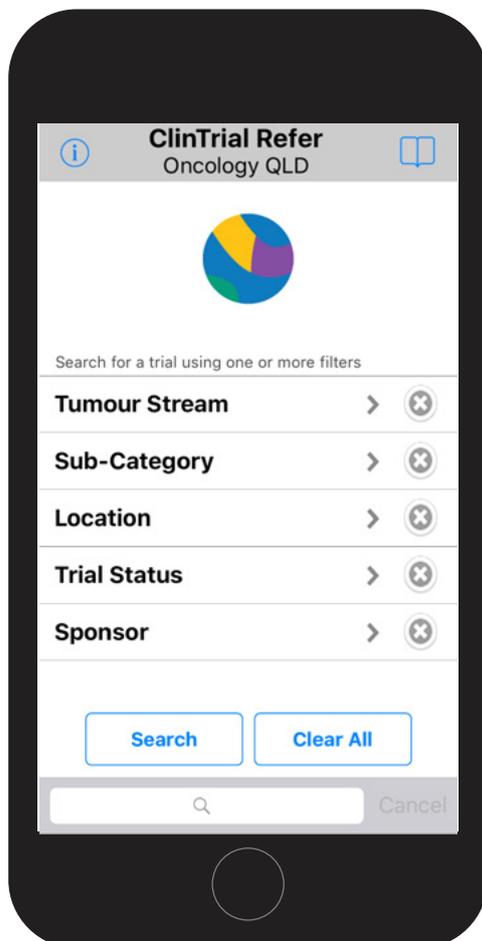
"I think there is still a stigma around how we support our people through their battle and what we do when they are feeling helpless. I'm excited to start talking to other cancer patients, identifying gaps they feel exist and working with the Foundation to ensure anybody living with this disease is supported as well as they possibly can be during a very difficult time. I am particularly keen to work with Icon to provide and assist with the delivery of more allied health services."

Daniel is currently enjoying a balanced work and family life, running his own business for the past three years whilst continuing to spend quality time with his family. He lives every day with a positive outlook and a determination to do good.

"We have so many beautiful people in the world, and I believe that much can be achieved if we can generate measurable and tangible outcomes. My cancer experience has given me a unique perspective and the realisation that life is fragile, so I certainly have an urgency not to waste my time on this earth."



## Keep up-to-date with Clinical Trials



Clinical trials are a crucial treatment option for patients to access new therapeutic options. The most reliable and the only accepted scientific method to take discoveries from the laboratory bench to the bedside is evaluating the safety and efficacy of these new interventions in clinical trials that test new methods of prevention, detection, screening and treatment of diseases.

*ClinTrial Refer* is a Mobile App platform that is growing to help connect patients, clinicians and clinical trial units in various clinical settings. Updated monthly, *ClinTrial Refer* supplies a current list of active and yet-to-be approved clinical trials in Australia. Designed for doctors, patients and trials unit staff, *ClinTrial Refer* has searchable clinical trial details, hospital locations and contacts, and inclusion and exclusion criteria.

The app allows users to easily filter by diagnosis, hospital location, trial status and / or sponsor, and displays the locations where the trial is currently active or pending. Through the app, users can email or call participating trial units for further information and directions on how to refer a patient. Many doctors actively use the app and encourage referring patients to investigative sites where relevant clinical research trials is conducted and subsequently increase recruitment. Patients have the option use the App to talk to their doctor about the suitability of an existing or upcoming trial for them.

Clinical trials open or yet-to-be approved at Icon Cancer Care day hospitals and coordinated by Icon Cancer Foundation can be easily found by downloading the *ClinTrial Refer Oncology Qld* or *ClinTrial Refer Haematology Qld* apps from the App Store or Google play.

You can also find a list of our current clinical trials open for recruitment on our website at [iconcancerfoundation.org.au/clinical-trials/current](http://iconcancerfoundation.org.au/clinical-trials/current)



# Cycle Cambodia and Support Research

Journey with Aurora Adventures and Icon Cancer Foundation to cycle for a cause through the heart of Cambodia. The challenge aims to raise funds for the Foundation and help improve cancer patient outcomes through clinical trials and programs. By the end of the challenge you will have helped out local schools and medical centres, met awesome locals and made some firm new cycling friends, all while seeing the best of Cambodia from the back of a bike. A 12-week pre-adventure training and fitness package will be included in your cost as you prepare for long mountain cycling distances of up to 80km.

The 12 day Cambodia itinerary will include; helping teach English to school children, a visit to the World-Heritage listed site of Angkor Wat, Ox-cart ride through the Samrong Village and rice fields, take part in cooking classes, visit the town of Battambang known for its French colonial architecture and rubies and much more.

You'll not only complete a personal physical challenge but will also be part of a team raising important funds for an amazing cause that will help change people's lives.



## Details:

Dates: 9th to 22nd November 2017

Price: \$6,490pp\*

Minimum fundraising: \$2,500

For more information, or to register please visit:

[iconcancerfoundation.org.au/events/cambodiacycle2017](http://iconcancerfoundation.org.au/events/cambodiacycle2017)

\* Accommodation and flight upgrades are available.

## Please donate to support the work of Icon Cancer Foundation

At Icon Cancer Foundation, 100% of donated funds go directly to supporting research initiated by our clinicians and patient support services.

Name .....

Address ..... Suburb ..... Postcode .....

Phone ..... Mobile ..... Email .....

I wish to contribute a:  one-off donation  regular contribution of:  \$10  \$20  \$30  \$50  \$100

Other: \$ ..... Frequency:  Monthly  Yearly ..... (please supply credit card details below) .....

MasterCard  Visa Name (as it appears on card) .....

Credit Card Number                 Expiry Date ..... / .....

Signature .....

As a Registered Charity [CH1854] your donations of over \$2 are tax deductible.

A receipt will be posted to the above address for donations of more than \$2.

For enquiries, please phone 07 3737 4500. Icon Cancer Foundation | PO Box 3787 South Brisbane QLD 4101



## Remembering a loved one

With the loss of a loved one some families find comfort in asking for charitable donations in lieu of flowers or gifts.

Icon Cancer Foundation graciously accepts gifts in memoriam to support cancer research and patient support services.

Please email [foundation@iconcancercare.com.au](mailto:foundation@iconcancercare.com.au) or phone 07 3737 4500 to discuss further.

*Any messages received with donations will be presented to the family in a card approximately six weeks from the first donation.*

## Christmas Appeal

Last Christmas the Foundation held their first annual Christmas Appeal throughout the month of December. Icon Cancer Care patients and friends of the Foundation were asked to buy a paper bauble and write their messages of support to display around the centres.

The appeal was a wonderful success and raised over \$2000 which will directly help fund investigator initiated trials such as the *Brain Cancer Exercise Physiology Intervention Research Program*. This hopes to give more insight into how a tailored exercise regime may help benefit brain cancer patients.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas appeal and we look forward to holding the Christmas Appeal again this year.



Clinical Trial Coordinator Wan Yi Jiang

## Clinical trial opportunities

We are currently recruiting patients for clinical trials into the following cancer types:

Breast | Myelodysplastic Syndrome | Multiple Myeloma | Ovarian | Prostate | Urothelial | Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia

If you are interested in learning more about these trials or wish to participate, please speak with your doctor. Alternatively, please phone 07 3737 4500 for more information.

You can also keep up-to-date by following us on social media:

- Icon Cancer Foundation
- @iconcancerfdn
- @iconcancerfoundation
- Icon Cancer Foundation

If you would like to receive a copy of our newsletter via email and help us reduce associated costs, please email [foundation@iconcancercare.com.au](mailto:foundation@iconcancercare.com.au) with your name and preferred email [iconcancerfoundation.org.au](http://iconcancerfoundation.org.au)