

BLOOD MATTERS

Executive's Report (Scott McGregor)



The PerthBlood Institute's Clinical Trial Unit continues to achieve its mission of promoting excellence in blood disorder management through clinical research focused on improving patient outcomes.

Over the past 12 months our group have contributed to 18 national or global clinical trials, with active participation from over 40 patients with various blood disorders. Our current research encompasses a wide spectrum of blood conditions, including non-Hodgkin lymphoma, venous thrombosis, immune thrombocytopenia, chronic leukaemia, myelofibrosis, myelodysplastic syndrome and haemophilia.

The results of these trials continues to provide definitive evidence to guide clinical practice for haematology specialists in Australia, as well as the rest of the world. The net result is improved patient care and the availability of more efficacious and safe therapies for our patients.

For more information about our clinical trials, go to our website www.pbi.org.au

I'd like to thank the staff who have supported the group's clinical trial activities so ably in the last 12 months and to the patients and families who generously volunteer their time and energy to contribute to our clinical trials and research.

Another Bloody Breakfast



Pictured: Prof Baker, Shelley Taylor-Smith & Dr Peter Tan

Another Bloody Breakfast

Professor Ross Baker together with Dr Peter Tan presented 'Another Bloody Breakfast' held on Wednesday, 2nd September at the University Club of Western Australia, Hackett Drive, Crawley. Stepping into the Hosting chair, the ever professional and inspirational Shelley Taylor-Smith, nicknamed 'Dangerous When Wet' – 7 time women's world marathon swimming champion and the only woman to achieve

No.1 world ranking for both men and women in the history of any sport worldwide.

Guests attentively listened to Professor Baker & Dr Tan speak about how The Perth Blood Institute is building on the relationships that have developed, as The Perth Blood Institute pursue their goal of developing into a centre of clinical and research excellence for the management of blood disorders and blood conditions.

Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings Innaloo



Thanks to the community for supporting our fundraiser on Sunday 27th September at Bunnings Innaloo. The Perth Blood Institute together with our Murdoch research team were proud to be part of a community that gives back, to make a difference ensuring patients receive immediate and continued support enabling them to participate in state-of-the-art clinical trials.

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Fundraisers



Pictured: Zena Aitken, Gayle Bukey, Mandurah Art Gallery Curator Gary Aitken, Prof. Ross Baker & Murray Shire Councillor Maree Reid.

Fished Out

Unique Perth Artist and PBI fundraiser Gayle Bukey, held an exhibition of upcycled, recycled, mixed media and contemporary art - at Pinjarra Homestead Edenvale Heritage Complex in July. It was a 'packed' gallery with local MP's and attendees who listened to Gayle's journey. Proceeds to Medical Student Research Scholarship.



On the Road Again

Dennis & Colleen Ruthven took their fundraiser on the road up north WA to Bullara station in Carnarvon. A morning tea was held with proceeds to The Perth Blood Institute. Special thanks to hosts Tim & Edwina Shalcross of Bullara and Robert & Rachel Schofield for helping to raise the awareness of our Mission.



Soup for the Soul

Taylor's Art & Café together with Sue Hurt "Soup for the Soul" Soup Kitchen fundraiser - assisted us to raise much needed funds and provide essential support to our patients.

Over seventeen different soups were made during the season of which produce had been donated by the local Swan Valley community.

Even WA Labor Leader Mark McGowan joined local member for West Swan Rita Saffioti in support.



Testimonial (David Sneddon)

In 2004 I was living in Hong Kong and travelling extensively. One day I noticed I had a very swollen calf and upon the advice of my wife, went to hospital. They performed an ultrasound and it was confirmed that I had DVT. I was injected with blood thinners and following discharge from hospital I was on Warfarin for 6 months. On my next visit to Perth I organised to see Dr. Ross Baker, given his reputation as a prominent specialist and researcher in blood disorders, for a series of blood tests and to ensure I was getting the best of care. I had four years of uninterrupted good health following.

In 2008 I was living in Singapore and still travelling extensively. I woke one morning with breathing problems, a pain across my

chest and I was coughing up blood. I made the mistake of ignoring the symptoms and going to work that day (after a session at the gym...thinking that would fix it!). That night my symptoms became more severe and early that morning I went to the emergency department at the hospital, where I had chest x-rays and doctors referred me to a respiratory specialist. I was diagnosed with bronchitis and admitted to hospital. That night my condition greatly deteriorated and when my wife arrived in the morning, she demanded my doctor perform a CT Scan as she suspected I had a blood clot. A CT Scan was conducted which confirmed I had a blood clot in my lung, a Pulmonary Embolism. I was injected with blood thinners and following discharge from hospital I was on Warfarin for 12 months. Once again I would see Dr. Baker as soon as I could get to Perth for his assessment of my situation and blood clot prevention options.

Since returning to Perth in 2010, I have been under the care of Dr. Baker. As part of my preventative regime to reduce the risk of another blood clot, I am now on Rivaroxaban (Xarelto), wear a compression stocking and am keeping myself fit and healthy. I am in good health, yet always wary of the (50%) potential of a reoccurrence.

I was motivated to tell my story as a precautionary tale about getting immediate medical attention if you think you have a blood clot - I was very lucky to go 48 hrs without treatment as the mortality rate is not good for undiagnosed and untreated Pulmonary Embolism. Lesson, don't delay! I would also like to acknowledge and support the outstanding work of Dr. Baker and The Perth Blood Institute initiative and the advances being made in the care of people with blood disorders.