

Research shaping future cancer care

ICON
CANCER FOUNDATION

Impact Report 2025/26





Acknowledgment of Country

Across Icon Oncology Group, we acknowledge and respect the history and contributions of First Nations peoples. As a global organisation, we honour and respect Indigenous cultures around the world and recognise and value the strength of Indigenous knowledge in helping us provide the best care possible.

A future where cancer patients live longer, better lives through research

More Australians are being diagnosed with cancer than ever before. At the same time, rapid advances in treatment are creating new opportunities to improve outcomes, expand access to clinical trials and enhance quality of life through research.

Icon Cancer Foundation (ICF) funds clinician-led research conducted across the Icon Cancer Centre network, Australia's largest private cancer care provider. Through philanthropy, we support innovative research, clinical trials and capability needed to bring new treatments and technologies to patients sooner.

What makes our research program unique is the scale of the Icon Cancer Centre network and the close connection between everyday patient care and research. With hundreds of patients receiving treatment each day across Australia, clinicians can lead studies across multiple centres, giving more people the opportunity to participate in research closer to home while generating real-world evidence that improves care for future patients.

Why research matters

- Nearly one million Australians will have been diagnosed with cancer in the past decade.
- Around two in five Australians will be diagnosed with cancer by age 85.
- Cancer is becoming more commonly diagnosed in younger Australians in their 30s and 40s.

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.



Contents

From our Board Chair	6
How Icon Cancer Foundation advances cancer research	8
Our researchers	12
Research operations	14
Current research	16
Research highlights	18
Turning research into tomorrow's treatments	18
Improving breast cancer treatment	20
LIBERATE prostate cancer study	21
Supporting tomorrow's cancer researchers	22
Preserving cancer treatment, protecting nerves	24
Supporting patients through complex cancer treatment	25
Expanding access to cellular therapy research	26
Transforming lives beyond cancer	27
Building tomorrow's research	28
Real stories	30
Research priorities shaping the future	32
The community behind the research	34
From survival to giving back	36
Thank you to our supporters	38
How donations were invested	39
Our Board	40



From our Board Chair

Cancer care in Australia is evolving rapidly. Across the Icon Cancer Centre (ICC) network, more patients are accessing care each year, while demand continues to grow for more personalised therapies, clinical trials and highly specialised models of care.

Advances in precision medicine and novel therapies are transforming what is possible for patients. At the same time, these therapies demand greater coordination, clinical expertise and infrastructure to ensure patients can access these treatments safely and close to home.



Creating momentum for better cancer care

Against this backdrop, the past year has marked an important milestone for Icon Cancer Foundation (ICF). After several years focused on building awareness, strengthening relationships and growing community support, the Foundation experienced its strongest year of philanthropic investment to date. This has given ICF a stronger platform to expand its investment in clinician-led research while working alongside the ICC network to prepare for the next generation of cancer care.

A defining moment this year came in early 2026 with the Talbot Foundation's transformative \$2.5 million gift - the largest donation in ICF's history. We are deeply grateful to Liam Talbot and Charli Robinson for their extraordinary generosity. Their contribution will enable Icon to strengthen the organisation's research infrastructure, build research capability and enhance the clinical readiness needed to deliver emerging therapies and expand access to clinical trials for patients across Australia.

Alongside this landmark investment, ICF has continued to expand its research program and access to clinical trials across the ICC network.

Research conceived and led by clinicians caring for patients every day is uniquely positioned to address the real-world challenges and opportunities in modern cancer care. Reflecting this approach, radiation therapy has remained a key area of investment for ICF.

A highlight this year was the launch of the three-year breast cancer clinical trial (PUMA) in September 2025. Now open in South Australia, Tasmania, New South Wales and Queensland, the study aims to improve the treatment experience and quality of life for women receiving radiation therapy for early-stage breast cancer.

Beyond PUMA, ICF invested in three specialist research roles and supported 18 clinician-led studies across 12 treatment centres, enabling 287 patients to participate in ICF-funded clinical trials.

Leading ICF into the future

Philanthropy continues to play an important role in advancing cancer research. Through sustained investment, collaboration and a shared commitment to improving outcomes, it enables promising ideas to progress, supports clinicians to pursue investigator-led research and helps ensure more patients can benefit from tomorrow's treatments.

As ICF continues to grow, it is increasingly well positioned to invest in ambitious research that will shape the future of cancer care.

Building on strong foundations

Looking ahead to the new financial year, I would also like to recognise the leaders whose guidance and commitment have helped build the strong foundations we have today.

In particular, we acknowledge ICF Director Ross Koscharsky who retired from the ICF Board at the end of the 2025/26 financial year. On behalf of the Board, I sincerely thank Ross for his support, guidance and valued contribution over the past 10 years. His insight and commitment have played an important role in strengthening the Foundation.

Following Ross's retirement, we are pleased to welcome Tracey Fyvie, Chief Executive Officer Commercial and Global Services, to the ICF Board. Tracey brings extensive organisational leadership experience and a strong understanding of Icon's strategic priorities, and we look forward to her contribution to the Foundation's continued growth.

Later this year, we will also welcome Jenny Hansen, Icon Oncology Group's Chief Marketing and Communications Officer, to the ICF Board. Jenny's expertise in strategic healthcare communications, stakeholder engagement and brand development will be a valuable asset as we continue to strengthen awareness of the Foundation and its mission.

Making a difference together

On behalf of the Board, I would like to sincerely thank our donors, research participants, researchers, clinicians, partners and the broader community. Your generosity, commitment and trust underpin every achievement highlighted in this report.

While there is still much work ahead, this year has demonstrated what can be achieved when philanthropy, research and clinical expertise come together with a shared focus on improving outcomes for people affected by cancer.



Dr Jonathan Ramsay
Icon Cancer Foundation Chair





How Icon Cancer Foundation advances cancer research

Research is central to Icon Oncology Group's mission to deliver the best care possible, to as many people as possible, as close to home as possible.

Across Australia, New Zealand and Singapore, Icon Cancer Centre conducts a broad range of sponsor-initiated, collaborative and investigator-led research. Through 2025–26, Icon activated 62 clinical trials across its global network.

Within Australia, Icon Cancer Foundation plays a unique role by funding independent, investigator-led research conducted across the Icon Cancer Centre network. Philanthropic support enables Icon clinicians and researchers to pursue important questions arising from everyday patient care -research that improves treatment, reduces side effects, enhances quality of life and strengthens future cancer care.

Together, these complementary research streams expand access to clinical trials, strengthen research capability and accelerate the translation of research into better patient care.

Research across Icon Cancer Centre

Three streams of research.

One goal: better outcomes for patients

 Sponsor-initiated research	 Collaborative research	 Investigator-led research
Research delivery National and international clinical trials conducted across the Icon Cancer Centre network.	Research delivery Multi-centre studies conducted across the Icon Cancer Centre network with universities, hospitals, cooperative clinical trial groups and research organisations.	Research delivery Independent studies developed by Icon clinicians and conducted across the Icon Cancer Centre network (Australia), sometimes in collaboration with external partners.
Led by Pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies.	Led by Research partnerships.	Led by Clinicians and researchers.
Funded by Pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies.	Funded by Research grants, universities, cooperative groups and government.	Funded by Supported by philanthropy Icon Cancer Foundation through philanthropic support.
Patient benefit Gives eligible patients access to promising new treatments before they are widely available while gathering evidence needed to bring the new therapies to market.	Patient benefit Brings together expertise from multiple organisations to answer important clinical questions, improving cancer care for patients.	Patient benefit Focuses on questions that matter most to patients, such as reducing side effects, improving quality of life and making treatment more effective - areas that are often overlooked by commercial research.



ICF funded research at a glance



287

patients on ICF funded clinical trials and in follow up



107

patients screened for ICF funded clinical trials



18

studies across 12 treatment centres



3

ICF-funded specialist roles

Our researchers

Meet the researchers behind Icon Cancer Foundation funded studies.



Dr Patrick Bowden

Radiation oncologist | VIC
(Study: TRANSFORM)



Professor John Boyages AM

Radiation oncologist | NSW
(Study: PUMA)



Dr Scott Carruthers

Radiation oncologist | SA
(Study: PUMA)



Dr Paul Conway

Radiation oncologist | VIC
(Study: POCHAHONTAS)



Associate Professor Steven David

Radiation oncologist | VIC
(Study: PUMA)



Georgina Douglas

Oncology nurse | TAS
(Study: COMPRES)



Dr Andrew Fong

Radiation oncologist | NSW
(Study: PUMA)



Professor Gerald Fogarty

Radiation oncologist | NSW
(Study: ROSEND)



Dr Craig Gedye

Medical oncologist | SA
(Study: CHIA)



Dr Kevin So

Radiation oncologist | VIC
(Study: TREMOR)



**Associate Professor
Peter Gorayski**

Radiation oncologist | SA
(Study: iROAR)



**Associate Professor
Michael Jones**

Radiation oncologist | TAS
(Study: PUMA)



**Associate Professor
Nicole McCarthy**

Medical oncologist | QLD
(Study: FAPI PET)



Dr Karthik Nath

Clinical haematologist | QLD
(Study: CELLULAR)



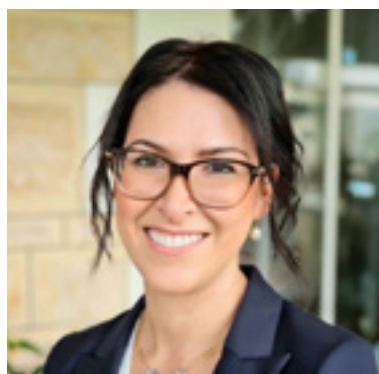
**Associate Professor
Louise Nott**

Medical oncologist | TAS
(Study: COMPRES)



Dr Andrew See

Radiation oncologist | VIC
(Study: LIBERATE)



Lydia Tamblyn

Site Manager/Radiation
Therapist | SA
(Study: iROAR)



Dr Eve Tiong

Radiation oncologist | WA
(Study: LIBERATE)



Research operations

Behind every study is our dedicated research operations team working closely with Icon Cancer Centre clinicians to bring research into practice. The team provides governance and supports researchers to develop study protocols, budgets and ethics submissions.

They also coordinate regulatory approvals and prepare key study documentation, including data collection tools. Once a site is activated, the team continues to support clinical teams to ensure studies are conducted in line with required protocols, ethical standards and regulatory requirements across the Icon network.



Senior Leadership and Management Research team

Caption: Left to right: Melanie Wilson – Executive Assistant, Jennifer Pavlides – Global Research Finance Integrity Manager, Meghan Leigh – State Clinical Research Manager (Qld), Sophie Mephram – Executive Manager Research, Tenille Baker – Group Manager Research Governance, Bianca Karle – Global Research Implementation and Quality Manager, Rossa King – State Clinical Research Manager (VIC, TAS), Sue Yeend – State Clinical Research Manager (SA), Rebecca Clarke – Group Manager Site Research Operations, Duncan Colyer – Group Manager Investigator Initiated Trials Operations Manager.



Current research

Philanthropic support enables Icon Cancer Foundation to invest in research capability, research infrastructure and investigator-led research in line with the Foundation's charitable purpose and Board-approved funding priorities.

Research and care initiatives

Research and care initiative	Benefits for patients
Novel and Emerging Therapies Capability	Collecting data from prostate patients receiving low dose rate (LDR) focal brachytherapy. The study looks at long term quality of life and rates of cancer control. It's the only clinical registry of this type in Australia.
Cellular Therapy Research Role	Accelerates research into cellular therapies, helping more patients benefit from the next generation of personalised cancer treatments.
Cellular Therapy Coordinator	Improves the patient experience by coordinating care, supporting treatment delivery and helping more patients access cellular therapy clinical trials.
Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse	Provides specialist support closer to home, helping patients navigate treatment and improving access to prostate cancer care across the Hunter region.

Investigator-led research

ICF provides philanthropic funding for investigator-led research conducted across the Icon Cancer Centre network in Australia. These clinician-led studies address important questions in cancer care and generate evidence to improve treatment, quality of life and patient outcomes.

ICF also supports selected investigator-led research exploring new applications of existing cancer treatments, such as radiation therapy, for benign conditions.

Active / Monitoring

Study	Research focus
LIBERATE (monitoring)	Evaluating long-term quality of life and cancer control following focal brachytherapy for prostate cancer.
TRANSFORM	Investigating whether high-dose radiotherapy can delay more intensive treatment for men with metastatic prostate cancer.
PUMA	Comparing two one-week radiotherapy schedules in early breast cancer to improve quality of life and treatment outcomes.
COMPRESS	Investigating whether compression therapy can reduce Oxaliplatin-induced nerve damage and improve patients' quality of life.
TREMOR	Evaluating highly targeted radiotherapy as a non-invasive treatment for Parkinson's disease-related tremor.
ROSEND	World's first clinical trial investigating radiotherapy as a treatment for severe recalcitrant rosacea.

In development

Study	Research focus
⁶⁸Ga-FAPI PET/CT vs ¹⁸F-FDG PET/CT	Investigating whether advanced PET imaging can improve detection of invasive lobular breast cancer.
POCHAHONTAS (part funded)	Investigating whether stereotactic ablative body radiotherapy (SABR) can delay hormone therapy resistance and improve survival for men with prostate cancer.
CHIA	Evaluating whether artificial intelligence (AI) transcription can convert routine clinical information into research-ready data more efficiently.
CELLULAR	Developing a national cellular therapy database to support future research, quality improvement and clinical benchmarking.
iROAR	Establishing a prospective clinical quality registry to evaluate real-world outcomes of low-dose radiotherapy for osteoarthritis to improve quality of life.



Research highlights

Over the past year, Icon Cancer Foundation has supported research projects and the infrastructure, expertise and capability needed to advance the future of cancer care.

L to R - Associate Professor Jim Coward; Dr Ian Irving; Associate Professor James Morton; Charli Robinson; Liam Talbot; Dr Karthik Nath.

Turning research into tomorrow's treatments

Every breakthrough in cancer treatment begins with research.

Before a new therapy can become part of routine care, it must first be tested through clinical trials to understand whether it is safe, effective and capable of improving outcomes for patients.

For many people living with cancer, clinical trials provide access to promising new treatments years before they become widely available. They are also the pathway through which today's discoveries become tomorrow's standard of care.

A transformative **\$2.5 million gift from the Talbot Foundation**, founded by Brisbane couple Liam Talbot and Charli Robinson, is helping strengthen Icon Cancer Centre's ability to deliver the next generation of clinical trials and emerging cancer therapies across Australia.

As cancer treatments become increasingly personalised and complex, expanding access to clinical trials relies on far more than opening new studies. It requires specialised infrastructure, advanced research capability and highly skilled clinical teams to safely deliver innovative therapies and prepare for the treatments of the future.

For the Talbot Foundation, supporting this future was at the heart of its decision to invest.

“Cancer affects so many families. We wanted to support initiatives that give patients access to new cancer therapies and strengthen the research that will shape the future of cancer care,” Mr Talbot said.

“For us, this is about giving patients more options and more hope.”

The donation also honours the legacy of Mr Talbot’s late father, Ken Talbot, whose vision created the opportunity to make this transformational investment possible.



“For many patients, participating in research can mean access to new treatments that are not yet widely available.”

Dr Ian Irving,
Icon Oncology Group’s Global Chief Medical
Officer and clinical haematologist.

Dr Ian Irving said the investment comes at a pivotal time for cancer care.

“We’re seeing a wave of emerging therapies transforming outcomes, particularly for patients with more complex or treatment-resistant cancers,” Dr Irving said.

“To ensure patients can access these breakthroughs as early as possible, we need the research infrastructure, research capability and future-ready systems to support increasingly sophisticated clinical trials. This generosity helps us build that capability.”

From cellular therapies such as CAR T-cell treatment to mRNA vaccines, genetically modified organisms (GMO)s and other emerging immunotherapies, the pace of innovation in cancer care continues to accelerate.

By strengthening the capability needed to deliver these increasingly complex clinical trials, the Talbot Foundation’s gift will help ensure more patients can access tomorrow’s cancer treatments sooner, bringing the future of cancer care closer to home.

Improving breast cancer treatment

The PUMA clinical trial opened at several treatment centres across Australia this year, with the aim to improve the treatment experience and quality of life for women receiving radiotherapy for early-stage breast cancer.



Professor John Boyages AM

Developed by radiation oncologist and breast cancer specialist **Professor John Boyages AM**, the study compares two commonly used radiation doses used in partial breast irradiation (PBI) to better understand which approach provides the best outcome for patients.

The PUMA study compares radiation doses of 30 Gy and 26 Gy, both delivered over five consecutive days. Over a three-year period, researchers will collect information from patients about side effects and quality of life, including fatigue, pain, breast appearance and sensitivity, sleep quality, mood and the ability to carry out everyday activities.

Professor Boyages said the study could help shape future standards of care for breast cancer treatment both in Australia and overseas.

“PUMA is a quality-of-life study. It’s a simple trial but it could change how we treat patients,” Professor Boyages said.



Dr Scott Carruthers

The trial was first opened in September 2025 at Icon Cancer Centre Windsor Gardens in South Australia under the leadership of principal investigator and radiation oncologist **Dr Scott Carruthers**.

Since then, it has expanded across the Icon Cancer Centre network, with additional sites now open in Hobart, Wahroonga and Mulgrave. The clinical trial will open in Toowoomba and on the Gold Coast later this year.

Dr Carruthers said the trial will help improve understanding of how two recommended, but different radiation doses, might affect patients, helping identify the most effective treatment approach to guide future standard care.

“This study will help us determine whether we can reduce the already low risk of side effects from partial breast radiotherapy, or whether the current higher standard dose remains the recommended treatment. Either outcome will help ensure patients receive the best possible care,” Dr Carruthers said.

At present, there is no international evidence comparing these two approaches.



LIBERATE prostate cancer study

The LIBERATE study has now closed to patient recruitment, after more than six years of data collection. This marks an important milestone in one of Australia's most significant prostate cancer research efforts in focal low-dose rate (LDR) brachytherapy.

Beginning in Victoria in December 2019 before expanding to Western Australia last year, the clinical registry followed 200 men undergoing focal LDR brachytherapy across the Icon Cancer Centre network. By capturing long-term clinical and patient-reported outcomes, the study has provided valuable insights into treatment effectiveness, side effects and quality of life.

Focal LDR brachytherapy delivers highly targeted radiation directly to cancer cells within the prostate through implanting tiny radioactive seeds. This approach aims to treat the cancer while minimising damage to surrounding healthy tissue and preserving urinary and sexual function in appropriately selected patients.

The registry has already generated several peer-reviewed publications, contributing to the global evidence base for focal LDR brachytherapy. These include studies reporting encouraging cancer control, treatment tolerance and functional outcomes for men with low- to intermediate-risk prostate cancer. A final comprehensive report is expected following completion of longer-term follow-up.

Radiation oncologist and national co-lead of the study, Dr Andrew See, said the study has strengthened the evidence supporting focal LDR brachytherapy.



"While longer-term follow-up will continue to inform future practice, the results to date have been encouraging, particularly around treatment tolerance and reduced toxicity for many patients."

Dr Andrew See

Radiation oncologist Dr Eve Tiong, who led the expansion of the registry in Western Australia, said ongoing research remains essential to refining prostate cancer treatment.



“It’s only through research that we can continue to improve cancer treatments for our patients. Collecting this data has allowed us to better understand outcomes and continue improving how we deliver focal therapies.”

Dr Eve Tiong

Study participants will continue to be followed for five years after treatment, providing valuable long-term data to further guide prostate cancer care.

*The LIBERATE registry is funded by Icon Cancer Foundation, with early establishment support from Epworth Medical Foundation.

Supporting tomorrow's cancer researchers

At ICF, investing in research is also about supporting emerging clinician-researchers like Dr Ellen Stewart, who are working alongside experienced specialists to advance cancer care.

Currently undertaking a Master of Surgery at Monash University, Dr Stewart is working within the Icon Cancer Centre network under the supervision of Dr Andrew See and Professor Jeremy Grummet, who is the Director of Urology at The Alfred Hospital in Melbourne.

Her work focuses on the LIBERATE study and combines hands-on clinical exposure and research training.

"Icon is a well-respected and known centre which excels at supporting patients, but also leading research. I'm excited to further my research experience with the support of a knowledgeable team," Dr Stewart said.

"I'm fortunate to meet study participants and track their progress. It's incredibly rewarding being linked in with like-minded, passionate researchers."

For Dr See, mentoring the next generation isn't optional - it's essential.

"Supporting emerging clinician-researchers is vital to the future of research. It fosters critical thinking, strengthens evidence-based practice, and ensures continued innovation in patient care," Dr See said.

*Dr Ellen Stewart's role is also funded by BXT Accelyon.

“

"Icon is a well-respected and known centre which excels at supporting patients, but also leading research. I'm excited to further my research experience with the support of a knowledgeable team."

Dr Ellen Stewart



“Every single cancer treatment we use today, exists because of a clinical trial.”

Associate Professor Louise Nott,
Icon Oncology Group Director of
Medical Oncology



Preserving cancer treatment, protecting nerves

Oxaliplatin is a cornerstone of treatment for many gastrointestinal cancers and is widely used in both curative and advanced treatment settings.

For many patients, however, one of the greatest challenges is chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy, a form of nerve damage that can cause pain, numbness and tingling in the hands and feet, sometimes persisting long after treatment has finished.

For patients with bowel and other gastrointestinal cancers, peripheral neuropathy is one of the most common reasons chemotherapy doses are reduced or stopped early. Finding a safe, effective way to prevent this side effect could help more patients complete treatment while preserving their long-term quality of life.

Associate Professor Louise Nott and oncology nurse Georgina Douglas are leading the COMPRES clinical trial to investigate whether compression applied to patients' hands and feet during chemotherapy can help prevent or reduce this debilitating side effect.

“Peripheral neuropathy can have a profound impact on a patient's everyday life and quality of life,” Associate Professor Nott said.

“In some cases, patients need to reduce or stop treatment because of neuropathy, not because their cancer has progressed.”

If successful, COMPRES could offer a simple, inexpensive and readily widely accessible way to reduce one of chemotherapy's most debilitating side effects, helping patients maintain their quality of life and complete the treatment most likely to cure their cancer.

The COMPRES trial also demonstrates the unique value of clinician-led research. Developed by clinicians caring for patients every day, it addresses an important question unlikely to be addressed through commercially funded research.

“These are the questions we develop by listening to our patients,” Associate Professor Nott said.

“They're often not the questions pharmaceutical companies are going to answer, but they're the questions that matter most to patients.”

By supporting investigator-initiated research like COMPRES, ICF is enabling clinicians to transform everyday observations into evidence that has the potential to improve cancer care not just for today's patients, but for future generations.

Supporting patients through complex cancer treatment

As cellular therapies continue to transform cancer care, patients require increasingly specialised support to navigate these complex treatments.

Through the generosity of Josephine O'Brien, her family and the broader community, ICF has funded a dedicated Cellular Therapy Coordinator, strengthening care for patients receiving stem cell transplants and advanced therapies such as CAR T-cell treatment.

The role provides a single point of contact for patients throughout treatment, helping coordinate appointments, guide them through time-critical procedures and ensure seamless communication between clinical teams.

"There are multiple appointments, tests and a lot of information," said Cellular Therapy Coordinator Clare Smith.

"It's about helping patients understand what's happening and what's next."

Funded through a charity gala dinner held in memory of Josephine's husband, Liam O'Brien, and supported by fundraising from Ray White New Farm, the role reflects a shared commitment to improving the patient experience while strengthening Icon Cancer Centre's growing cellular therapy program.

"Liam was always thinking about other people in the same position as him and wanting to help," Josephine said.

For Clare, the role is also deeply personal. Before becoming Cellular Therapy Coordinator, she cared for Liam during his treatment at Icon Cancer Centre.

"It's a full circle moment," Josephine said. "If this role can make the experience even a little easier for patients and families, that means everything."

As cellular therapies become increasingly sophisticated, dedicated roles such as this are helping build the clinical capability needed to support future treatments and expand access to cellular therapy clinical trials.



Expanding access to cellular therapy research

Support from Icon Cancer Foundation (ICF) is helping strengthen Australia's cellular therapy research capability through the work of haematologist Dr Karthik Nath, Deputy Director of Cellular Therapy at Icon Cancer Centre (ICC).

Philanthropic funding has provided dedicated research time for Dr Nath to expand ICC cellular therapy program, develop research collaborations and bring more clinical trial opportunities to Australian patients.

A major milestone was the activation of ICC first CAR T-cell therapy clinical trial for patients with large B-cell lymphoma. While the ALPHA-3 study is supported by a pharmaceutical sponsor, donor funding has helped build the research capability needed for Icon to coordinate and deliver increasingly complex cellular therapy trials.

Dr Nath is also leading the M25-059 clinical trial investigating a novel therapy for patients with multiple myeloma. ICC is currently the leading global recruiter for this study, providing Australian patients with access to promising new treatments while contributing to international research.

Alongside this work, Dr Nath is establishing a dedicated cellular therapy database to support research and building partnerships with researchers and industry collaborators to help bring future clinical trial opportunities to Australia.

Looking ahead, Dr Nath hopes to further expand cellular therapy trial opportunities across the cancer centre network, particularly in multiple myeloma, where demand for emerging therapies continues to grow.

Together, these initiatives are strengthening Icon's capability to deliver the next generation of cellular therapy research and expanding access to innovative treatments for patients with blood cancers.





Transforming lives beyond cancer

In limited circumstances, ICF supports research exploring how established cancer treatment modalities can be applied to selected benign conditions to improve quality of life for more patients.

Rosacea affects around one in 10 people of Caucasian and Asian backgrounds and, while not life-threatening, can have a significant impact on quality of life. For people with severe disease, ongoing symptoms often require repeated treatments with limited long-term success.

The ROSEND trial, led by Professor Gerald Fogarty, originated from an unexpected observation. While treating skin cancers on

the nose with radiotherapy, four patients also experienced complete resolution of their severe rosacea. More than five years later, none has experienced a recurrence.

This world-first Australian clinical trial is now investigating whether low-dose radiotherapy could become an effective treatment for severe, treatment-resistant rosacea. Additional patients have been enrolled as the study progresses.

If successful, ROSEND could establish radiotherapy as a new treatment option for severe rosacea and pave the way for future studies investigating earlier intervention.

Building tomorrow's research

Every advance in cancer care begins with an idea. Through the generosity of our donors, ICF is helping promising research move from concept to clinical trial. The following examples highlight some of the studies currently in development that have the potential to improve diagnosis, treatment and patient care for years to come.

IN DEVELOPMENT

Delaying treatment resistance in advanced prostate cancer

For many men with advanced prostate cancer, hormone therapy is an effective first-line treatment. However, over time the cancer often becomes resistant, limiting treatment options and affecting long-term outcomes.

Led by Dr Paul Conway, the POCHAHONTAS trial investigates whether stereotactic ablative radiotherapy (SABR) can help delay resistance to hormone therapy in men whose prostate cancer has spread to other parts of the body.

SABR delivers highly targeted, high-dose radiation to metastatic tumours with great precision. The study will explore whether treating these sites alongside standard hormone therapy can extend the time before the cancer becomes resistant to treatment.

Delaying treatment resistance has the potential to prolong the effectiveness of hormone therapy, postpone the need for more intensive treatments and improve survival. If successful, the findings could help refine treatment strategies for men with metastatic prostate cancer and provide evidence to support future changes in clinical practice.

IN DEVELOPMENT

Improving imaging for lobular breast cancer

Accurately determining whether breast cancer has spread is essential for choosing the most appropriate treatment. However, Invasive Lobular Carcinoma (ILC), the second most common type of breast cancer, can be difficult to detect using standard imaging.

Led by Associate Professor Nicole McCarthy in collaboration with I-MED Radiology Network, this pilot study will investigate whether combining an advanced imaging technique called ⁶⁸Ga-FAPI PET/CT can identify the spread of ILC more accurately than the current standard PET/CT scan in patients with inconclusive results.

If successful, the study could improve the accuracy of cancer staging, helping clinicians make more informed treatment decisions and reducing uncertainty for patients. It will also provide the evidence needed to support larger clinical trials and assess whether this promising technology should become part of routine care.

Why clinical data registries matter

Clinical trials tell us whether new treatments work under carefully controlled conditions. Clinical quality data registries show how those treatments perform in everyday clinical practice.

By collecting information with consenting patients about treatments and outcomes over time, clinical quality registries help researchers identify trends, improve quality of care and inform new research questions. Together, clinical trials and registries provide the evidence needed to continually improve cancer care.

Icon Cancer Foundation is supporting new registry initiatives across the Icon Cancer Centre network, helping build the evidence that will guide patient care for years to come.

IN DEVELOPMENT

Strengthening cellular therapy research

As cellular therapies become increasingly sophisticated, high-quality clinical data is essential to improving patient safety, treatment quality and future research.

Led by Dr Karthik Nath, this project will establish a dedicated cellular therapy database capturing treatment and outcome information from patients undergoing stem cell transplantation, CAR T-cell therapy and other advanced cellular therapies.

The database will support future clinical research, quality improvement and benchmarking across Icon's growing cellular therapy program, helping strengthen the evidence needed to safely expand access to these highly specialised treatments.

IN DEVELOPMENT

Turning everyday patient data into future discoveries

Every day clinicians gain valuable insights while caring for patients with cancer. Capturing these insights in a way that can support future research has the potential to improve cancer care.

Each patient interaction generates information that could help answer important clinical questions. However, safely and ethically collecting that information into research-ready data is often time-consuming and expensive. Led by Dr Craig Gedye, this pilot study will investigate whether routinely used artificial intelligence transcription can transform clinical information collected during everyday patient care into structured datasets suitable for research.

If successful, the approach could reduce the cost and complexity of generating high-quality research data, helping researchers answer important clinical questions more efficiently while strengthening the connection between everyday patient care and future cancer discoveries.

Real stories. Real impact.



Raylene's story: one patient's contribution to research

When Raylene discovered a lump in her breast in early 2025, initial scans found nothing concerning. But she trusted her instincts. When the lump remained, she returned to her GP and requested further investigation. A biopsy confirmed early-stage breast cancer.

Following surgery, Raylene began treatment at Icon Cancer Centre Windsor Gardens (South Australia), where she was invited to participate in the PUMA clinical trial – an ICF-funded study comparing two internationally recognised radiotherapy schedules for women with early-stage breast cancer.

For Raylene, saying yes was an easy decision.

"It was a no-brainer to be involved. Research is the only way treatments will advance," Raylene said.

Participation in the trial fitted seamlessly into her treatment while giving purpose to an otherwise difficult diagnosis.

"Being involved in the research has made a bad diagnosis feel like you are helping future women."

Every person who joins a clinical trial contributes to something bigger than their own treatment. Their experiences help researchers answer important questions that may improve care for future patients.

Thanks to the generosity of Icon Cancer Foundation donors, the PUMA trial has expanded beyond South Australia to Icon Cancer Centre Wahroonga (NSW), Hobart (Tasmania) and more recently Toowoomba (QLD), enabling more women to participate and helping researchers build the evidence that could shape future breast cancer care.

Reflecting on her experience, Raylene recognises the vital role philanthropy plays in making research possible.

"Researchers can't do their work without funding, and foundations like Icon Cancer Foundation are a very powerful tool in making these trials possible."

Katie's story: why research matters

In November 2024, Katie's life changed instantly. At just 48 years old, she was diagnosed with Stage 4 bowel cancer after months of worsening symptoms and persistent advocacy for further testing.

"I will never forget the moment I received the news of my diagnosis," Katie said. "I felt my life change in an instant."

Further investigations confirmed the cancer had spread to her lungs.

Within weeks, Katie underwent surgery before commencing chemotherapy and immunotherapy at Icon Cancer Centre.

For Katie, research represents hope for the future.

While her current treatment is helping keep her cancer stable, she knows new and improved therapies will be critical if her cancer progresses.

"Currently we're focused on keeping the cancer stable, ready for any new treatments that become available," she said.

Katie continues to work part time, spend time with her husband Andrew and their children Mitchell and Charlotte, and stay connected to the activities she loves, including music, church and family outings.

"You have to look forward in life, taking one day at a time," Katie said. "There are so many beautiful things in life to enjoy, and I intend on making the most of them."

Katie's story reflects why ongoing cancer research matters – helping create future treatment options for patients facing cancers where new therapies are still urgently needed.



"Currently we're focused on keeping the cancer stable, ready for any new treatments that become available."

Katie

Research priorities shaping the future

Cancer care continues to evolve rapidly, creating new opportunities to improve outcomes through research, technology and increasingly personalised treatment. Looking ahead, Icon Cancer Foundation will continue investing in both clinician-led research and the capability required to deliver the next generation of cancer care across the Icon Cancer Centre network in Australia.



Advancing clinician-led research

Supporting investigator-initiated research and clinical trials will remain at the heart of the Foundation's investment.

Developed by clinicians who care for patients every day, these studies seek to answer important questions arising from real-world clinical practice, improving diagnosis, refining treatment decisions and enhancing quality of life in areas where commercial research investment is often limited.

Radiation therapy research will continue to be a key focus. Despite being used in the treatment of many cancers, radiation therapy remains underrepresented in commercially funded research.

Icon Cancer Centre's national network provides a strong platform for investigator-led trials exploring more precise and effective treatments across multiple tumour streams. Future priorities include evaluating advanced technologies such as CyberKnife and Gamma Knife to further improve treatment outcomes while reducing the impact of treatment on patients' daily lives.





Improving the patient experience

Improving survival is only one measure of successful cancer care. Icon Cancer Foundation will continue supporting research that helps reduce treatment side effects, minimise long-term complications and improve patients' quality of life during and after treatment.

This includes studies that optimise existing treatments, help patients remain on therapy and improve the overall experience of cancer care. These important questions are often difficult to fund through traditional research pathways, making philanthropy especially valuable.

Building capability for future cancer care

Alongside clinician-led research, the Foundation will continue investing in the specialist roles, research systems and capability needed to expand access to innovative cancer treatments through clinical trials across the Icon Cancer Centre network.

As therapies such as cellular therapies, theranostics and precision medicine become increasingly available, patients require highly specialised multidisciplinary care supported by robust clinical research systems. Philanthropic investment helps build this capability, enabling more patients to access these treatments safely and ensuring Icon clinicians can continue participating in research that brings the latest advances in cancer care closer to home.

The community behind the research

A year of generosity across Australia.

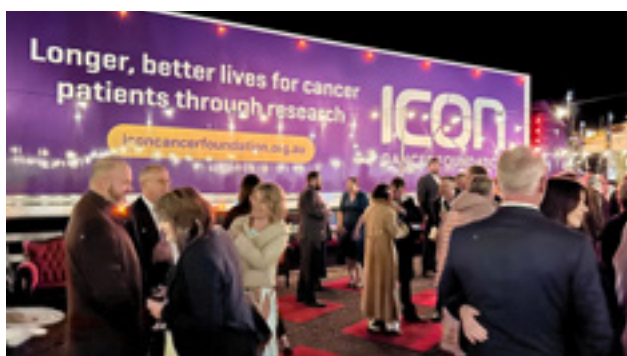
Life-Saving List Gala hosted by Josephine O'Brien in memory of Liam O'Brien



Hutchies 1-Day Crit Challenge Ride hosted by Hutchinson Builders



BIG Charity Party hosted by Lockyer Valley Growers Association



The Long Lunch hosted by Ray White New Farm



Massive Murray Paddle – event participants Tony Bond and Stewart Nicol.



Lesley's Walk hosted by the Australian College of Perioperative Nurses in memory of Lesley Stewart



Regional community event hosted by Maryvale Crown Hotel



Lights on the Hill supported by Nolan's Interstate Transport and Truckin' Republic



Sportsman's Lunch hosted by Withcott Hotel



10km for \$10K hosted by Harcourts Greater Springfield



Run for Research hosted by On Pace Multisport





Associate Professor
James Morton AM,
Clinical Haematologist

“

Because I've been so
fortunate, you can't
help but feel you want
to give back.”

Sharron



From survival to giving back

For Sharron, every extra year has been a gift made possible by research.

When she was first diagnosed with essential thrombocytopenia more than 30 years ago, she could never have imagined the life she would still be living today. Over time, her condition progressed to acute myeloid leukaemia, requiring increasingly complex treatment and, ultimately, a lifesaving bone marrow transplant in 2018.

Today, Sharron is thriving.

“Through the process, I’m totally well – completely well,” she said.

Looking back, Sharron knows many of the treatments that helped save her life only existed because of decades of medical research, clinical trials and innovation.

“I never imagined I’d be here 30 years later,” she said.

That understanding inspired her to give something back.

As owner of a hotel in regional Queensland, Sharron brought together her local Maryvale community to host a fundraiser in support of Icon Cancer Foundation, helping raise funds for future cancer research.

“Because I’ve been so fortunate, you can’t help but feel you want to give back,” she said.

“If someone else could have the same chance as me, and I can help, that’s what this event was about.”

For Sharron, supporting cancer research is about helping create the same opportunities she was given.

Through continued investment in research, more patients can benefit from the breakthroughs, treatments and care that have given her the chance to rebuild her life and continue doing what she loves.

Thank you to our supporters

Every breakthrough begins with people who believe tomorrow can be better than today.

Thank you to everyone who supported ICF this year. Whether you donated, volunteered, fundraised, shared your story or helped raise awareness, your generosity is helping build the future of cancer care through research.

Our corporate supporters



Our philanthropic supporters

The Talbot Foundation
(Liam Talbot and Charli Robinson)

John 'Foxy' Robinson

Bethwyn Todd

David and Jan Suosaari

Trevor Taylor

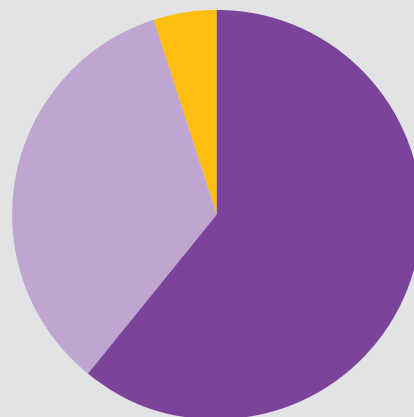
The Estate of Christine Thorpe

We also thank those supporters who have chosen to remain anonymous.

Every dollar at work*

- 61% research
- 34% fundraising
- 5% governance

*Percentage of total expenditure



Research funding is committed over multiple years, with philanthropic investment released as studies and supporting initiatives progress. Funds raised this year also support research commitments in future years, including new studies commencing in FY27 and strategic investments that maximise the long-term impact of donor support.

Research investment includes investigator-initiated research, clinical trial capability and specialist research roles.

\$544,000
invested in research

This year, \$544,000 was invested in clinician-led research, clinical trials and specialist research roles to improve outcomes and quality of life for people living with cancer.

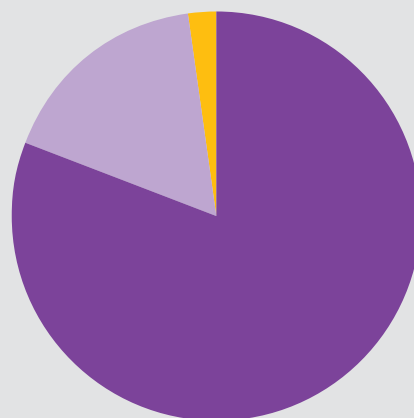
\$3,728,000
raised

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, \$3,728,000 was raised this year. Every \$1 invested in fundraising generated \$12 to advance cancer research.

Where our funding comes from

- 81% individual donations
- 17% community fundraising
- 2% gift in will

*Note: this excludes approximately \$120,000 in-kind support provided by Icon Oncology Group.



Our Board

Guided by a volunteer Board of Directors, Icon Cancer Foundation provides strong governance to ensure every donation is invested responsibly in research that improves outcomes for people with cancer.

ICF's financial report is available on the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission website www.acnc.gov.au.





Dr Jonathan Ramsay
Board Chair



Ross Koscharsky
Board Director



Sophie Mephram PhD
Board Director





Contact us

For further information or to donate, please scan the QR code, visit **iconcancerfoundation.org.au**, email us at **foundation@iconcf.org.au** or phone **07 3737 4500**.

