



Improving the treatment and the lives of patients with blood cancers via clinical trial research

ALLG Operations Office
Level 6, 372 Albert St
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Friday 30th March 2012

Simon McKeon
Chair, Independent review of health and medical research in Australia

Panel Members: Professor Ian Frazer, Bill Ferris AC, Elizabeth Alexander, Professor Henry Brodaty and Professor Melissa Little

Dear Mr McKeon,

Re: Strategic Review of Health and Medical Research in Australia Australasian Leukaemia and Lymphoma Group (ALLG) Submission

Thankyou for the opportunity to provide comment to this research review and the 10 year health and medical research plan which will help our researchers continue to realise Australia's potential to solve current and emerging health challenges.

The ALLG is a not-for-profit clinical trial company, the only organisation dedicated to the design and conduct of investigator-initiated clinical trial research into blood cancers. The ALLG relies heavily on its membership, which is made up of most of the Haematologists in Australasia, and who largely provide their services on an honorary basis, to conduct its clinical trials. The ALLG performs clinical trials throughout Australia and strives for opportunities to contribute to international research via its clinical trial program.

Blood cancers carry a high incidence and mortality, and clinical trials have proven to be the most effective means of assessing health interventions in order to improve the outcomes and quality of life of patients with those diseases.

The ALLG, with 40 years experience in research, has contributed significantly to the evolution of treatment for leukaemia and lymphoma sufferers. Notably, in Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML) alone we have nationally standardised chemotherapy induction and consolidation therapy by conducting four consecutive randomised clinical trials in AML, involving almost 1,200 patients. Similarly, in acute promyelocytic leukaemia the results of our recent trial are far and away the best reported anywhere in the world to date.

As the leader in investigator-led blood cancer research the ALLG is providing a submission to assist the panel in focusing on optimising Australia's capacity to produce world class health and medical research from discovery through to translation for the next 10 years. Our concise summary addressing each question is attached for consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Peter T. Kempen
Chairman of the Board
Australasian Leukaemia and Lymphoma Group

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