

## **My Journey Part 2 – Bulletin No 10 (27 October 2020)**

### **The Past Week**

Bulletin 9 finished with the following paragraph:-

*I now await a call from Dr Rahul Ladwa in the hope I will be assessed as a suitable patient for the PAH cancer trial. I am very confident that I will be accepted and will commence the trial within two weeks.*

### **Breaking News**

Following a review of my medical records and scans I received a phone call from Dr Rahul on Monday 26 October to advise that I have been accepted for the trial and the treatment will commence next week. There has been very little change in the size of the tumours during the past 3 months.

### **Background**

As mentioned last bulletin Professor Fraser (U of Q) has been involved with Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) research for the past 15 years and he has gained world wide recognition for developing a vaccine to prevent the infection with HPV and cervical cancer. The vaccine is now available world wide.

Prof. Fraser has continued his research with the HPV and his laboratory has produced a trial drug which hopefully will combat HPV related head and neck cancers. These cancers are now the 4<sup>th</sup> most common cancers in Australia and there has been a prolific increase in these cancers in the western world (in the USA it is 220%). Of greater concern is the recurrence of these cancers (my case) for those people who have won their first battle through chemo and radiotherapy only to find that a more resilient strain returns which is virtually impossible to combat, with immunotherapy being the last line of defence. (There was a 20% success rate with this program).

A trial drug (AMV002) has been developed which will be administered with the immunotherapy drug Durvalumab and patient's progress will be monitored over a 12 month period to determine the success of these trials. Dr Rahul Ladwa a leading research chemo oncologist will be supervising these trials at the PAH.

### **The Trial Program**

I am so proud to be selected as one of 12 participants in the second group of patients undergoing these trials. Being part of medical research is exciting as it not only gives me hope for the future but hopefully for the next generation of patients as well. The treatment combines the vaccine AMV002 and the antibody Durvalumab to stimulate the immune system in different ways to hopefully attack and clear cancer cells.

#### **Day 1**

Two injections of .2ml of AMV002 and the patient will then be monitored at 30 mins and 60 mins following the vaccination to observe any side effects.

#### **Day 7**

Infusion of 1500mg of Durvalumab and observation for 1 hour after the infusion.

#### **Day 28**

The program will then be repeated every 4 weeks over a 12 month period.

During this trial constant monitoring including blood and other tests together with scans will be performed on the patient. A diary is to be kept recording any reaction to the program.

A recent TV interview with Prof Fraser outlines the program. Please click on and play Ch 9 interview.

*Always Look on the Bright Side of Life*

### **Neil Raward**

<https://www.9news.com.au/world/new-organ-in-the-human-throat-may-have-been-discovered-by-dutch-scientists/5e16842b-5cf6-421e-a99f-4c41cad4596d?app=applenews> – Please click on