

Together, we make a difference

Supporting anyone, anywhere with any cancer

Your support has helped us
be there for

2,911

people and their families
across the Southern region
over the past year.

From emotional guidance, transport to treatment, and providing a comforting place to stay, your generosity ensures that no one faces cancer alone. Every conversation, every kilometre driven, and every night of care is made possible because of you.



1:3

New Zealanders will
receive a cancer diagnosis
in their lifetime

Number of people supported
with a top 5 cancer diagnosis:

593 Breast

253 Prostate

218 Lung & Brochus

197 Colon

101 Melanoma - Skin

Cancer Society awards over \$1 million in research grants

The Cancer Society is a major funder of life-saving and world-class cancer research and five cancer research scientists have recently been awarded grants.



Dr Judy Ann Cocadiz

Has received a post-doctoral fellowship to develop a small device that can capture tiny pieces of genetic material, called circulating tumour DNA (ctDNA) which are released into the bloodstream by cancer cells.

The device will be designed to be temporarily inserted into a blood vessel for a short period, allowing it to directly collect ctDNA, which can then be analysed for signs of cancer.



Dr Yue Wang

Will focus her research on how growth hormones, which normally help regulate healthy growth and metabolism, can encourage melanoma cell growth and make it harder to treat.

Dr Wang has developed a blocker that effectively prevents growth hormones from carrying out these harmful effects. Through the grant she aims to investigate whether blocking growth hormones can improve the effectiveness of current melanoma treatments.



Associate Professor Stephen Jamieson

Has received a grant to develop new treatments to tackle melanomas caused by a mutation of the NRAS gene. This mutation is found in about 15 to 20 percent of melanomas, and there is currently no specific treatment.

A new target protein within these cancer cells has been identified, which is needed for these cells to survive. He will use a variety of approaches to discover chemical compounds that disrupt the target protein and will act as starting points for the development of new melanoma drugs.

Continued over →





Dr Andrea Teng

Will explore the efficiency of treatment in screen-and-treat approaches for the *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*) infection.

Around 90% of stomach cancer cases are linked to long-term *H. pylori* infection. Māori and Pacific populations have higher rates of stomach cancer, primarily due to untreated *H. pylori* infection. Checking adults for the infection can halve the risk of getting stomach cancer and has been recommended for higher-risk populations.



Jodie Collins

Is starting a PhD to create a customisable prehabilitation programme to improve the quality of life for colorectal (bowel) cancer. Her PhD focus brings together her professional experience across sports science, nutrition, community education and cancer research advocacy, as well as her own personal lived experience of colorectal cancer.

Jodie intends to work closely with patients, their whānau, and health services to create a programme that suits each person's needs, and supports them with exercise, healthy eating and mental wellbeing so they feel stronger and recover better from surgery and treatment.



David with Cancer Society NZ CEO Nicola Coom (left) and Cancer Society Southern Interim CEO Meredith Woodsford

Artwork gifted to the Cancer Society

Renowned artist **David Woodings** has a long and special relationship with the Cancer Society, and recently that relationship was marked by the generous donation of further precious artworks.

One of these gifts is particularly moving.

Five years ago, David's beloved wife Sharon passed away from cancer. During her illness, Sharon took this photograph of falling peony petals – flowers she had hand-picked from their own garden. From her bed, she took great joy in watching the blooms open and the petals gently fall.

David later transformed this image into an oil on linen painting titled *A Corolla of Memories*, and also created a limited edition print to help fund Sharon's treatment.

We are honoured that this beautiful work will now be hung with pride at the Canterbury Cancer Centre, where it can be enjoyed and admired by all – a quiet, powerful reminder of love, creativity, and remembrance.

We are also deeply grateful for the two additional artworks gifted, and for David's continued generosity and support of our work.

Relay For Life



Relay For Life is a community event full of energy and emotion. Thousands of people will team up, remember loved ones affected by cancer, and do their bit to fight back and make a difference.

As soon as people and teams sign up, their fundraising work begins and tens of thousands of dollars is raised to support the work of the Cancer Society.

Relay is a powerful way to Whakanui (celebrate) people who have or have had cancer, maumaharatia (remember) loved ones lost to cancer, and tū atu (fight back) by raising awareness and funds for the Cancer Society.

On the day of Relay team members take turns passing a baton, ensuring someone is always moving throughout the event.

Photos from past events speak volumes to how significant this event is. The camaraderie, the costumes and the mahi are spectacular. Find out more at:

www.relayforlife.org.nz



Are you or someone you know going through a cancer journey at the moment?

Get the support and information you need at our new Online Support Centre

www.southerncancersupport.org.nz