



Read The Red



National Conference edition October 2023

Three Grants awarded at the October 2023
Conference in Phillip Island.



From the left;

Lynne Davine (IWA IPP), Dr. Alla Dolnikov, Dr. Ying Wong, Dr. Sara Chiaretti and Susan Chisholm (IWA President).



Grant presented by Dianne
Barlow, CB Coordinator District
A62

Dr Y Wong

Robinson Research Institute,
University of Adelaide.

Children of Type 1 diabetics (T1D) are at risk of developing diabetes. This project aims to study the early changes in the function of immune cells at birth and early infancy in the blood of at-risk children that could lead to diabetes. This would facilitate treatment or reversal of diabetes. This study is a continuation of a study funded by the Inner Wheel Trust last year.

Want to see the CB video shown at this year's conference? Copy and paste this link into your browser. Many thanks to the Hudson Institute.

Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/872254188/b010d454d5>





Grant presented by
Susan Chisholm, IWA
President 2023-2024

Dr S Chiaretti

Australian Red Cross
Lifeblood Qld.



The majority of pre-term low birth weight babies are transfused with donor red cells from adults to treat anaemia. However, these transfusions can increase risk of death. Using a laboratory model this study aims to assess whether transfused adult donor red cells cause tissue damage in foetal tissue due to the differential release of oxygen and whether laboratory grown cord blood derived cells are an improved transfusion product for babies. This project was supported for funding because it may lead to a safer transfusion product for the treatment of anaemia in low birth weight, pre-term babies.



Grant presented by
Lynne Davine IWA
Immediate Past
President.

Dr A Dolnikov.

Childrens Cancer Institute,
University of NSW.

Lymphocytes genetically modified to specifically target cancer cells have been successfully used in the immunotherapy of blood cancers. However, this treatment has been less successful in the treatment of solid tumours. This project aims to assess whether blood macrophages (which can more efficiently infiltrate solid tumours) are a better candidate cell on which to base this treatment. This project aims to develop a protocol to generate genetically modified macrophages from cord blood and to test for anti-tumour activity in mice carrying a solid tumour.



Are you ready to Walk Two For Ten in April 2024, Make it a fun day! Any local celebrities you could persuade to walk with you?

Walk Two for Ten in April



**Order your
Cord Blood
shirt –
available
through your
club or
District CB
rep.**

Report to Conference from E Clark, IWA National Project Coordinator

President Susan, Members of Executive and all Inner Wheel members; I must begin by thanking Robyn Gillespie for her work as last year's National Project Coordinator. Everything was really clear and well organised when Robyn passed everything over making my job so much easier. Thank you Robyn and her team of District Cord Blood Coordinators.

And where to from here? I sat at my computer, packed it away, came back later, packed away. All the things you do when you don't know what to say or where to start.

So I guess I'll start at the beginning! I have been told in the past that 20 years is a generation, if that's so then there must be a new generation of Inner Wheel members who don't know much at all about our National Project apart from the fact we raise funds for it.

The cord blood project was launched in 2002. Anne McGill got the ball rolling, travelling to Sydney to find out more, presenting the idea to the IWA Executive and then finally taking the idea to the Conference in Adelaide. A standing ovation was the result and the plan began to grow with a start date of the IWA Changeover in June 2001. Initially 4 grants were given, this figure now stands at a total of 57. My mind cannot comprehend the number of fashion parades, raffles, cinema premiers, sausage sizzles, morning and afternoon teas by thousands of women over the last 22 years.

The cord blood baby arrived in 2003. Assistance with the transport of merchandise was another excellent contribution. We have established an excellent reputation as supporters of really important research with lifesaving results. Between 2005 and 2013, 512 lives were saved by cord blood transplants in Australia. The number now stands at well over a thousand. Research has extended into other areas but still the main focus is on young children. I reflect on how I would feel if one of those transplants was used to save my child, grandchild, or even great grandchild. (Currently waiting for great grandchildren 6 and 7). Update, one turned out to be two, they have arrived six weeks early. Now waiting for number 8

Perhaps the most important date for us to consider now is 2014. It was at the IWA Conference in Adelaide that the decision was taken to extend the project for another ten years. That ten years is almost up and it is timely for us to consider where the future of our National Project lies. This time next year we need to be considering the future and backing that up with a vote. There is still much enthusiasm, support, medical respect, lifesaving applications for this project. Indeed, the panel which selects the recipients of our latest grants had this to say;

The recommended grants were all aligned with the aims of Inner Wheel Australia to develop innovative applications for cord blood. The successful applicants all demonstrated highly developed expertise in the relevant techniques and had performed developmental work to support their hypothesis. **There was also a clear indication that in each case there were clinical associations that facilitate transition of successful projects to application in the clinic.**

So, our grants are making a difference, even after 22 years. They conclude by saying;The panel considered it highly likely that each of these studies will yield meaningful, publishable results in the lifetime of the grant.

I have wondered in the past if perhaps there was a need to move on to something new but then we see the story of Elizabeth Hall, shown at this conference last year, we hear about Sean, and we hear from people who know much more than me that the research is so important, delivering meaningful results, saving lives and my doubts disappear.

We have now raised over 3 million dollars, a huge sum of money. The first ¼ of each fundraising year is always slower than the rest of the year so we look forward to a continuation of past efforts. Every donation is important, but in the last few months we have received a significant donation in recognition of the life of Cairn's member, Wilma Holmes. Please be assured that if you wish to make a donation to celebrate a member of your club or District or even a special birthday or wedding anniversary,

then all donations will be acknowledged in Read The Red, if you could send a photograph to me that will be acknowledged too!

The District Cord Blood Coordinators, honestly, what an enthusiastic mob, are keen to support everyone in their Districts, to keep them informed and moving forward.

It's time to be revitalised, to be reenergised and continue enthusiastically in our approach; to look for some nationwide assistance so that we reach a wider support audience.

I always wondered why adults were not given the opportunity of a cure through cord blood. This has been brought home to my family on a personal level this week; we have lost a young man close to our family (aged 42 and with two small boys) after a significant battle with leukaemia. I discovered the answer the other day. There are not enough cells in the cord to effectively treat an adult, that is why these treatments are only given to children or very small adults. Then a light dawned, that is why so many grants in the past have focused on expanding the cells available, growing and multiplying them, so they can be used with adults too. How life changing that would be. It has revitalised my support of cord blood. There's a real purpose for me.

Sean's walk is now relabelled Walk Two For Ten, the District Coordinator's felt that to set one day for a walk was too restrictive so walk as a club or a District, any day in April, make it joyful, make it colourful, make it loud, make it fun, make it profitable, walk for our families, for children who need the results of our research grants. Make it count!

I feel like I am just finding my feet in this role. I have more questions than answers, but am learning rapidly. I am here to support all of you through your District Cord Blood Coordinator's. Let's make it a year to remember and next year take it on to bigger and better things.

Cord Blood Research

Sincere thanks to Judith Banks for permission to use photographs.

