



“Help, I need somebody” – those words, by Beatles Lennon and McCartney, were from the era of the 1960s in what is known as the Liverpool Sound.

Today, some 40 years later, and the words are “Help, we need some money” and the sound is coming from the David Morris Liver Cancer Research Fund.

A message from the Researcher –

Liver cancer is a devastating disease which dramatically reduces the life expectancy of its sufferers. The average life expectancy from diagnosis of primary liver cancer to death is three months, with only 12-13% expected to survive more than five years. In Australia, the incidence of liver cancer is rising due to the ageing population and the spread of hepatitis B and C.

The life expectancy of many of our patients at St George Hospital has been substantially extended through our treatment. At the Department of Surgery we treat patients with liver cancer, who mainly have primary liver cancer or secondary tumours as a consequence of bowel cancer. Treatment may include removal of the tumour, cryotherapy (freezing) or the surgical placement of hepatic artery catheters, ports and implantable pumps to deliver chemotherapy directly into the liver.

In conjunction with the University of New South Wales, the Department of Surgery conducts research into liver cancer and its treatments. The David Morris Liver Cancer Research Fund was formed initially with a large bequest from a kind patient to provide a dedicated, structured framework to conduct experimental trials and research.

All donations made to the David Morris Liver Cancer Research Fund will aid research towards a better future for people with liver cancer.

Professor David L Morris

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Professor of Surgery

Research funded by the David Morris Liver Cancer Research Fund aims to:

- develop new methods for early and accurate diagnosis of liver cancer
- discover and develop new treatments for liver cancer

Achievements: Our laboratory has developed three new drug treatments, which we hope will extend life expectancy of patients and improve quality of life. These drugs are currently under various stages of evaluation. We have also found that ultrasound can be used to forecast the progress of the cancer. This is the first time that radiology has been found to provide information about a tumour.

When you look at the ultrasound the tumour looks like a spot on the liver. The whiter spots are tumours that are more receptive to treatment. We hope that by identifying the characteristics of a tumour's echogenicity (how the tumour reflects the ultrasound will eventually lead to more effective treatments).

Basically, we hope to tame cancer by finding what gives tumours bad characteristics and finding ways to control these characteristics and therefore the cancer.

The benefits of this research are not limited to liver cancer. We have recently discovered that the removal of tissue by radio frequency to destroy liver cancer without surgery can also be used on lung tumours.

We need your support to ensure our world-class research continues.

Your donation will help us to conduct experimental trials and research into liver cancer and its treatments. Your generous gift will one day make sure people with liver cancer will not only live longer but also considerably improve their quality of life.

Planned gifts are designed for those who wish to support the David Morris Liver Cancer Research Fund in a lasting way. You may not have the flexibility to make an immediate gift now but your gift in the future will help ensure our research continues.

For telephone donations (with a credit card) call (02) 9385-3277 or further information and donation forms can be had by emailing david.morris@unsw.edu.au

You can also write to or fax –

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