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New Federal Funding for Rare Cancer Will Make the 'Sun Shine' for Patients and Carers

The Abbie Basson Sarcoma Foundation (Sock it to Sarcoma!) is very pleased to announce the receipt of a \$120,000 grant from Cancer Australia (CA), as part of CA's *Supporting People with Cancer* grant initiative.

The funding makes possible, over the next three years, the development of online resources, dubbed "SUN-SHINE" (**S**arcoma **U**nmet **N**eeds – **S**Hared design of **I**Nformation and **E**ducation), and is a collaborative effort between ourselves; the Cooper Rice-Brading Foundation, NSW, together with Curtin University.

Cancer Australia's *Supporting people with cancer* Grant initiative aims to support people affected by cancer through the provision of grants to community organisations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations. The outcome is to fund evidence-based projects to reduce the impact of cancer and better support people affected by cancer.

The project team and steering groups include representatives of SitS!, CRBF, Curtin University, Sydney University, The University of New South Wales, and clinicians and researchers from Perth's Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Perth Children's Hospital, as well as sarcoma survivors, their carers and community and Indigenous representatives nationally..

Project Initiative Lead, Ms Mandy Basson from Sock it to Sarcoma! said, "This funding is enthusiastically welcomed as part of our mission to support sarcoma patients and their carers and we are grateful to the Commonwealth and Cancer Australia for providing this funding. We are looking forward to working with CRBF, the team from Curtin and our other collaborators to ensure this project meets its objectives."

NSW Lead, Mrs Tania Rice-Brading from CRBF added, "*We are delighted to be a partner in this important project, which will also play a critical role in supporting our Foundation's objectives for the sarcoma community in Australia. We are especially pleased that the steering group for the project includes representation from Australia's First Nations people and hope that the outcomes of the grant will further assist Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians diagnosed with sarcoma, and their families.*"

Associate Professor Georgia Halkett from Curtin University said, 'This project builds on our previous research highlighting that patients and carers require more information about sarcoma, available treatment, survivorship and accessing support. It is fantastic to be collaborating with Sock it to Sarcoma! and Cooper Rice-Brading Foundation as well as PoCoG at University of Sydney to co-develop resources that are relevant to patients and carers.'

About Sarcoma

Few people have ever heard of sarcomas. They are a group of rare bone and soft tissue cancers that are aggressive and disproportionately affect children and adolescents.

About Sock it to Sarcoma!

Sock it to Sarcoma! is the vision of Abbie Basson, a Perth woman who, aged 17, had the world at her feet before she was struck down by a sarcoma which eventually took her life. Her wish to create an organisation to raise awareness, fund research and give support to sarcoma patients is the energy driving the Foundation. After beginning life in 2012 as a partnership with the Hollywood Private Hospital Research Foundation, Sock it to Sarcoma! is now a registered independent charity based in Western Australia.

About the Cooper Rice-Brading Foundation

At age 17, Cooper Rice-Brading's vision was to change the current trajectory for young sarcoma patients. The aim of CRBF is to fund clinical research to find a cure for sarcoma, while raising awareness of sarcoma in the greater community in an effort to promote early diagnosis, and to provide support for sarcoma patients and their families. After Cooper's death in 2017, his family continued his legacy with the registration of the charity bearing his name.

This content is solely the responsibility of Sock it to Sarcoma! as the grant recipient and does not necessarily represent the official views of Cancer Australia.