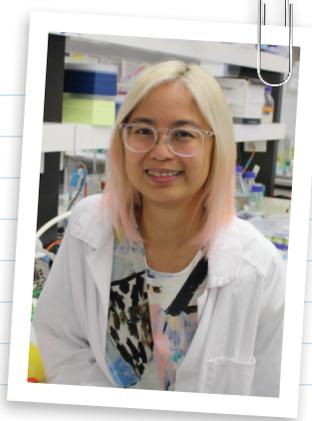


My name is Dr Veronica Yeung, and I've had the great privilege of working as a paediatric oncologist, guiding patients and their families through the traumatic experience of a cancer diagnosis - but sadly, not every child's story has a happy ending.



I want to change that.

That's why I've joined the ProCan program at Children's Medical Research Institute and shifted focus from clinician to scientist.

ProCan is a world-first international research project, building a database of tens of thousands of cancers with the aim of improving cancer diagnosis and treatment for every type of cancer.

Did you know the most common form of childhood cancer is acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL), just like Linke's? ALL has a high survival rate of around 90 percent - but I don't think that's good enough.

Of the 90 percent who survive, many suffer from heart, musculoskeletal, and growth problems, as well as issues with their teeth and eyesight. Then there's the risk of secondary cancers as well.

We also need to help the 10 percent of children who relapse and don't survive.

Those who relapse are too often forgotten, but I don't want to forget them. Every life is precious and, together, we can do better.

These children have a particularly aggressive cancer that can hide in their bodies, and when it reappears, it doesn't respond to treatment. Their remaining options are a bone marrow transplant, or immunotherapy, which have their own risks and are not always successful.

I want to find the changes inside cancer cells that are responsible for relapses. We can do this using 'proteomics'. This technology can help us find a molecular signature: a warning sign that this particular child's cancer will relapse. That will help clinicians make the best possible treatment decisions in future.

And once we find those molecular signatures, we can do even more. We can use the information to develop new therapies, so one day the survival rate could hopefully reach one hundred percent.

We can also reduce the impacts of treatment for those who do survive.

I've been to funerals, and I've had parents come back to the hospital and thank me because they know we've done everything we can - but I know you will agree that this is not good enough.

We want to offer real hope, and with your support of ProCan's research, we can do that.

Best wishes,

*Dr Veronica Yeding*