

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSWOG
NSW **oncology** groups

FORUM TO FOCUS ON BRAIN TUMOUR PATIENTS AND CARERS

Leading clinicians, patients and carers will meet in Sydney tomorrow to discuss breakthroughs and new ways of helping those affected by brain tumour.

The Cancer Institute's NSW Oncology Group Neuro-Oncology will host the Brain Tumour Support and Education Forum with the aim of raising vital awareness of brain tumours and the affects on patients and carers.

Chief Cancer Officer and CEO, Cancer Institute NSW, Professor Jim Bishop AO said the forum will highlight the latest developments in brain tumour research, treatments and support for patients and carers.

"Malignant brain tumours will be diagnosed in around 1500 people in Australia this year and, unfortunately, most patients will die within twelve months and only 20 per cent will be alive in five years," said Professor Bishop.

"Brain tumour is a truly life-changing diagnosis for patients and their carers. But there is hope with new treatments and research through a glioma tissue bank initiative between NSW and WA, which we hope will unlock the genes and processes associated with this terrible disease."

Speakers at the forum:

- Dr Charlie Teo, leading NSW neurosurgeon and Director of the Cure for Life Foundation.
- Marcella Zemanek, wife of the late Stan Zemanek.
- Dr Eng-Siew Koh, radiation oncologist.
- Dr Helen Wheeler, medical oncologist.
- Dr Lesley Ashton, Head of Molecular Epidemiology, Children's Cancer Institute Australia
- Prof. Lyle Palmer, internationally renowned geneticist.
- A/Prof Andrew Cole, Director of Medical and Allied Services, Hope Healthcare Group.
- Kaye Duffy OAM, former chair of Brain Tumour Australia.

Director and Founder of the Cure for Life Foundation, Dr Charlie Teo, said brain tumours did not discriminate about who they affect.

"It surprises many people to learn that brain tumours are the most common, life-threatening tumours in children," said Dr Teo.

"Even though neurosurgery is giving many people a better chance, still more can and must be done for them. That's why the Cure for Life Foundation (CFLF) was created. Funds raised are used to make available fellowships and research grants investigating the causes of brain tumours, hopefully one day leading to a cure."

To date CFLF has applied just over \$1.4M to brain tumour treatment and research projects. The Foundation funds a rehabilitation programme for Paediatric Post-operative Care at Sydney Children's Hospital and 14 research grants to a variety of research institutions.

In late 2009 the Cure for Life Foundation will fund a new \$2million research facility in neuro-oncology at the new Lowy Cancer Research Centre at UNSW. This Centre will be an Australian first, bringing together 400 childhood and adult cancer researchers at one site.

The Brain Tumour Support and Education Forum will be held on Tuesday 28 October 2008, 9am-4pm at the Australian Technology Park, Eveleigh.



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