

# Transplant Talk

ISSUE **02**  
2016

## New bone marrow transplant ward remains our focus

Arrow supporters have so far raised \$233,000 of the \$300,000 needed to fully equip a private room in the new bone marrow transplant ward at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney. As well as offering much needed privacy, the room will be specially designed to protect vulnerable patients from life threatening infection.

With your help, by the end of 2016, we hope to raise the remaining \$67,000 needed to reach our target. To donate visit: [www.arrow.org.au](http://www.arrow.org.au)



## The Hawkesbury Canoe Classic (HCC) celebrates 40 Classic years

For over two decades, the HCC has been the major supporter of the Arrow Bone Marrow Transplant Foundation and, in October this year, we celebrate this iconic event's 40th anniversary.

For 40 years, thousands of paddlers have braved the 111km overnight challenge – all to fulfil a personal or team goal while helping find better treatments for blood cancers and other diseases for which a bone marrow transplant may offer the only hope for recovery.

The 65km Wisemans Dash has been introduced to mark this milestone year, giving new paddlers the chance to get involved in what is shaping up to be the biggest Classic yet.

Having donated almost \$3.7 million to Arrow since 1994, and \$153,000 last year alone, the HCC enables Arrow to fund: Dr Melinda Tursky, research scientist (see page 2) at the Blood, Stem Cell, and Cancer Research Unit at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; PhD scholarship students studying the field of bone marrow transplantation and leukaemia, and the purchase of vital medical research equipment. Last year, the HCC also contributed \$50,000 towards our new bone marrow transplant ward project.

To find out how you can get involved by becoming, or supporting a paddler visit: [www.canoeclassic.asn.au](http://www.canoeclassic.asn.au)

## Join us at the VIEW. CHANGE. WISH Lunch in November



Jan van de Stool

Back by popular demand, Arrow's View. Change. Wish Lunch will again be held at the spectacular View by Sydney restaurant at Walsh Bay, on Friday 18th November, 2016.

Invite your friends, family, colleagues and clients to the year's most spectacular lunch - all in support of our bone marrow transplant ward project. Be entertained by our hilarious host, Jan van de Stool (as seen on Australia's Got Talent), and join us for a delicious end to the year.

Date: Friday 18th November, 2016  
Time: 12-3pm, with a cash bar to follow  
Venue: View by Sydney, Pier 2, Hickson Road, Walsh Bay.  
Your host: Jan van de Stool  
Tickets:  
Corporate table of 10 - \$1,850  
Single ticket - \$200  
To book visit: <https://www.trybooking.com/MPVT>

Sponsorship opportunities are available. To find out more email: [info@arrow.org.au](mailto:info@arrow.org.au)



## donations in memoriam

We gratefully acknowledge donations received in memory of:

- Katherine Robertson
- Sandra Mason

## 2016 events

A long weekend in the country

- Mudgee

Saturday 3rd – Monday 5th September

Reserve your place at:

<https://www.trybooking.com/LSBZ>

Trivia / auction night for leukaemia/bone marrow transplant research

In association with Dave 'Coke' Wards Memorial

The Entrance Leagues Club

Friday 21st October 2016

6pm for 7pm start

For bookings contact:

Wayne King at [w.king1@bigpond.com](mailto:w.king1@bigpond.com)

or

Megan Balfour at

[mbalfour@westnet.com.au](mailto:mbalfour@westnet.com.au)

Hawkesbury Canoe Classic (HCC)

40th Anniversary HCC – 111km

Wisemans Dash – 65km

Saturday 29th October

Arrow AGM

Friday 11th November, 2016

View. Change. Wish Lunch

Friday 18th November 2016

12-3pm at View by Sydney



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**Facebook**

# Welcoming the new generation of paddlers



Written by Mark O'Hara, Arrow Chairman and HCC Paddler.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic (HCC). All past paddlers are encouraged to get involved, as are the new generation of paddlers. Two first time paddlers, Chris Neate and my son, Matt O'Hara, have signed up for the challenge this year and have their own special reason for being part of the 40th year – their fathers.

Sixteen years ago, in November 2000, I took on the challenge with Chris' father, Greg Neate, but failed to finish, pulling out at Wiseman's Ferry. We were left feeling like there was unfinished business and were determined to come back the following year to complete what we started.

Shortly after that first HCC, Greg was diagnosed with leukaemia. One minute he was raising funds for Arrow, and the next he was seeking their help and support. He ended up receiving a bone marrow transplant midway through 2001. Remarkably, 111 days post-transplant, through his determination to beat cancer, Greg was able to line up at the start of this great event once again.

That year with Greg, I struggled to paddle the last 30km, but had no right to complain knowing that my mate had gone through so much over the previous twelve months. Upon crossing the finish line, our sense of achievement was unbelievable. Greg's amazing spirit and determination was undeniable.

I continued paddling on weekends with Greg after the race in 2001, and on one particular Sunday afternoon, we made a pact to keep doing the HCC for as long as we could. Not long after that paddle, Greg relapsed and the leukaemia returned in a more aggressive form. Again showing amazing spirit and determination Greg fought as hard as he could but eventually lost his battle in April 2002. Chris lost his father at the age of nine.

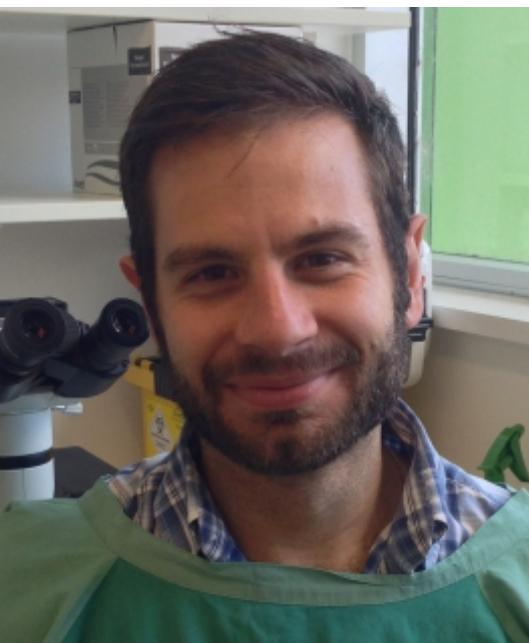
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## Introducing new Arrow/HCC Research Scientist, Dr Melinda Tursky

Dr Melinda Tursky joined the Blood, Stem Cell, and Cancer Research (BSCCR) Programme, at the St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research, Sydney in 2015 after completion of her PhD at the Prince of Wales Clinical School, Faculty of Medicine, UNSWAustralia. Melinda has specialised in the field of human hematopoiesis and pathogenesis of haematological cancers. She was recruited based on her outstanding research and achievements. She is the named inventor on an international patent and has authored/co-authored 8 publications, including 3 in the top five journals in the field. Her 2015 and 2016 publications in Leukemia described the first human model of transcription factor ERG over-expression in human stem and progenitor cells. Since joining the research team, Melinda has contributed significantly to the induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC) project with the goal of defining the genetic pathway leading to the development of acute leukaemia. She has improved the haematopoietic differentiation efficiency and adapted several haematopoietic assays to iPSC specific differentiation. Her achievements will spearhead the project and deliver outcomes at the forefront of haematopoietic cancer research internationally.



Dr Melinda Tursky



Michael Papadimitriou

## Research by Arrow/HCC PhD scholarship recipient, Michael Papadimitriou, published in Oncolmmunology

Arrow is pleased to announce that a research paper written by Michael Papadimitriou has been accepted for publication in the journal Oncolmmunology.

The research paper is titled: ' CMRF-56+ blood dendritic cells loaded with mRNA induce effective antigen-specific cytotoxic T lymphocyte responses; 2016; Fromm, P.D. & Papadimitriou, M.S. et al.'

# Shaun Rosen Scholarships for Nurses' Education and Training



Shaun Rosen and Nina Candy

## Applications now open

Shaun Rosen, a former patient, experienced first-hand the difference that nursing staff make to the lives of patients throughout the transplant process, and established the Shaun Rosen Scholarships to help registered nurses further their education and training in the field of haematology oncology and bone marrow transplantation.

Applications are now open to nurses of St Vincent's Hospital Sydney to apply for scholarships to attend these upcoming conferences:

**October 28 - 30**  
APBMT Congress  
Singapore

**November 13 - 16**  
HAA Annual Scientific Meeting  
Melbourne

**February 22 - 26**  
CIBMTR BMT Tandem Meetings  
Orlando

**March 26 - 29**  
EBMT Congress  
Marseille

For more information email: [rflood@arrow.org.au](mailto:rflood@arrow.org.au)



Sylvia Hartog

## Sylvia Hartog Nursing Award

In November 2015, Arrow awarded the Sylvia Hartog Nursing Award to Mr Nabin Karki and Ms Rebecca Paul. Both nurses attended the 42nd Annual Meeting of the European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation in Valencia, Spain.



## New ward receives \$23,500 in celebration of Allan Frenkel's birthday.

The annual Allan Frenkel Foundation dinner last year raised \$23,500 that was presented to Arrow director, Philip Hartog, at this year's event in support of the new ward for transplant patients.

Our most sincere thanks goes to Marissa and Eduardo Frenkel (pictured second from left) and all of their family and friends for so generously bringing the total raised for the ward to \$233,000!



Freya Seale

# 3 Trace Richey Nursing Scholarship's awarded in 2016

The first Trace Richey Nursing Scholarships have been awarded to: Freya Seale and Grace Ridler, both transplant nurses from Royal Prince Alfred Hospital; and Thembekile Muhango, a registered nurse from the Cancer Care Centre unit of Nepean Hospital.

Freya, who is studying Haematology Nursing, expects that the course will enable her to offer an even greater level of patient care, and wrote in her application: "I expect to have a broadened knowledge of the care needed for haematology patients and a greater understanding of the pathophysiology of haematological disorders. This will enhance my clinical practice, ensure I deliver care in a holistic manner, and assist with future postgraduate study which I wish to undertake."

The Trace Richey Nursing Scholarship, established by Arrow Director, Neil Pennock, aims to further the education of nurses working in the field of haemology and bone marrow transplantation in memory of Trace Richey.

