



Dr Kylie Mason and her son Liam in 2009 after her brain tumour diagnosis.

Kylie's Research Quest

Blood cancer research has played an important part in Dr Kylie Mason's life, both as a patient and in her career. A leading clinical haematologist and researcher, Kylie makes a real difference to the lives of Australians facing blood cancer every day. She also knows what it is like to face a life-threatening disease.

Kylie was just 15 years old when she was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia after feeling tired, short of breath and generally unwell. It was only after her brother noticed she was covered in bruises that she went to the GP for a blood test. The same afternoon, her mum got a call from the doctor who said, "Bring Kylie and a packed bag, she needs to go to hospital."

Within a few hours Kylie was in the children's cancer ward and just days later, started months of intensive treatment.

Her experience going through leukaemia treatment shaped her desire to study medicine.

Eighteen years later, when Kylie was 35, she celebrated completing her medical studies and haematology training.

In 2009 Kylie faced another health challenge when she was diagnosed with a brain tumour; the result of past radiotherapy treatment. She had a major operation to remove the tumour, which thankfully was benign.

Kylie is now a clinical haematologist and a researcher.

One of Kylie's career highlights is being part of the research team that developed the drug venetoclax – which has been registered in Australia for chronic lymphocytic leukaemia.

"It will make a huge difference to thousands of people around the world and may have applications in other blood cancers," she said.

Kylie and her fellow chief investigators received three Grants-in-Aid from the Leukaemia Foundation, in 2010, 2012 and 2014, totalling \$300,000.

"These grants contributed a big part to the venetoclax program, without which certain parts of the project wouldn't have been done as fast, or even done at all," said Kylie.

"My overall aim is to make a difference – from my clinical work on a one-to-one patient basis through to research – so patients in the future will have better long-term outcomes."

Thanks to your generosity, researchers like Kylie, who are working hard across the country to help more Australians beat blood cancer.