

MEDIA RELEASE

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New funding for Chemo@home medical app

A new Western Australian medical app will receive \$10 000 in funding from the Leukaemia Foundation. Ms Sharni Wilkes is the recipient of the Swan Valley Community New Investigators Grant for Western Australian's and will be awarded with the grant at the bi-annual Leukaemia Foundation Patient Conference today.

The pilot study involves a vital sign medical app, which will be used by patients treated at home with chemotherapy. The funds for this project have come from the Swan Valley community through fundraising for the Leukaemia Foundation's Light the Night event in Perth in 2012. Light the Night raises funds for research into leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma and related blood disorders.

"Participants who raised over \$10 000 for Light the Night were recognised by having their name included in the name of a Light the Night research grant. We are excited that the fundraising effort by Sue Hurt and the Swan Valley community has meant that we are able to fund the Chemo@home project," said Adrian Collins, CEO of the Leukaemia Foundation of Australia.

Western Australian blood cancer patients will be taking part in the study for the new smart phone medical application. Ms Wilkes and Perth-based company Chemo@home, will be assessing the feasibility of introducing the Securafone® Health 'app' to improve the clinical care of patients receiving chemotherapy from home. The medical app will measure a patient's vital signs, send the information to a smart phone or tablet through wireless technology and then notify the health care team when parameters are exceeded.

"The research grant was open to new Western Australian investigators to support new blood cancer research projects. Ms Wilkes medical app project was chosen from numerous applicants, by our panel of blood cancer professionals on the WA Scientific and Medical Advisory Committee," said Adrian Collins.

The Chemo@Home project is just one of three research grants being funded by the Leukaemia Foundation in WA this year. The other two grants, also announced today, are for \$10,000 each and have been awarded to Honours students studying in the field of blood cancer.

Advised by an independent panel of researchers and clinicians, the Foundation's national Research Program has committed over \$28 million in blood cancer research since 2005. For every \$1, an additional \$5.20 is generated because projects funded typically attract funding from other bodies, such as government, later on.

Through its National Research Program, the Leukaemia Foundation seeks to foster innovative research into the causes, diagnosis and treatment of blood cancers and the care and psychosocial support of patients and their families.

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The Leukaemia Foundation is Australia's peak body for blood cancer, funding research and providing free services to support people with leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma and related blood disorders.

www.leukaemia.org.au