

MEDIA RELEASE

CARRIE'S BEANIES 4 BRAIN CANCER FOUNDATION JOINS THE AIM BRAIN FUNDING COLLABORATIVE

Carrie's Bickmore's Beanies 4 Brain Cancer Foundation (Carrie's Beanies Foundation) has joined with the Robert Connor Dawes Foundation and the Australian Federal Government to support ANZCHOG's Access to Innovative Molecular profiling for BRAIN cancers (AIM BRAIN) project.

Despite the outstanding success in the treatment of many paediatric cancers in past two decades, curative treatment for the majority of brain cancers remains an ongoing challenge. In Australia, brain cancer kills more children than any other disease and over 165 children are diagnosed with brain cancer each year. Recent studies have shown that brain cancers can be classified into distinct tumour groups through molecular profiling, and each of these tumour groups respond differently to various treatments.

The AIM BRAIN project is a ground-breaking study, providing access to the latest molecular profiling for Australian and New Zealand children diagnosed with brain tumours. This is an international research collaboration, with the German-led Molecular NeuroPathology 2.0 study (MNP2.0) providing immediate access to this cutting-edge platform, as the technology is concurrently established and validated in Australia.

Funding from the Australian Federal Government and The Robert Connor Dawes Foundation was announced in May 2018, and the additional funding provided by Carrie's Beanies Foundation will ensure that every child diagnosed with brain cancer in Australia and New Zealand will have access to this latest diagnostic molecular profiling test.

"Both stages of this project are vital. Professor Stefan Pfister's team at the German Cancer Research Centre (DKFZ) are leaders in this area, and we are very fortunate to have their support to develop this technology in Australia", said Dr. Chris Fraser, Chair of ANZCHOG. "If we can accurately determine the exact type of brain cancer that a child has at diagnosis, we have the best information to decide what treatment is the most appropriate for each child. Already, we are seeing the benefits of making treatment decisions armed with the additional information provided by molecular profiling, whereby we can minimise the burden of treatment side-effects and give our children the greatest chance of surviving brain cancer."

"We are delighted that Carrie's Beanies Foundation has joined the Federal Government and the Robert Connor Dawes Foundation to help us make this innovative diagnostic testing of every child with brain cancer, a reality."

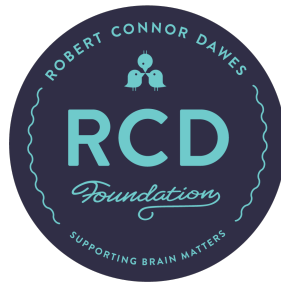
AIM BRAIN will enable Australian researchers at the Hudson Institute of Medical Research and Monash Health to implement a platform for clinical diagnostic testing for paediatric brain cancer, using state-of the art molecular genetic and epigenetic techniques. Associate Professor Elizabeth Algar is leading the development of the diagnostic platform. "It is so important to develop the expertise and capacity to undertake this testing in Australia", said

A/Professor Algar. “This will enable us to future-proof our ability to quickly and accurately diagnose children with brain cancer and ensure Australian researchers remain at the forefront of paediatric cancer diagnostics. We are currently validating our molecular profiling at two pilot centres, and anticipate national roll-out to all ANZCHOG centres in the near future. The establishment of this technology in Australia has only been possible with the support of the Australian Government, the Robert Connor Dawes Foundation and Carrie’s Beanies Foundation.”

For more information about AIM BRAIN, please contact ANZCHOG at info@anzchog.org

24 January 2019

AIM-BRAIN is proudly supported by:



Australian Government
Cancer Australia