

27 January 2022

We are all extremely saddened to announce that our respected colleague and friend Associate Professor James D'Rozario MBBS, FRACP, FRCPA; Senior Staff Specialist and Clinical Director, Department of Haematology, Division of Cancer, Canberra Hospital and Health Service; Associate Professor, Australian National University Medical School; died on 27 January 2022 at the age of 56.

James completed his medical degree in 1991 graduating from Adelaide University. From there he went on to complete his Basic Physician training at Queen Elizabeth Hospital and The Canberra Hospital. From 1996 – 2000 he completed his Haematology Advanced Trainee at The Canberra Hospital and Westmead Sydney, before returning to The Canberra Hospital in 2002 as a Consultant Haematologist.



A/Prof D'Rozario took up the reigns as Director of Haematology in Canberra in 2013. His objectives were to grow and strengthen the haematology service at Canberra which would be underpinned by a strong commitment to education, research, and clinical trials. In addition to his directorship of the Haematology Department, James was Director of the Bone Marrow Transplant Service, Visiting Fellow in the Department Cancer Biology and Therapeutics, John Curtin School of Medical Research, ANU and a Visiting Haematologist at Calvary Hospital. He sat as a member of numerous professional committees and advisory boards including the Royal Australasian College of Physicians Accreditation Committee and National Examining Panel. He enjoyed membership of the Australasian Leukaemia and Lymphoma Group, the Haematology Society of ANZ, American Society of Hematology, European Hematology Association and Cancer Council of Australia eviQ National Reference Committee for Haematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation. He was a past chair of the Board of Education, Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia.



A/Prof D'Rozario was awarded the **Australia Day medal; ACT Health 2008** for his exceptional leadership in postgraduate medical education in the ACT region. Notably A/Prof D'Rozario was the recipient of the **Public Service Medal for leadership in the ACT** in 2019, specifically for his leadership and championing of a culture of excellence in Haematology services in the Canberra region. This prestigious award recognises outstanding service by employees of the public service in the areas of excellence, innovation, and leadership. Only 100 medals are awarded each year by the Governor General and the recipient, A/Prof D'Rozario, entitled to the post-nominal PSM. In 2021 A/Prof D'Rozario was awarded the **Australian Medical Association ACT President's Award 2021** for service to medicine.

A/Prof D'Rozario has been a leading figure in clinical research at The Canberra Hospital advancing clinical trials and improving opportunities for patients since 2002. James association with the ALLG goes back to 2001, although he attended his first Scientific Meeting in the late 1990's as a trainee. In October 2021 James received his 20-year membership award, he was thrilled and commented ... "...Apart from making me feel old (!), it is a great honour. As to what the ALLG means to me.... When I first became a member of the ALLG in 2001, it was still something of a boutique group, working as it did to galvanise different centres across ANZ in conducting quality clinical research in blood cancer therapeutics. Even then it had already produced some important landmark studies of international impact in the fields of lymphoma and AML. The last 20 years has seen our organisation grow into something of which we can be very proud. A burgeoning, diverse membership from all over both regional and metropolitan ANZ combined with excellent, visionary leadership, strong governance and increasingly robust financing has seen our group to be very productive, the result being still more high impact publications and the development of strong collaborations with pharma other international trials groups. Perhaps most importantly, now more than ever, Australasian blood cancer sufferers have never had a greater opportunity to participate in cutting edge clinical trials. The next 20 years of the ALLG awaits ....."

A/Prof D'Rozario attended numerous scientific meetings and participated in the working party activities across leukaemia, lymphoma, and myeloma. He was the lead investigator and co-investigator on over 15 clinical trials offering over 200 patients the opportunity to participate in clinical trials at The Canberra Hospital. When the ALLG launched the 'Site Visit Program' in 2017 James was the first to member to invite ALLG Chair Mark Hertzberg to visit The Canberra Hospital. On Tuesday 22 August 2017 James proudly showcased his site, cementing The Canberra Hospital position as a keen and capable teaching and research hospital! The site report noting 'The unit is led by a



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very enthusiastic clinician who is steadily building an equally enthusiastic team at TCH, an excellent centre for the delivery of IITs with clear leadership and motivated department.'

James was a personal friend to numerous Australian and New Zealand Haematologists; he was a kind and genuinely wonderful person with a quick-witted personality. We remember his smart dress sense and his deep, commanding voice. His opinions were carefully considered, and he was always encouraging his peers. He fostered a drive for clinical trial research at The Canberra Hospital, upholding strong values in reputation for excellence. He will be fondly remembered and sadly missed by the Australian and New Zealand haematology community.



A/Prof D'Rozario published over 20 papers and authored two book chapters.

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