

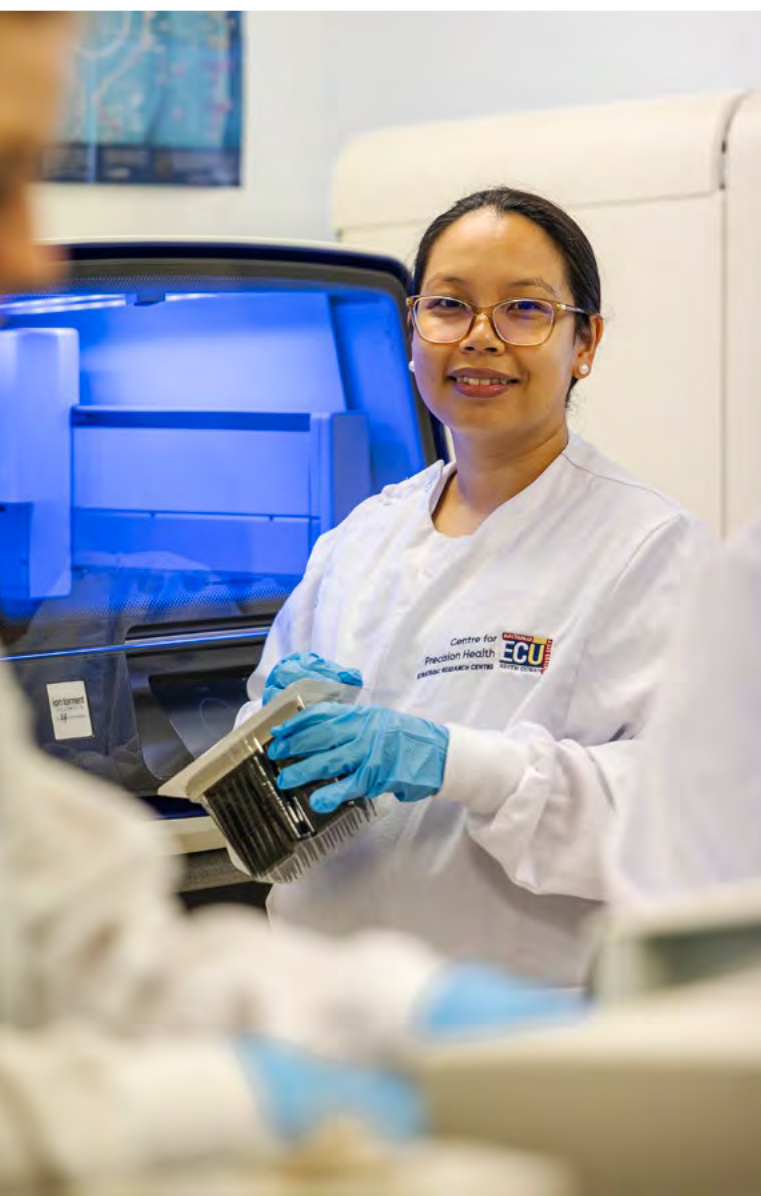


Breaking new ground in cancer research

The ECU supporters making it possible

Donor support has a significant impact on cancer research in Western Australia, helping the advancement of innovative studies, facilitating the development of new procedures and treatments, and supporting crucial initiatives aimed at improving patient outcomes.

ECU acknowledges and is grateful for the ongoing financial support given to our researchers as they work tirelessly to improve outcomes and lives.



A powerful tool for discovery in cancer research

Cancer is still the leading cause of death by disease in Australia, and while there have been advances in treatments, many still take a harsh toll on the body and limit survivability.

Now ECU is investing in new technology that could lead to radical improvements in these and other outcomes.

Thanks to the support of the Ian Potter Foundation, the Harry Perkins Institute and the Telethon Institute, ECU is purchasing the PhenoCycler-Fusion System: a machine that will enable cutting-edge research on cancers, infections and dementia, contributing to the development of innovative treatments and interventions.

The first of its kind in Western Australia, the PhenoCycler-Fusion System will allow researchers to map the spatial distribution of cells and molecules, revealing hidden patterns in tissues and organs, and leading to insights about diseases like cancer, autoimmune, and neurological conditions.

This, in turn, can lead to more precise diagnostic tools, targeted therapies and improved outcomes for patients.

The system will be hosted by the Centre for Precision Health at the School of Medical and Health Sciences at ECU. This will provide access to researchers from all Research Institutes and Universities throughout Western Australia.

The new facility will impact thousands of people in Western Australia, including indirectly, the children and family members of those diagnosed with these conditions.



When donating is personal

A very personal reason prompted Kate James to use her time – and legs – to raise money for ECU's quest to develop a ground-breaking test for eye cancer.

Kate took part in the Cape to Cape mountain bike race in October 2023 to raise money for ECU's research, after her husband Rhys James was diagnosed with a uveal (ocular) melanoma following a routine optometrist visit.

This rare form of eye cancer only affects around 150 Australians each year and early detection is vital, according to ECU Professor of Cancer Research, Elin Gray.

"Half of people diagnosed with uveal melanoma will have the cancer spread to other parts of the body, and of those with detectable spread, 92 per cent will die within two years," she says.

"It's important to determine which patients fall within this 50 per cent for closer clinical follow-up and early treatment to prevent the spread of the cancer."

Currently diagnosis and treatment can require intrusive and risky procedures, often declined by patients due to potential complications.

ECU's researchers hope to develop a world-first blood test that's less risky and intimidating.

For Kate, supporting their work was an easy decision.



"They're pretty much the leading researchers in this field, which is phenomenal to have in our backyard," she says.

"They're doing so much work, so if we could help someone else to go through this process easier, it's worth it."