

Giving Insight



St John of God Foundation Autumn Newsletter 2021

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- Sean's ultimate sign of gratitude
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ST JOHN OF GOD
Foundation

Transforming health care for **humanity**

Message from the CEO



Dear friends,

Welcome to the Autumn 2021 edition of 'Giving Insight'.

Whilst every edition of Giving Insight features achievements made possible thanks to the support of our compassionate donor community, I am particularly proud of the life-changing impact funding has made to patients and their loved ones throughout 2020, amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

A stand-out example of this for me is the state-of-the-art Magseed technology, improving surgical outcomes for breast cancer patients like Vicki, which you can read about on page 5.

World Cancer Day last month also highlighted the ongoing struggle for patients fighting cancer in a COVID-19 environment, and reinforced our resolve to increase our focus on funding cancer treatment and research as one of our main priorities in 2021 and beyond.

The previous commitment of our donors in this area is inspiring, and responses to our recent survey confirmed cancer is a meaningful area of support for many more of you. I am glad to be able to share an initial update on our future focus on cancer care in this edition on page 4. You can read more about feedback from the 2020 Supporter Survey on the following page.

Thank you once again for your support. I encourage you to read on and know the many ways your generosity and kindness makes a difference.

Kind regards,

Bianca Pietralla
Chief Executive Officer
St John of God Foundation



SUPPORTER SURVEY:

Thank you for your feedback

A big thank you to everyone who completed our 2020 Supporter Survey. Your honest feedback and opinions really matter, and help us understand the areas of our work that mean the most to you.



Top: St John of God specialist breast surgeon Dr Ong with patient Vicki and St John of God Bunbury Hospital CEO Jeffrey Williams, celebrating the arrival of the new Magseed technology.

Bottom: Dr Ong and Vicki with an example of the tiny and remarkable Magseed. Vicki was one of the first to receive breast cancer treatment with the donor-funded technology. **You made this possible!**

What you told us:



You were inspired to support our work after you or a loved one received care at a St John of God Health Care Hospital or Service.

This is a wonderful display of gratitude within our community.



Many of you have had a meaningful experience at a St John of God Health Care Hospital or Service that you are willing to share.

We sincerely appreciate your willingness to share your experiences and love to hear about how St John of God Health Care is improving lives in our community.



You are interested in learning about our current and upcoming fundraising priorities.

In response, we will bring a greater focus on this in our communications and conversations with you.



You're interested in reading real-life patient impact stories in our newsletters.

We will continue to bring you stories of the people who benefit from your compassionate support.

8.5/10

Your overall satisfaction score was 8.5 out of 10.

We will use your feedback to continue to improve your experience this year and into the future.

We also greatly appreciated the number of supporters who showed an interest in including St John of God Foundation in their Will. Leaving a lasting legacy through a gift in your Will is one of the most remarkable ways to make a real difference through advanced treatment options and new medical discoveries for generations to come.

You are welcome to contact Preema Wong, Director of Philanthropy, for a confidential discussion on how leaving a gift in your Will can create a lasting legacy. Please call her on 0427 526 899 or email Preema.Wong@sjog.org.au.

Thank you again for taking the time to give us your valuable feedback.



St John of God Health Care has been providing high-quality cancer care for over 100 years.

FUTURE FOCUS:

2021: Focus on Cancer Care

More Australians fear a cancer diagnosis than any other health condition, as cancer remains a leading cause of death in Australia, accounting for about three in every 10 deaths.

Sadly, one in two Australians will develop cancer, and one in five will die from cancer before the age of 85.*

Respondents to our 2020 Supporter Survey highlighted that cancer care is seen as one of the most meaningful areas of our work, and in response we can confirm that funding to support comprehensive cancer care in our communities is one of St John of God Foundation's key fundraising priorities for 2021 and beyond.

St John of God Health Care is one of Australia's largest private health care providers, and has been providing high quality cancer care to the community for over one hundred years. In recent times, and particularly throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, cancer care has remained a key priority.

St John of God Health Care holds a reputation as a world-leader in cancer research, contributing to international clinical trials, sharing important findings in academic publications and, most importantly, directly improving patient care and health outcomes.

The Foundation's goal in 2021 is to increase our focus on philanthropic support for the delivery of innovative, translational research, next-generation treatments, and advanced diagnostics; to continue to expand cancer services; and improve patient outcomes at St John of God Health Care Hospitals nationally.

We look forward to sharing more details with you on the projects we aim to fund to support advanced cancer care for patients in the communities in which we serve.

To learn more about how you can get involved and support the future of cancer care, please call Preema Wong, Director of Philanthropy, on 0427 526 899 or email Preema.Wong@sjog.org.au.

**Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2019. Cancer in Australia: In brief 2019.*

Supporters like you can help us play a role in shaping the future of cancer care, to improve treatment and care options for individuals and their families battling this life-threatening illness.

A first for WA in leading cancer care

Thanks to generous community support, St John of God Bunbury Hospital has become the first hospital in Western Australia to introduce and use Magseed technology to provide advanced treatment for regional breast cancer patients.

The Magseed is a tiny 5mm magnetic device that is used as a marker to help surgeons more accurately identify and remove cancerous tumours.

St John of God Bunbury Hospital specialist breast surgeon Dr Marcus Ong said the device enhances surgical accuracy to leave more healthy tissue and can greatly improve a patient's treatment experience. "Using the Magseed can reduce a patient's anxiety on the day of surgery, which can result in better outcomes. Traditionally, we have used a hook wire as a marker, which protrudes from the skin and can be quite confronting."

The Magseed technology was fully funded with donations to St John of God Foundation, and has been supporting regional patients to access advanced care closer to home since February 2020.

St John of God Bunbury Hospital Chief Executive Officer Jeffrey Williams said the device was symbolic of the hospital's goal of providing the best clinical service to the community. "The introduction of the Magseed is an important step for breast cancer patients in the South West of Western Australia as they now have access to the latest technology."

▲ Vicki Vanda with specialist breast surgeon Dr Marcus Ong holding the new Magseed technology.

"We are proud to be able to provide use of the device on some 70 patients per year and would like to thank everyone who helped us implement this new technology."

– Jeffrey Williams, St John of God Bunbury Hospital CEO.



Generous community support to St John of God Bunbury Hospital helps fund new medical technologies like the Magseed to provide advanced cancer care for regional communities. If you would like to support your local St John of God Hospital, please contact the Foundation on 1800 281 288.

St John of God specialist breast surgeon Dr Ong, with patient Vicki, and St John of God Hospital CEO Jeffrey Williams, celebrating the arrival of the new Magseed technology.

Participating in a clinical trial
can bring patients renewed
hope in fighting their cancer.

IMPACT:

Donations help kick-start new clinical trials

St John of God Murdoch Hospital oncologists are passionate about finding new and more effective cancer treatments through clinical trials, and now, thanks to philanthropic donor support, a greater number of clinical trials will be available to eligible cancer patients.

In 2020, a state-of-the-art ultra-cold laboratory freezer was purchased with a generous gift from valued donors Siegfried and Gudrun Westerfeld, and is used to store bio-specimens (blood samples) collected from patients on clinical trials before analysis.

St John of God Murdoch Hospital Research Operations Manager Dr Steve Edmondston said the freezer is a significant asset that will support current clinical trials and enhance opportunities to participate in future trials. "Since acquiring the freezer, we have secured two new clinical trials which require this freezer for specimen storage; this simply would not have been possible without donor support."

Clinical trials play an essential role in the discovery of new medicines while offering eligible patients access to new treatment options beyond the standard care. For many patients, participating in a clinical trial brings renewed hope in fighting their cancer.

Associate Professor Kynan Feeney, Head of Department of Cancer Services at St John of God Murdoch Hospital, says the team is focused on improving care for some of the most common cancers including prostate, breast, colorectal, and melanoma. "We aim to provide cancer patients and their families the best possible care through research-driven practice. Findings from clinical trials have the potential to improve health outcomes for cancer patients today and well into the future."

Meaningful donations such as this provide vital support to drive better health outcomes for patients in our communities. To learn more about supporting cancer treatment, please call the Foundation team on 1800 281 288, or email Foundation@sjog.org.au to discuss a specific area of interest.

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We aim to provide cancer patients and their families the best possible care through research-driven practice. Findings from clinical trials have the potential to improve health outcomes for cancer patients today and well into the future.

– Associate Professor Kynan Feeney



THE ULTIMATE SIGN OF GRATITUDE:

Sean raises funds for **cancer** treatment

I wanted to do something to say thanks for everything, for saving my life. – Sean Lahooti

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Sean Lahooti
raised \$2,000 for the
St John of God Murdoch
Hospital Cancer Centre.

Sean Lahooti has been receiving treatment at the St John of God Murdoch Hospital Cancer Centre for nearly 10 years and says his incredible care inspired him to give back to help others access the best treatment options and advanced care that he's been fortunate to receive.

Sean raised \$2,000 through a fundraising event hosted for the AFL Grand Final in 2020, donating all funds to the Cancer Centre to fund cancer research and treatment at St John of God Murdoch Hospital.

"I wanted to do something to say thanks for everything, for saving my life. But it's also about making a difference for people in need. If I can help others to receive treatment as I have or to access new treatment options, then I'm glad to have been a part of that."

"I go into the Cancer Centre every week and the people there are amazing – they're so warm and they've become an extended family to me in a way. That's why I wanted to do something to give back and say thank you." – Sean Lahooti.

St John of God Murdoch Hospital CEO Ben Edwards was greatly moved by Sean's words. "It's a wonderful thing when our patients want to give back to say thank you for the treatment they received and to help others who might go through the same journey in the future. It's a testament to the caregivers who show such compassion in their daily work."

To find out more about fundraising for an area of support that is meaningful to you, please email Foundation@sjog.org.au or call 1800 281 288 to discuss your ideas.



Leaving a lasting legacy

Your legacy gift can help us meet the growing health care needs of patients in our communities.

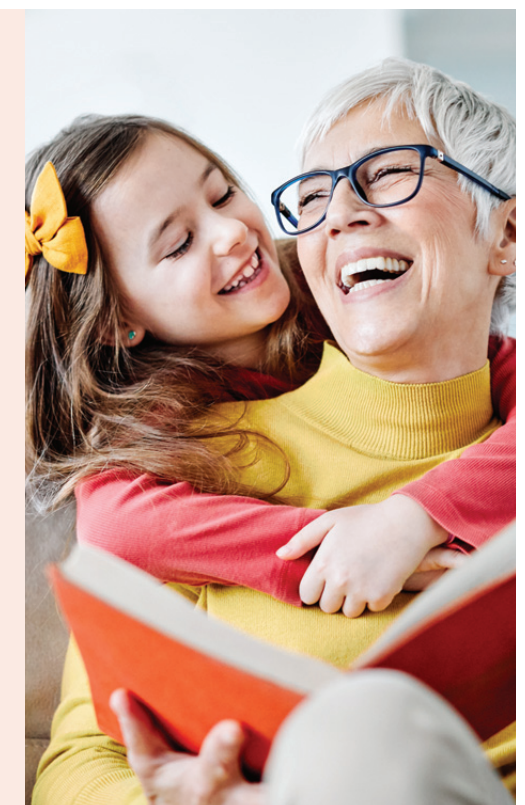
By leaving a gift in your Will to St John of God Foundation, you can help to ensure the very best health care is available for people in their time of greatest need, now and into the future.

After providing for your loved ones in your Will, you may have the opportunity to reflect on the causes and organisations that are meaningful to you, and consider including a legacy gift.

You can be sure that whatever gift you choose to leave, 100% will be directed to improving health care in the communities we serve.

To learn more about leaving a gift in your Will, please fill in your details on the back page of this newsletter and return to us via mail or email.

We also welcome you to contact Preema Wong, Director of Philanthropy, on 0427 526 899 or email Preema.Wong@sjog.org.au for a confidential discussion on how leaving a gift in your Will can create a lasting legacy.





Laura and James Rigoni gave a special thank you to St John of God Geelong Hospital after the birth of their daughter, Violet.



Why I became a donor Geelong edition

Laura and James Rigoni recently made a meaningful donation to the Special Care Nursery community fundraising campaign at St John of God Geelong Hospital.

Following the birth of their daughter Violet, who spent six days in the hospital's Special Care Nursery, Laura and James were so grateful for the care they received that they wanted to give back in a way that was meaningful to them.

Laura said, "Throughout Violet's six-day stay in the Special Care Nursery, we felt so comfortable that she was in the very best hands. While it felt like no gift could ever express our gratitude, my husband and I decided a donation to the nursery would be a lasting gift and will contribute to the amazing job the team will continue to do for thousands of other precious babies in the future."

St John of God Geelong Hospital CEO Stephen Roberts said, "It's heart-warming to see the community supporting our Special Care Nursery, and it's particularly special when our patients find meaningful ways to say thank you and show their gratitude to caregivers for care they've received."

To support this community fundraising campaign at St John of God Geelong Hospital, please visit Café Costa on the hospital's ground floor to donate at the Tap and Go machine, call 1800 281 288 to donate over the phone, or email Foundation@sjog.org.au.

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Throughout Violet's six-day stay in the Special Care Nursery, we felt so comfortable that she was in the very best hands.

- Laura Rigoni

RESEARCH IN FOCUS:

Improving health outcomes for cancer patients



St John of God Health Care
postdoctoral research fellow,
Dr Melanie McCoy.

At St John of God Foundation, we aim to support the discovery of tomorrow's medical treatments to deliver life-changing health care for our communities, and all Australians.

Generous donations provide vital support in funding important medical research that can create hope, improve patient care, and contribute to the global fight against cancer.

Colorectal cancer is one of the most common cancers worldwide and is a leading cause of cancer-related deaths in Australia.

With early detection, colorectal cancer can be successfully treated, however, for around 10-20% of patients, their cancer can later return, spreading to their liver or lungs and leading to a poor prognosis. This is known as 'metastatic recurrence', where cancer cells break away from the original (primary) tumour, and travel to later form a new tumour in other organs or body tissues.

Professor Cameron Platell, Director of Colorectal Cancer Research at St John of God Subiaco Hospital, is leading the translational research project 'Biomarkers of colorectal cancer metastasis'. The work constitutes a PhD project to be completed by Dr Ryan Cohen in 2023.

Dr Cohen said, "The project holds great promise for patients at risk of colorectal cancer metastasis. We aim to better understand key biomarkers that may put patients in a high-risk group for developing metastatic recurrence, while also looking at when and where inside the body metastasis is most likely to occur.

"Valuable discoveries from this research can better equip clinicians to develop early intervention and individualised treatment plans to ultimately result in fewer people dying from this disease."

With your support, we seek to enable meaningful medical discoveries to directly improve diagnosis and treatment for colorectal cancer patients at St John of God Health Care Hospitals, the broader community, and generations to come.

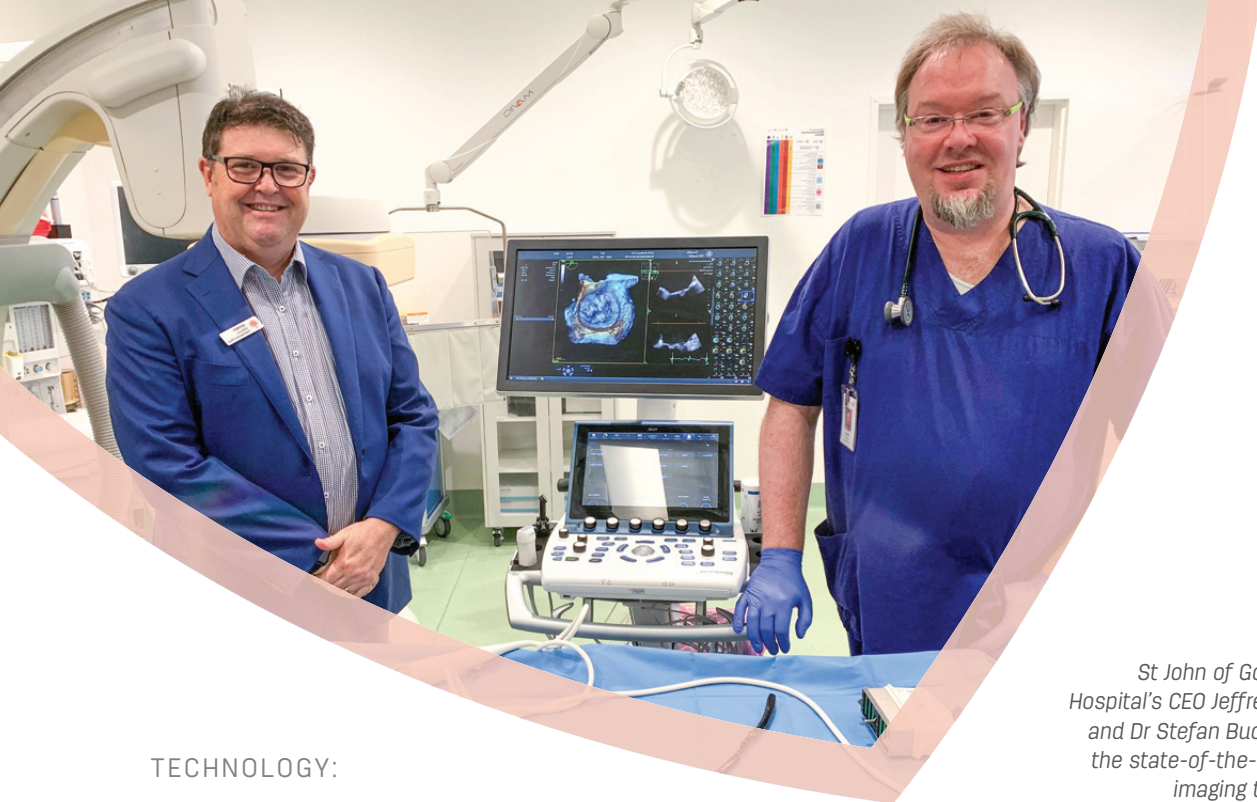
We would like to thank our philanthropic supporters, Terry Iannello, the Tony Fini Foundation and others, who have already contributed to this vital research to help transform the lives of people living with colorectal cancer and their loved ones, now and into the future.



“
I feel deeply responsible for pursuing and developing our knowledge of colorectal cancer and in turn improving patient outcomes.

– Dr Ryan Cohen

To learn more about supporting cancer research, please call 1800 281 288 or email Foundation@sjog.org.au.



St John of God Bunbury Hospital's CEO Jeffrey Williams and Dr Stefan Buchholz with the state-of-the-art cardiac imaging technology.

TECHNOLOGY:

State-of-the-art heart care for regional patients

Thanks to your generous donations, St John of God Foundation has supported the purchase of the latest 3D and 4D cardiac imaging technology.

The new equipment has enabled St John of God Bunbury Hospital to provide South West communities with access to comprehensive heart care, close to home. It's the first time this technology has been available in WA's South West, saving patients from travel to Perth for this specialised care.

The state-of-the-art technology – a 3D/4D transoesophageal echocardiography probe and a 4D ultrasound machine – enables doctors to see the inner mechanisms of the heart and blood flow in real-time.

A key benefit of the technology is the comprehensive images that help specialists to make more effective surgical decisions and provide patients with greater details about their condition, treatment and recovery.

Cardiologist Dr Stefan Buchholz said, "The technology allows us to visualise the shape of heart valves before going into surgery so that we can plan whether an affected valve can be repaired or needs to be replaced ahead of time".

St John of God Bunbury Hospital CEO Jeffrey Williams said the investment would give people living in regional South West WA the same access to the latest diagnostic technology as those living in metropolitan regions, removing the burden of travel that patients can face. "It is wonderful that we can now offer this cutting edge technology right here in Bunbury."

This new technology has already provided numerous patients with life-changing treatment, supporting advanced cardiac care in the region.

One of the first patients to benefit from the new technology was Bunbury resident Michael Darwood, who was grateful to be able to access this specialised care without travelling to Perth. "We live only 10 minutes away from the hospital, you can't get any better than that."



Michael Darwood, one of the first patients to receive treatment with the new technology.

Your generous support is helping to offer the very best treatments for patients in our community now and into the future.



The Intraoperative Radiation Therapy technology in action.

“

Thanks to our philanthropic community, St John of God Foundation continues to support medical advancements to improve lives and provide hope for patients in our communities.

**- Preema Wong,
Director of of Philanthropy,
St John of God Foundation**

Donations help patients spend less time in hospital

Breast cancer patients at St John of God Subiaco Hospital are now accessing treatment that will significantly reduce time spent in hospital, all thanks to donor-funded technology.

The state-of-the-art Intraoperative Radiation Therapy (IORT) technology, acquired by the hospital in 2020, delivers a one-time targeted dose of radiation during surgery, meaning eligible patients can avoid spending up to six weeks receiving traditional radiation treatment.

With approximately 20 procedures now taking place each month, that makes up a collective 120 weeks that patients could spend at home in recovery, rather than undergoing standard treatment.

By dramatically reducing treatment time and minimising side effects, patients can spend more time and effort focusing on their recovery and can resume daily activities sooner, which can help to bring back a sense of normality.

It also offers significant benefits to women working full-time as well as rural patients, who previously had to arrange and pay for accommodation for extended periods of time when coming to Perth to receive treatment.

IORT is a wonderful example of the significant impact our generous donors, including the Carcione Foundation and others, have made to support life-changing treatment for West Australians diagnosed with breast cancer.

To find out more about supporting advanced cancer care at your local St John of God Hospital, please call 1800 281 288 to speak with a Foundation team member, or email Foundation@sjog.org.au.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



ST JOHN OF GOD

Foundation

Transforming health care for **humanity**



**DONATE
TODAY**



Donate online today at:
sjogfoundation.org.au/donate



Complete the form below and return to:
**PO Box 5753, St Georges Terrace,
Perth WA 6831**

Yes, I/we would like to support transformational health care for people in need.

Please accept my/our gift of: ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 OR \$ _____

All donations of \$2 or more are tax-deductible. St John of God Foundation Trust ABN 64 715 901 441

Name _____

Address _____

Payment Details

Please debit the above amount to my credit card ☐ **MasterCard** ☐ **Visa** **OR** ☐ **My cheque / money order is enclosed**
(made payable to St John of God Foundation)

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Card Holder's Name _____ Expiry Date _____ / _____

Signature _____ Date of Birth _____

Email Address _____

Providing your email address allows us to email your tax receipt to you, minimising costs and paper usage.

Please be assured that 100% of your donation to St John of God Foundation will be used as you request.

We respect your privacy. If you would prefer not to receive further materials from St John of God Foundation please contact us on 1800 281 288 or email Foundation@sjog.org.au.

Please direct my gift towards:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| ☐ Area of greatest need | ☐ Leading medical and health research | ☐ A specific St John of God Hospital or Service:
_____ |
| ☐ Precision Health (innovative technology and equipment) | ☐ Gifts of Hope for cancer patients | |

LEAVING A LEGACY GIFT

By leaving a gift in your Will to St John of God Foundation, you can help to ensure the very best health care is available for people in their time of greatest need, now and into the future.

- ☐ I am interested in leaving a legacy gift, please contact me at: _____
- ☐ I have already left a gift in my Will



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Donate online today at www.sjogfoundation.org.au/donate

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