

This year we are raising money for Pancreatic Cancer in honour of Marilyn Burbidge.

Marilyn died from Pancreatic Cancer in about 2023. She was a valued member of the Stadium Masters Swimming Club for 25 years.

During her 25 years she undertook many roles within the Club, including serving on the Committee in several roles, a coach for several years and for many years as Editor of Snappets, our informative newsletter, only passing the baton late in her illness.

Despite her ongoing treatment, she could be found at poolside undertaking timing duties or assisting at any event we held. In typical modest fashion, she declined the award of Life Membership, proffering that others were equally worthy.

Marilyn was also a keen and talented swimmer. Every year she gained many State and National Top Ten placings in Freestyle, Backstroke and Breaststroke. In 2020, the year prior to her diagnosis, she gained 46 placements in the State top ten. 13 of them were 1sts and 36 in the National Top Ten – 5 of them 1sts. Her achievements included being a member of a 320+ women's freestyle relay team that set the 8th fastest world-time in 2019. All that shows her ability.

In 2022, when fully under chemo treatment, she doggedly finished a FR400, a BA400 and a BR400. I watched in awe as she hung onto the end of the pool at every 50 to take a breather then persisted. In doing so she still achieved a State Top Ten placing in all three and a national Top Ten placing in two. This shows her tenacity

She was an amazing and inspirational woman.

By supporting Pancreatic Cancer, we hope to help drive progress toward better outcomes for people living with pancreatic cancer for Marilyn.

Pankind welcomed the Australian launch of the Avantect Pancreatic Cancer blood test. This is a new blood test which could help detect pancreatic cancer earlier. The test has shown promising early signals and is being explored as a new tool for the early detection of pancreatic cancer in high-risk individuals.

Pancreatic cancer is one of the most challenging cancers to detect early, with many people diagnosed only once symptoms appear and the disease is already advanced. That's why new technologies that may detect pancreatic cancer earlier, when treatment options are more effective, are so important to investigate.

The Avantect test has gained international attention due to its early performance indicators and has been selected for further evaluation in major studies including PRECEDE and the Vanguard study. These trials will be important in confirming how well the test performs in real-world settings, who benefits most, and how it could be implemented safely and effectively within clinical care.

Although peer-reviewed evidence exists, clinical trials must be completed before this type of testing can be embedded into clinical guidelines and integrated into the Australian health system.

Developments like this signal important progress in pancreatic cancer research. While the test is currently available privately at a cost of \$1,495, it is not a replacement for established surveillance methods such as MRI or Endoscopic Ultrasound (EUS), which remain the standard for high-risk screening.