

5 April 2022

## Early detection of lung cancer to be investigated

Dr Annalicia Vaughan from the Centenary UTS Centre for Inflammation is the successful recipient of the Kenyon Foundation Inflammation Award for 2022.

The Award, valued at \$20,000, will support Dr Vaughan's study into identifying new microbial-derived biomarkers for the early diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer.

The leading cause of cancer death, lung cancer is responsible for about 9,000 deaths each year in Australia.

In the study, Dr Vaughan will seek to identify biomarkers found in the blood that are associated with microbiota found in the cancerous tissues of the lung.

“Early-stage diagnosis of lung cancer is critical as it is often diagnosed at a late stage – symptoms tend to appear when the disease is already advanced, limiting the range of treatment options available to patients,” said Dr Vaughan.

“The identification of new biomarkers in the blood could be an effective screening tool to detect the presence of lung cancer at an early stage, benefiting patients and at-risk individuals.”

Dr Vaughan says that current research shows that the immune landscape of the lungs plays a vital role in the development of lung cancer as well as in the body's response to medical therapies such as immunotherapy and chemotherapy.

“We also know that the local microbial lung population is a key regulator of this immune landscape – and that when this microbial population is altered, persistent inflammation and the development of lung cancer can result,” said Dr Vaughan.

“We hope to be able to find relevant biomarkers in the blood that reflect this lung cancer and microbiota association.”

Dr Vaughan said she is thankful for the Kenyon Foundation's support.

“The funding will help me to undertake research that could ultimately result in a new routine blood screening test for lung cancer in Australia.”

David Kenyon, Trustee of the Kenyon Foundation said, “Lung cancer is one of the most common forms of cancers and can be devastating for those individuals and their families touched by the disease. We're extremely pleased to be able to support Dr Vaughan's research into improving lives in this critical health area.”

[ENDS]

### Image:

Dr Annalicia Vaughan

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1C\\_wx4ufkqgij0AkL2p4NOpiF7jCPHfQb/](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1C_wx4ufkqgij0AkL2p4NOpiF7jCPHfQb/)

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**About the Centenary Institute**

The Centenary Institute is a world-leading independent medical research institute, closely affiliated to the University of Sydney and the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. Our research focuses on three key areas: cancer, inflammation and cardiovascular disease. Our strength lies in uncovering disease mechanisms and applying this knowledge to improve diagnostics and treatments for patients.

**For more information about the Centenary Institute, visit [centenary.org.au](http://centenary.org.au)**

**About the University of Technology Sydney (UTS)**

The University of Technology Sydney (UTS), located in central Sydney, is one of Australia's leading universities of technology. It is known for fusing innovation, creativity and technology in its teaching and research and for being an industry-focused university.

**For more information go to [uts.edu.au](http://uts.edu.au)**

**About the Kenyon Foundation**

The Kenyon Foundation is a Canberra based philanthropic fund established in 2016 by the children of the late Helen and the late Arthur Kenyon AM. The Kenyon family are long term residents of Canberra with Helen and Arthur bringing their young family to the National Capital in 1960. Helen and Arthur welcomed the opportunities that came with their new home city and they both contributed significantly to Canberra's social, commercial and charitable activities. The creation of the Kenyon Foundation by Helen and Arthur's children, sons David and Richard and daughter Louise, honours the hard work, aspirations and vision of their parents. The Kenyon Foundation provides financial support and encouragement to its community, in Canberra and beyond, through annual gifting programs and donations, particularly in the areas of education, sporting groups, cultural organisations, medical research and bodies assisting the disadvantaged, disabled and homeless.