

## REMEMBERING JANINE CHALWELL

Janine Chalwell embraced life. She filled every moment with love, laughter, kindness and joy. When she learned she would not survive her cancer she had nothing left to do on her bucket list. **“I wake up every day living the dream...I don't want to change anything.”**

Janine was loved and admired by many. A daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, friend, sports coach, party planner, world traveller and passionate advocate for her many community interests. Her backyard parties were legendary, often launched with the pop of a champagne cork and concluded with the rising of the sun. Everyone was invited.

Janine was born on the 24th July 1958 and passed away on the 20th September 2020, aged just 62. With the support of her devoted husband, children and many cherished friends, she fought a courageous battle with melanoma; a battle she was ultimately unable to win.

**Her family have resolved her fight will not be in vain.**

Following her diagnosis of melanoma, Janine was cared for by Clinical Professor Adnan Khattak, Medical Oncologist and Medical Oncology Clinical Trials Lead at Fiona Stanley Hospital. Since his early training in the United Kingdom Prof Khattak has had a resounding passion for research. He is at the vanguard of oncology research with an esteemed international reputation



*Janine Chalwell and Family*

and a commitment to the very best outcomes for his patients.

Professor Khattak believes that to be the best doctor you can for your patients you must be committed to research. While he knows he cannot save everyone, he also knows that it is with the rapid development of knowledge through discovery, and novel treatments through trials, that we can offer the best hope for our patients with a terminal illness.

“How I treat melanoma now compared with how I used to treat it five years ago, is completely different, and it's likely to keep changing in the coming years. The long-term outcomes for melanoma patients have almost doubled in that time with the novel therapies that we use these days. It's encouraging for us and encouraging for the patient that things are changing for good. The improvement in the outcomes of our melanoma patients have obviously come through clinical research.”

Prof Khattak says Janine was a very kind and humble person well supported by Chris, her family and friends.

**“She continued to surprise me with her resilience to fight the aggressive melanoma that she had. I am very happy to have had the opportunity to care for Janine in this difficult period but very sad that we could not win the battle for her. With the help of clinical research, hopefully we will be able to save many patients like Janine in the coming years.”**

We must continue to invest in research. In 2017 Spinnaker Health Research Foundation awarded Prof Khattak a \$100,000 grant to better understand the efficacy of immunotherapy treatment for patients with metastatic melanoma. This research has helped doctors target treatments more specifically to each patient, improving outcomes and reducing unnecessary

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## REMEMBERING JANINE CHALWELL *Continued.*

interventions which might be ineffectual with unnecessary side-effects.

Research is the only way we will continue to learn, improve and, ultimately, save more lives. Janine's family know this, and they are asking for you to help them in memory of the wife, mother and grandmother they loved so very much.

In December 2020 the Chalwell family established The Janine Chalwell Grant to fund melanoma research. The grant will be awarded annually to support research that has the potential to rapidly evolve clinical knowledge, translate to improvements in diagnosis and treatment and above all else, lead to a better outcome for our patients.

**We have already raised over \$70,000 for Melanoma research since December to support a significant grant each year. With your help, we believe there will be a day in our lifetime when we will celebrate a cure that will impact us all. Will you help us reach our \$500,000 target?**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Since our last edition of news the Spinnaker Team was fortunate enough to have some time to reflect over the Christmas and New Year break. I hope that you were able to do the same, and see the positives of what was a difficult year for many. As Spinnaker embarks on what will be its 25th year, we look forward to celebrating our diverse and rich history of projects with you over the coming months.

This year, we are pleased to be able to return to our usual grant program and award funding to those early career research projects and seed grants that will make a direct impact on the health of our community and patients in our hospitals. Your generosity and the giving spirit of our community of donors determines how much we are able to award each year with more than 98% of direct

donations being returned directly to research in 2020. A Spinnaker grant ensures we can continue to identify the very best new ideas and develop the next generation of brilliant researchers to ensure they are able to explore the initial ideas that can lead to new diagnoses, treatments and cures.

Without you, our important work would not be possible, and many of those initial ideas that have the potential to turn into ground-breaking treatments may be lost.

We have also been fortunate to work closely with Chris Chalwell, his family and friends in support of the Janine Chalwell Grant, which you will have read about on the front page. They have all done a tremendous job in raising funds so far, to honour the battle Janine fought, and to make sure this battle was not in vain. The Janine Chalwell Grant will run alongside our current round of grants and be open to applications for research involving melanoma and other cancers.



**Dana Henderson, CEO**

[dana.henderson@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:dana.henderson@health.wa.gov.au)

## WELCOME ANDREW

**Spinnaker is pleased to announce the appointment of Andrew Friars as Trustee Director and Chairman of the Foundation, effective as of 1 January 2021.**

Andrew has been a great supporter and advocate of the Foundation, and of medical research in general, and we are very pleased he will now be leading Spinnaker in to our next phase of development as we mark our 25th year.

Andrew brings exceptional corporate knowledge, with more than 30 years international experience as a Management Consultant and Business Leader, and a current

member of the IBM Australia and New Zealand Leadership Team. Andrew also has extensive board and committee experience in the not-for-profit sector, including Anglicare WA, The Harry Perkins Institute for Medical Research, The University of WA, Nedlands Football Club, Kilfinan Australia and various corporates.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the incredible contributions of Mark Balfour, who has served as the Foundation's Chairman for the past 7 years. We are very lucky that Mark will remain on the Board as a Trustee Director, marking his 12th year with the Foundation.



*Andrew Friars*





Prof Jeremy Nicholson and Dana Henderson

## COVID RESEARCH UPDATE

### WA developed COVID-19 test that detects disease and predicts severity, awaiting a global patent.

In 2020 Spinnaker funded world-leading research by the Australian National Phenome Centre (ANPC), Murdoch University, to examine the long-term impacts of COVID-19 as we sought to better understand what the actual impact of this disease would be beyond the initial diagnosis. As a result of this research, the ANPC has now partnered with New York Stock Exchange listed Bruker GmbH to patent a new COVID-19 test that will identify the pathological signature of the virus that is not dependent upon direct detection of the virus or the respiratory symptoms.

The test is fast, accurate and affordable and will expand current tests to allow health professionals to better predict the severity of infection in patients as well as the capacity to monitor the longer-term impacts of disease.

The ANPC examination of WA positive patients has shown that 50 per cent still had between one and seven symptoms six-months after 'recovery', and many continued to return biochemical abnormalities, or markers for diseases, such as diabetes, Parkinson's, heart disease and liver damage.

Director of ANPC, and research lead, Professor Jeremy Nicholson is one of those patients. Professor Nicholson developed Type 1 Diabetes after contracting the virus in Italy in early 2020.

**"It is highly likely that several hundred people in WA, and more than 10,000 people across Australia still have long term effects of the disease, but they may not realise it,"** Professor Nicholson said.

**"There will need to be a program to deal with these potential long-term disease risks, because the socio-economic burden of Long COVID can be substantial."**

The new test has the potential to improve, and even shorten, the requirement for isolation and quarantining through improvements in the safety and accuracy of the test protocols.

This research outcome forms part of the exceptional funding Spinnaker provided to the ANPC in 2020 along with the McCusker Foundation and West Australian Government.

**"Spinnaker is funding this research as we believe that improved diagnostics and vigilant monitoring of this disease is absolutely critical"** said Spinnaker CEO, Dana Henderson.

"We are relieved that a vaccine is now available but we need every weapon in our war-chest if we are going to conquer this threat. WA is leading the battle with the discoveries from the ANPC," Ms Henderson said.

## CHRISTMAS POP-UP

Just before the close of 2020, the Spinnaker Team popped up on the Fiona Stanley Hospital concourse for a week long thank you to our wonderful hospital staff.

Messages from visitors, patients and staff were pinned to our Christmas tree, and the gratitude for all of their efforts through 2020 was overflowing.

We remain completely grateful to everyone who has worked so hard to keep us safe this past year and those working in our hospitals will forever have our gratitude and support.

• Each year the amount we award to research is directly dependent upon the generosity of our community of donors. We know that there has never been a more critical time for us to invest in life-saving breakthroughs for all diseases and ask you to please give generously at this time of year. The next great discovery may well be a cure and we need to keep investing in research to get there.



### HERE ARE SOME OF THE GREAT MESSAGES WE RECEIVED:

"My sincere thanks for the opportunity to experience your kindness"

"Thank you for fixing my arm!" – From Finn

## DONATION FORM

Donate online at: [www.spinnakerhealth.org.au/donate](http://www.spinnakerhealth.org.au/donate)

**THANK YOU.** Your donation will support research that helps our community the most.

Donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

### I would like to make a

- Single donation  
 Recurring donation every:  
\_\_\_\_\_ (i.e. monthly, weekly)

### I would like to give a gift of

- \$25    \$50    \$100  
 \$250    \$500    \$1,000  
 Other amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Please direct my donation to:

- Where it's needed most  
 COVID-19 research  
 Heart and lung research  
 Janine Chalwell Grant

### Personal details

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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My gift is in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please find enclosed my cash/cheque payable to Spinnaker Health Research Foundation or;

Please debit my donation to the provided credit card:

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Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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I would not like to receive regular news, updates and invitations from Spinnaker

I would like to receive information on how to make a gift in my Will to support Spinnaker

Please return this form to Spinnaker Health Research Foundation, PO Box 480, FREMANTLE WA 6959

Email: [admin@spinnakerhealth.org.au](mailto:admin@spinnakerhealth.org.au) Phone: 08 6152 6278