

“ANZGOG’s Fund for New Research Grants program, supported by public donations, is ideally suited to foster innovative new pre-clinical and pilot clinical trials in gynaecological cancers. This project is an excellent example of donor and researcher collaboration.”

Professor Clare Scott, ANZGOG Director

## How your donation can give women a better future

By Dr Genevieve Dall

Our research is investigating uterine leiomyosarcoma, the cancer that Rochelle has. The issue with rare gynaecological cancers like this is that there is not enough tissue available for us to test and look for drugs it might respond to.

So in this pre-clinical study, we are developing personalised models of leiomyosarcoma. When cancer tissue from a patient’s biopsy arrives in our lab, we are then growing it.

From just one tissue sample, we can create a larger biobank. We can explore the genetic determinants causing this type of cancer. We can also treat the samples with different drugs, and if we get a good response, we can go back to clinicians and say “we think this drug can get a good result for this patient”. Our work can then lead to a clinical trial, and positive results can change treatment practices.

Ultimately, what we would love is to grow a patient’s cancer tissue in our lab, test drugs on it then go back to the patient via their doctor within a month and say “Yes, this treatment will work for your specific tumour” and their cancer goes away. We want to provide personalised medicine for women like Rochelle.

We can only continue this work if we have generous support from the public. People think they have to give a large amount or nothing, but little grants can be enough to sustain one tissue sample. And just one sample could lead to the discovery that women are waiting for.

| Dr Genevieve Dall, Principal Investigator

Cancer cell biologist at the Walter Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, in the laboratory of Professor Clare Scott



Dr Genevieve Dall

#ANZGOG

Your generosity this year can save women’s lives

**WOMENcan**  
FUNDING CANCER RESEARCH