



**pancare**  
FOUNDATION

**SCHOLARSHIPS  
& AWARDS PROGRAM  
2021**

# Supporting emerging leaders in upper GI cancer research

The Pancare Foundation recognises that fostering an engaged clinical research community is a major factor in developing research programs and clinical trials that will progress the therapies and best-practice care for those impacted by upper gastrointestinal (GI) cancer into the future.

Importantly, Pancare funds a range of scholarships and awards for emerging leaders researching pancreatic, oesophageal, stomach, liver and biliary cancers.

## Phil Sly Research Scholarship

The Phil Sly Research Scholarship was first awarded in 2013 to honour the life of Phil Sly, who was an entrepreneur, building developer, racehorse owner, philanthropist and cancer survivor. He battled colorectal cancer, liver and lung metastases with the same determination as applied to all aspects of his life. Phil was a supporter and friend to Pancare Foundation from its early days. He believed in fostering world-class research to improve the management of pancreatic, liver, biliary, oesophageal and stomach cancers. This scholarship acknowledges his generosity, passion and inspirational approach to life.

The Pancare Foundation offers the Phil Sly Research Scholarship to support a dedicated PhD candidate to achieve success in important research related to pancreatic, liver, biliary, oesophageal or stomach cancer.

**Value: \$75,000 (\$25,000 per year over three years) starting July 1, 2021**

Funds for the Phil Sly Research Scholarship have been graciously donated by the Sly family and through Pancare's Heidelberg Corporate Golf Day.

For more information or to apply, please review the [\*\*Scholarship Guidelines\*\*](#).

These awards form the key pillar of Supporting Future Leaders in **Pancare's Research Strategy**.

The aim of our Scholarships & Awards Program is to engage early-career clinicians and scientists in accelerating world-leading research to deliver results that improve outcomes and quality of life for those living with upper GI cancer, their carers and families.

To ensure enhanced focus on upper GI cancer research, Pancare is introducing a new scholarship and raising the value of both three-year awards on offer in 2021.







## New Onwards & Upwards Damien Woodruff Scholarship

The newest Pancare Foundation Scholarship has been named in honour of Damien Woodruff, a bank executive, family man and pancreatic cancer survivor. After suffering vague symptoms for several months, Damien developed jaundice, which triggered a relatively early diagnosis of pancreatic cancer in January 2015. This early diagnosis meant that he was able to opt for a Whipple procedure for the best chance of a cure. Following surgery, chemotherapy and radiation, Damien lived his “new” best life with family and friends for almost four years. Despite the adversity ahead of him and his family, Damien would always say ‘onwards and upwards’ to shift his mindset and move past the hurdles of their cancer journey.

Damien desperately wanted to defy the odds to become a five-year survivor, but that wasn’t to be as Damien’s journey with pancreatic cancer sadly ended in January 2019.

For the Woodruff family and Damien’s legacy, early detection is the most important breakthrough Australia needs when it comes to making progress in the fight against pancreatic cancer. In addition to more Australians being aware of the symptoms of the disease, Damien would be hoping that through research an early detection test would be available to everyone. It’s one of the ways we can improve the survival rate for future generations.

The Pancare Foundation offers the Onwards & Upwards Damien Woodruff Scholarship to support a dedicated PhD candidate to achieve success in high-quality research related to pancreatic cancer – with a focus on early diagnosis or supportive care for patients, carers and families.

**Value: \$75,000 (\$25,000 per year over three years) starting July 1, 2021**

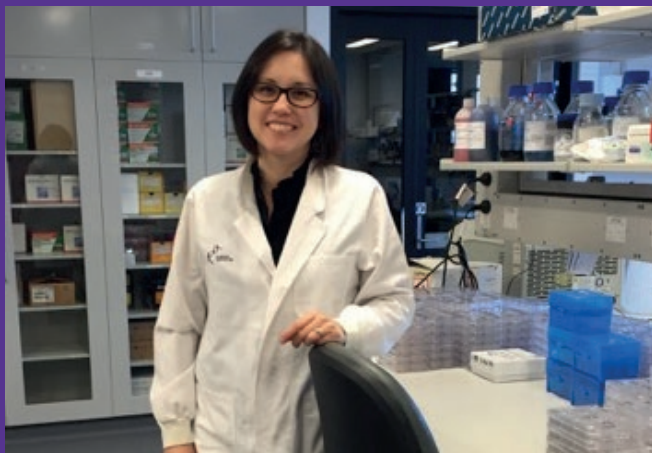
Funds for the Onwards & Upwards Damien Woodruff Scholarship have been graciously donated by Insurance Advisernet and raised through Pancare’s Festival of Sport event.

Read more about ***Damien’s story***.

For more information or to apply, please review the ***Scholarship Guidelines***.

# Where are they now?

## Past Pancare Award Recipient



**Scholarship winner:** Dr Venessa Chin

**Institution:** Garvan Institute of Medical Research, NSW

**Project:** Biomarker and Targeted Novel Drug Development in Pancreatic Cancer

**Cancer type:** Pancreatic

A Medical Oncologist now at the Kinghorn Cancer Centre at St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney, Dr Venessa Chin completed her PhD work within the Personalised Cancer Therapeutics group at the Garvan Institute for Medical Research. Dr Chin was the inaugural winner of the Phil Sly Research Scholarship in 2013, which supported her project which used genomics to inform therapeutic discoveries in pancreatic cancer. The project included a meta-analysis, in vitro and in vivo analyses of rationally-selected drug targets as well as an analysis of real-time metastasis formation in the pancreas.

Dr Chin used her Phil Sly Research Scholarship funds to support her contributions to several high-impact publications, including seminal articles in *Cochrane Reviews*, *Expert Reviews in Molecular Medicine* and the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*. This important body of work is continuing to deliver the research framework for positive outcomes for those affected by pancreatic cancer.



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