We’ve made some great strides in the Forgotten Cancers Project this year.

We’ve had more than 1800 participants sign up in the past 12 months which will greatly help us learn more about the causes of less common cancers. More than 1000 controls have also taken part – thank you to those family members who are helping out with this research.

The increase in numbers is largely thanks to people spreading the word about this important project in their communities. Please keep doing what you’re doing!

The DNA collection process has continued, with the overwhelming majority of participants returning the completed saliva kit promptly for processing.

While our aim is to look at all less common cancers, at the moment our researchers are focusing on bladder, brain, kidney, leukaemia, multiple myeloma, Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, pancreatic and uterine cancers. We are aiming to recruit 300-400 participants for each by the end of 2017 in order to commence analyses.

We are already preparing the data for an analysis for kidney cancer, with multiple myeloma and follicular lymphoma likely to start towards the end of 2016.

Thank you for taking part and supporting the Forgotten Cancers Project – with your help we can work to increase what we know about these cancers.

Dr Fiona Bruinsma
Research Coordinator

Carrie Bickmore put the spotlight on brain cancer when her fantastic speech at this year’s Logie Awards made #beaniesforcancer go viral. In the same week we hosted a Brain Cancer Forum on the latest in clinical trials research, how to manage seizures, and handling practical challenges like financial and legal issues.
Blood cancer leaves its mark on family

Non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) has had a big impact on Geraldine Bull’s family, with both she and her father diagnosed with the disease.

The Sydney resident was one of about 3500 Australians diagnosed with NHL each year. NHL is the sixth most common type of cancer in men, and the fifth most common type of cancer in women.

Geraldine initially found lumps in her neck and groin, with further scans revealing lymphoma in two other sites. She underwent antibody and oral chemotherapy before being given the all-clear.

“It was a tremendous relief when I was told the cancer was gone,” Geraldine says.

A friendly reminder...

Do you have a questionnaire to complete or a sample to send back?

The questionnaires are essential to the success of the research and collecting saliva samples enables us to investigate the genetics of cancer.

Need help? Call 1800 068 289.

Want to offer support to others?

Would you like to help someone during their cancer experience? We are looking for Victorians who have ‘been there’, are two years post treatment and interested in becoming a Cancer Connect volunteer.

We are particularly keen to hear from people diagnosed with bladder, stomach, uterine, myeloma or acute myeloid leukaemia.

For more information contact Janine on 9514 6315.

Groups show their support

With the assistance of community and support groups we have been able to spread the word about our project far and wide. Through their fantastic networks on social media, as well as electronic and print newsletters, a record number of participants have signed up to take part.

The more people who take part in the Forgotten Cancers Project, the more we may be able to find out.

If you’re a member of a group and would like to help us promote the study, we’d love to hear from you. Contact us on 1800 068 289.

We also have free posters, postcards, pens and brochures available, and links on www.forgotten cancers.com.au to share on social media.

Where does my DNA sample go?

When you send your saliva and blood samples to us they are processed and stored at the Genetic Epidemiology Laboratory located at the University of Melbourne. Your samples are stored securely and only authorised staff can access them.

Within the next few years we will begin to examine small changes in the components of genes that may influence how a gene functions, as well as how lifestyle or environmental factors could influence gene expression. These analyses need to be carried out across large numbers of people to identify patterns for further investigation.

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Out and about

The Forgotten Cancers Project has been supported by the Country Women’s Association of Victoria, Tuxedo Junction and the Emeralds & Ivy Ball.

Country Women’s Association of Victoria State Conference

The CWA generously donated $30,000 to the Project at their State Conference in May. The money was raised through their Thanksgiving Fund, which supports a chosen medical research program each year.

Tuxedo Junction

Our charity ball raised $175,000 for cancer research, including for the Forgotten Cancers Project thanks to the Margaret ‘Mavis’ O’Dea Research Award funded by Organisation Unlimited. Mick O’Dea spoke about his mother, Mavis’ battle with the rare cancer, Neuroendocrine tumors (NETs).

Cancer Council Australia’s Emeralds & Ivy Ball

This year’s Ball on October 9, hosted by Ronan Keating, will raise awareness and funds for the Forgotten Cancers Project.

Join our ABC Study

Our research team at Cancer Council Victoria has launched an exciting new project, the Australian Breakthrough Cancer Study. The team is seeking the help of 50,000 Australians between the ages of 40-74, who have never had cancer.

This prospective study will follow participants’ health over time to further our understanding of cancer and other diseases. You can help by taking part or spreading the word.

To find out more visit www.abcstudy.com.au

Once a year not enough?
Visit www.forgotten cancers.com.au/news to keep up-to-date with the latest!

Thank you to the Leukaemia Foundation for supporting the Forgotten Cancers Project