

Jayne Saul and
Professor Phan Nguyen.

Professor Phan Nguyen and his team at the Royal Adelaide Hospital bring robotic precision to earlier lung cancer diagnosis

Over the past months, SA's first robot-assisted bronchoscopy system has shown promising results during its trial at the Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH).

In this article, Professor Phan Nguyen details how the technology navigates small, hard-to-reach lung nodules, while patient Jayne Saul - one of the first patients to undergo the procedure using the machine - tells her story.

For patients with suspected lung cancer, this technology could mean an earlier diagnosis and faster treatment planning.

Patient Jayne Saul and her experience at the Royal Adelaide Hospitals' Department of Thoracic Medicine

On a bright winter afternoon a member of the RAH Research Fund team had the privilege of speaking with RAH patient, Jayne. From the moment her voice was heard over the phone, her warmth struck us and immediately left a positive impression. As the conversation unfolded, it became clear that Jayne possessed a quiet strength and remarkable resilience. Despite her ongoing battle with cancer, her approach to life was to go forth in daily routines with courage, optimism, and determination.

Jayne was diagnosed with cervical and vulvar cancer shortly after retiring. Looking back, she considers the timing a blessing, as the demands of treatment required every ounce of her mental, emotional, and physical strength. What began as a simple concern and a visit to her doctor quickly led to a series of tests and, ultimately, a life-changing cancer diagnosis.

Patients like Jayne are the reason your donations matter and make a crucial difference in treatment at RAH!!

Determined to face the challenge ahead with resilience, Jayne underwent the necessary chemotherapy and radiation treatments. Her perseverance paid off, and she celebrated the wonderful milestone of being cancer-free for two years, with clear scan results providing reassurance and hope for the future.

However, during a routine follow-up CT scan, a senior doctor identified a tiny tumour in Jayne's lung. The discovery was unexpected and concerning, particularly because the tumour was located just millimetres from her heart.

With history repeating itself, Jayne faced another daunting health challenge that she approached with the same courage and positive outlook that had carried her through her previous cancer journey.

Story continues on page 2.

Professor Phan Nguyen and his team need your help to fund his crucial research in the Thoracic Medicine space.

Visit: www.rahresearchfund.com.au/support-us/thoracic or scan the QR code to donate today.

Thank you. Your generosity will change lives.



Patient Jayne Saul and her experience at the Royal Adelaide Hospitals' Department of Thoracic Medicine **Continued from cover**

Jayne was placed in the care of Professor Phan Nguyen, Head of the Unit, Department of Thoracic Medicine, Royal Adelaide Hospital.

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With Jayne under Professor Phan Nguyens' care, she had two treatment options – surgery or radiation.

Jayne chose radiation treatment first, the most familiar route of care.

Her own medical background - having a 10-year role in theatre at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital (TQEH) - made her diagnosis and path to regain her health even more frightening. Jayne was confident in the expertise and care issued to her by Professor Phan Nguyen and his team at RAH.

Jaynes' confidence and trust multiplied when she was offered a biopsy of the lung module found close to her heart, using South Australia's first robot-assisted bronchoscopy system, now operating at the RAH. This machine allowed clinicians to navigate directly to the lesion and support an earlier diagnosis.

The technology is now part of clinical practice at RAH, giving patients suspected lung cancer access to more precise diagnostic care.

Being only the second patient to undergo the procedure during a successful trial period supported by the Central Adelaide Local Health Network (CALHN), Jayne felt her faith in her treating team expand as she learnt how the robotic bronchoscope works. The machine is PRECISE; with the tool used to remove tissue being smaller than a regular bronchoscope.

Jayne gave an immediate yes to the robotic bronchoscope biopsy, relaying her memory of relief knowing the accuracy of the machine given the proximity of the cancerous module to her heart.

It is without need to say that the expertise and extensive medical knowledge of Professor Phan Nguyen and team were also the reasons why Jayne felt so confident during the biopsy.

"I had all the faith in Professor Phan and the team, and I had a very positive experience," Jayne says. "It was reassuring to know they would be able to get more of the tumour. Research and what we can do medically is moving so fast, it's not something to fear but rather to embrace."

Jaynes' biopsy was successful. Jayne was clear in her opinion that if the robotic bronchoscope had not been available for her, that would have impacted on her decision, and outcome, of surgical success.

She entrusted her body and health to Professor Phan Nguyen and the robotic bronchoscope wholeheartedly, a decision she has not once regretted due to the pinpoint of precision and accuracy of the machine and the care of Professor Phan Nguyen, and team. All she wanted was to safely have the tumor removed, and her wish was granted.

Please donate now to keep Professor Phan Nguyens' research into Thoracic Medicine going strong! Your donation really makes all the difference to the outcomes of lung and heart cancer patients at RAH.

Professor Phan Nguyen and his research into Thoracic Medicine at the Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH)

Professor Phan Nguyen – Head of the Unit, Department of Thoracic Medicine, Royal Adelaide Hospital – is a proud South Australian and proud Vietnamese refugee who advocates for advancements in diagnostics and therapies for all patients referred to its services.

The thoracic procedure suite that Professor Phan Nguyen leads were among the first to perform advanced endobronchial ultrasound (EBUS) bronchoscopic procedures more than 18 years ago. Since then, the team has expanded its services to include lung volume reduction using endobronchial valves for patients with severe chronic obstructive airway disease. All the while being the primary referral centre for airways emergencies for the state as well as regions of Victoria, NSW and the NT.

A small group of dedicated physicians and amazing nursing and administrative staff have quietly gone about providing this care and support to patients and referrers alike.

More recently, the Thoracic Medicine Unit at RAH has gained media attention with the arrival of SA's first robotic assisted bronchoscopy service - that which completed a successful biopsy on patient Jayne Saul. The robotic bronchoscopy has dramatically improved the diagnostic yield of small lung nodules, raising traditional diagnostics from bronchoscopic techniques from around 65-70% all the way up to 90%.

Robotic bronchoscopy has benefits to all patients with lung nodules – whether this is from benign causes or from cancer. We must emphasis that *not only* patients with suspected lung cancer can benefit, but all patients with any cancer with concerning spots on their lungs can benefit.

Professor Phan Nguyen and Associate Professor Arash Badiei are humbled and proud to be the only two physicians in South Australia who are trained with this technology and they both endeavour to bring its advancements and advantages to the patients who are referred to them.



Professor Phan Nguyen (left) and Associate Professor Arash Badiei demonstrating the robot-assisted bronchoscopy system.

Since the robotic bronchoscopes' release the Thoracic Medicine Unit have partnered with the South Australian immunoGENomics Cancer Institute (SAiGENCI) - led by Professor Brendan Jenkins - where they complete cutting edge research into future cancer therapies, impacting positively on care for generations to come.

By donating, you can help fund robot-assisted bronchoscopy and clinician-led trials at RAH and CALHN, supporting safer, more coordinated care and earlier answers for patients during an uncertain time.

Earlier answers.

Greater certainty.

Faster treatment planning.

More confidence for patients like Jayne.

"Philanthropists or donors who would like to contribute to retaining this technology for all people of SA are welcome to also donate to assist the thoracic medicine department in capital purchase of this technology."

Donate now and leave your mark in contributing to ongoing medical developments in Thoracic Medicine.

How robot-assisted bronchoscopy works

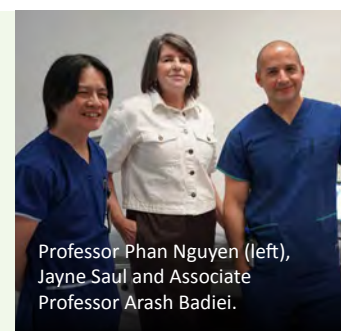
Robot-assisted bronchoscopy combines advanced imaging, navigation and robotic technology to help clinicians safely reach small or hard-to-access lung nodules.

Trained respiratory physicians can guide a thin bronchoscope with greater precision and stability, allowing tissue samples to be taken for testing. This can support earlier, more accurate diagnosis for patients with suspected lung cancer or cancer that has spread to the lung.

For patients like Jayne, whose lesion was difficult to safely reach, the technology offers another way to access challenging areas, potentially reducing repeat procedures, complications, and waiting times.

Professor Phan Nguyen strongly believes this technology is an important step forward:

"Patients with lung cancers, or cancers of any kind that have spread to the lung, are now able to have more accurate and safer biopsies. This reduces diagnostic uncertainty and anxiety for patients, reduces complications and allows cancers to be treated at an earlier, curable stage."



Professor Phan Nguyen (left), Jayne Saul and Associate Professor Arash Badiei.

Donate today to Thoracic Medicine research

Professor Phan Nguyen and his team need your help to fund his crucial research in the Thoracic Medicine space.

Visit: www.rahresearchfund.com.au/support-us/thoracic or scan the QR code to donate today.

Thank you. Your generosity will change lives.





Dr Eugene Roscioli

Reinventing One of the World's Most Important Medicines

A discovery at the Royal Adelaide Hospital could change the future of chronic lung disease.

Every year, millions of people around the world are prescribed azithromycin.

It is one of medicine's most widely used antibiotics, but doctors have long recognised that it does something extraordinary. In people living with chronic lung diseases such as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and cystic fibrosis, azithromycin can reduce damaging inflammation and help prevent serious flare-ups. Yet despite decades of use, nobody has fully understood how these remarkable anti-inflammatory effects occur.

At the Royal Adelaide Hospital Lung Research Laboratory, Dr Eugene Roscioli and his team are working to answer that question.

Along the way, they have made an unexpected discovery.

Their research has shown that while azithromycin provides important clinical benefits, it also interferes with one of the cell's natural defence mechanisms. This process, known as autophagy, helps cells remove unwanted material and defend themselves against invading bacteria. Understanding this previously unrecognised effect has opened an entirely new direction for research.

Rather than simply studying an existing drug, the team is now designing an entirely new generation of azithromycin-based medicines.

These next-generation compounds are being developed to preserve the beneficial anti-inflammatory properties that have made azithromycin so valuable for patients, while reducing unwanted effects within our cells. If successful, this work has the potential to improve long-term treatment for people living with chronic respiratory diseases and may influence the future design of medicines used well beyond respiratory medicine.

This research has already attracted national attention. Earlier this year, the project narrowly missed funding through the highly competitive NHMRC Ideas Grant scheme by just 0.13 points, providing strong independent recognition of both the quality of the science and its potential impact.

Despite this momentum, discoveries like these do not happen without continued support.

Every experiment brings researchers one step closer to understanding how chronic lung disease develops and, ultimately, how it can be treated more effectively. Community support enables our team to continue developing these discoveries, generate the evidence needed for future clinical translation, and help ensure that promising ideas are not lost before they can change lives.

For people living with COPD, cystic fibrosis and other chronic lung diseases, better treatments cannot come soon enough.

With your support, the next generation of respiratory medicines could begin right here at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

Together, we can transform an unexpected discovery into better treatments for future generations.

Please support Dr Eugene Roscioli's research today.

Visit: www.rahresearchfund.com.au/support-us/copd or scan the QR code to donate today.

Thank you. Your generosity will change lives.



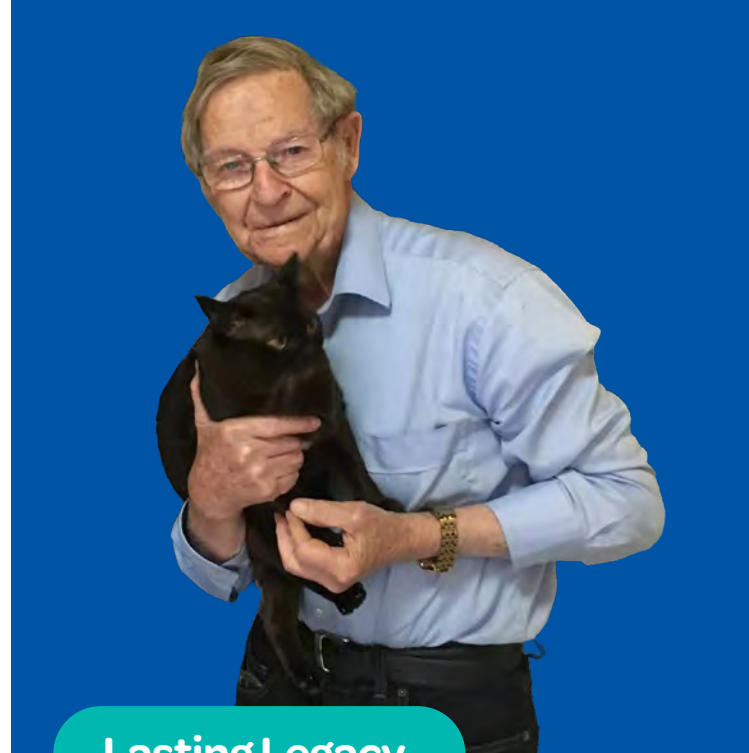


In-memory donations are charitable gifts made in honour of a loved one who has passed away.

The gifts serve as a meaningful way to celebrate a person's life and legacy by supporting a cause they cared about and are often requested by families in lieu of floral tributes at a funeral service.

At RAH Research Fund, we have a flourishing In-memory program established to accept such special donations. Please find a list of those passed, whom have had In-memory donations made in their legacy.

Alison Hildyard	Joy R Cockshell
Anastasia Karafotias	Joyce M D'Onisi
Andrea Carbone	Joyce Morton
Angelo Di Troia	Judith A Gent
Anne W	Kenny Lee
Anthony Caruso	Margaret T Manson
Anthony R Clarkson	Marjorie Gibbons
Arturo Di Fede	Martin C O'Leary
Bevan J McDonald	Mary M Mooney
Brian J Francis	Ngan Ha
Bridget Shields	Noel
Carol A Monaghan	Panagiota B Makris
Christopher Beng Kiat Yeoh	Pellegrino Carfora
David O'Leary	Penelope Markopoulos
Dorothy Price	Peter D West
Edward B Terrington	Peter Reginald Fiora
Elena Petrou	Peter Varricchio
Elena Puz	Petrona Bonilla
Eleni Dimopoulos	Prodromos Kirgianis
Fred Degrassi	Prospero Sabatino
Frederick J Hemmett	Richard McMahon
Giovanni Russo	Richard P Ralston
Glenda J McDonald	Santina A Feo
Graham Stacey	Sofia Athanasopolous
Guan Hock (Bob) Yeoh	Teresa M Iasiello
Jane Dawson	Thi V Huynh
Jane Kent	Thi Van Hyunh
Jennifer M Delinicolis	Vivienne Drefke
Joan D Durdin	William Francis Morton
John L Weeks	



Lasting Legacy

Mr John Jenkins \$1 Million Bequest Gift Transforming the Future of Cancer Research

John's life was one marked by quiet strength, gentle humour, and deep generosity. Raised on Wirraminna Station north of Port Augusta, he grew into a humble and reserved gentleman. He loved to travel abroad working and later settled in Adelaide to live. He was a first-class welder and boilermaker by trade and he also found great satisfaction in woodwork, particularly on the lathe.

He enjoyed gardening and found joy in life's simple pleasures. John was happiest at home with his beloved Burmese cats, Molly and Rhianna. He loved tending to his garden and enjoyed a good read, and a good dose of comedy. Though he preferred a quiet life, he remained keenly aware of the wider world, combining a quick wit with thoughtful intelligence. John lived conscientiously, valuing good health and nutrition, and later downsized his home moving into an independent unit at a Retirement village at 91 years of age.

Having experienced the profound loss of his parents, brother and niece to cancer, and facing his own diagnosis with courage, he was determined to leave his own legacy benefiting the future generations. John's generosity to many charitable causes, including his sponsorship of a ring-tailed lemur at Adelaide Zoo, reflected his compassion and empathy.

His remarkable gift to the Royal Adelaide Hospital Research Fund stands as a lasting testament to a life well lived—one of quiet dignity, resilience, and enduring kindness that will be remembered with deep appreciation.

He passed away at 95 years of age in June 2024.



Beyond the Microscope

2026 event wrap



Dr. Patsy Tan

On Wednesday, August 5th, the Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH) Research Fund held the first of the Beyond the Microscope event series. This is a return from a previous event, titled “Behind the Microscope”.

Beyond the Microscope was held for our donors, showcasing various research that is being undertaken within RAH. Presenting on the day was Associate Professor Mark Plummer (ICU), Dr. Ishita Batta (Geriatrics), and Dr. Patsy Tan (Music Therapy). Our very own Director of Research – Dr. Monica Kerr – also gave a speech.

It was an informative and positive day, with our donors beautifully engaged with the research presenters.

Please keep an ear (and eye) out for the next Beyond the Microscope event!



L:R - Associate Professor Mark Plummer – ICU Head of Research and Innovation and Academic Intensivist, RAH; Dr. Patsy Tan – Senior Music Therapist, RAH; Dr. Monica Kerr – Director of Research, CALHN; Dr. Ishita Batta – Head of Unit, Geriatric Services, RAH.



RAH Research Fund team

An excerpt from Dr Monica Kerr's speech at the 2026 Beyond the Microscope event

Dr Monica Kerr
Director of Research,
Central Adelaide
Local Health Network



'It is a real pleasure to welcome our donors to today's Beyond the Microscope event, showcasing research being conducted at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, part of the broader Central Adelaide Local Health Network, and highlighting some of the important work that your generous support helps enable

As Director Research at CALHN, I have the privilege of seeing the breadth and diversity of research taking place across our organisation.

Research at CALHN is driven by people who want to make a difference, and that's reflected in the work you'll hear about today.

Why Your Support Matters

Funding high-quality research is increasingly challenging, particularly in the early stages when promising ideas can struggle to attract traditional grant funding.

This is where donor support makes an extraordinary difference.

Your generosity helps researchers take those critical first steps -testing new ideas, gathering early evidence and building the foundations for discoveries that can transform care for our community.

Research at CALHN

CALHN is proud to be a research-active health service, recognising that responsive and effective healthcare is underpinned by high-quality scientific and clinical research.

Across our network, we currently support more than 2,100 active research projects spanning a wide range of disciplines and specialties. This includes everything from discovery and translational research through to clinical trials and health services research.

This work reflects our commitment to translating research findings into better care for patients.

On behalf of CALHN and our researchers, thank you for your ongoing support, your generosity, and your belief in the value of research.'

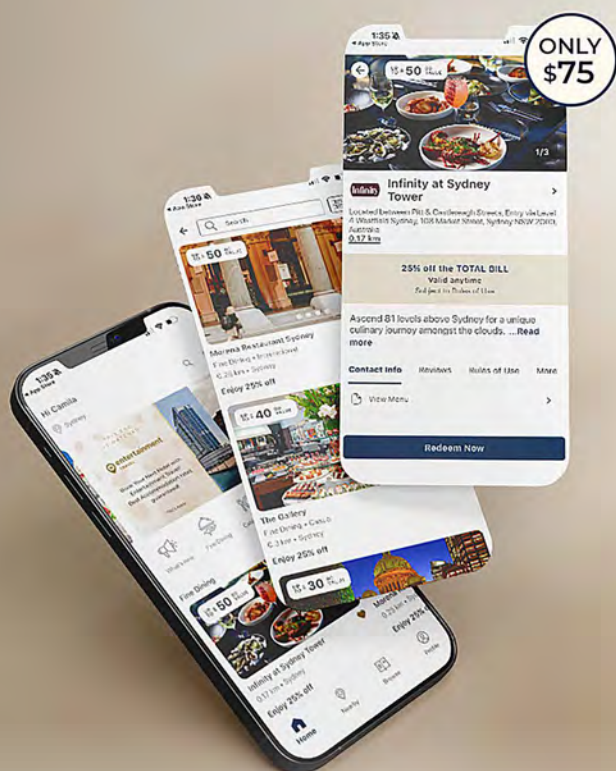


Associate Professor Mark Plummer speaks at Beyond the Microscope.



Dr Ishita Batta speaks at Beyond the Microscope.

By purchasing an Entertainment Publications membership you are supporting the RAH Research Fund and research at Royal Adelaide Hospital!



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