

†mater | uncancer.



**20 years of funding
cancer research.**

2006–2026



A life lost too soon. **Adam.**

A grieving mate searching for answers. **Sharky.**

A dream left unrealised. **The credit card ride.**

A journey of friends. **Smiling for Smiddy.**

The spark that lit a flame for an extraordinary community to rally under the banner of teamwork, spirit and mateship. **Smiddy!**

Zinc cream, SAO's and swags. Sharky shortcuts, Kevvy's whistle and Maria's hugs. Day cards, road crews and tri suits. **Smiddy!**

The long road to fund cancer research, together. **Smiddy!**

My mate, Adam.



Adam Smiddy never had an enemy in the world.

Adam's disarming smile, one that rarely left his face even during his six-month cancer battle, gave everyone that loved him a window into his beautiful soul.

Adam tragically passed away from an aggressive melanoma on 6 August 2006. He was just 26.

Adam was a beloved son, brother, colleague and friend. A respected physiotherapist and talented triathlete with the world at his feet.

I was Adam's triathlon coach at The University of Queensland. Tears still well in my eyes when I think about the cruel card Adam was dealt.

I remember he would often approach me with this crazy idea—a dream to ride from Brisbane to his hometown of Home Hill, just south of Townsville, with a credit card in our back pockets.

So, a few weeks after his passing, I decided to honour Adam the best way I knew how.

With the blessing of Adam's parents, David and Maria, I pushed off with two friends, Ron Steel and Ollie Bodak, to realise Adam's dream.

It was an adventure. I really felt, because it was so close to Adam's passing, that he was part of that journey, that he was there, that he was with us.

That one-off ride to honour my mate grew into something I could never have imagined.

Adam was so brave, but he must have been scared. I know I was when I was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2022. Your support will help us deliver a future beyond that fear.

Thank you for sharing this journey with us.

Mark 'Sharky' Smoothy
Smiling for Smiddy Founder

Your why, our community.

Over the years, you have each brought your own personal reasons for joining Smiddy, and by doing so, you have strengthened this community.

Behind every person diagnosed with cancer is a unique life story, like Adam's, and behind every person involved with Smiddy is a determination to change what happens next.

We share that resolve at Mater. We are proud and privileged to remain custodians of the Smiddy name through this incredible community.

Mater Foundation is grateful to continue this program with the blessing of Adam's father, David Smiddy (and his late wife, Maria), son Paul, daughter-in-law Bek, and grandchildren, Harper and Jake, and their extended family.

Together, we continue to be driven by a passion to lessen or remove the fear and unknown that surrounds a cancer diagnosis.

Research holds the key to provide answers, not ambiguity, to cancer patients.

We are determined to ensure the best treatments are tailored to each patient, by helping to advance scientific discoveries into translational research outcomes such as clinical trials, new technologies, surgical tools, and unparalleled patient care and survivorship pathways.

Our goal is nothing less than to change the very climate that surrounds a cancer diagnosis.

Like Smiddy, Mater has been built upon the strong pillars of vision, determination and generous community giving.

Much like Mater's story, Smiddy represents the very best of what a community can achieve, together, when aligned towards something far bigger than any one of us.

Thank you for all you have done and continue to do as a proud Smiddy person.

Andrew Thomas

Chief Executive Officer Mater Foundation



A global success story—the journey so far.

What an inspiring legacy it is that our incredible Smiddy community has built.

Empowered by your generous support, the history of groundbreaking cancer research at Mater over the past 20 years is a global success story.

Initial Smiddy funding for melanoma and prostate cancer has pushed us well beyond those initial research areas, carrying promise to deliver truly transformational advances for patients diagnosed with a range of cancers—not just at Mater, or within Australia, but worldwide.

Your efforts have provided essential long-term support that has propelled research from the laboratories of Professors Kristen Radford, Brian Gabrielli and John Hooper, towards clinical applications.

Without generous community backing, led by the Smiddy community and other generous philanthropists, many of these discoveries might still be confined to the lab.

Smiddy funding has allowed our researchers to take bold, calculated risks. This includes testing their findings in complex, disease-relevant models and collaborating with medical experts and industry leaders to refine and advance these innovations for clinical trials.

Professor Radford has pioneered vital new technologies to develop a cancer vaccine and is now on the brink of testing these breakthroughs in cancer patients.

Your support has been vital to this progress and will continue to empower breakthroughs for patients across a range of cancers.

Smiddy funding will support Associate Professor Adam Ewing's work to find the exact changes in DNA that cause cancer in the breast, prostate and pancreas; Professor Phillip Good's research into more compassionate treatments for advanced cancer to empower palliative care patients; Dr Joshua Tobin's investigations into training the immune system to fight blood cancer; and Professor Geoff Faulkner's efforts to deliver pioneering lung cancer research, including looking at brain metastasis to drastically improve outcomes for lung cancer patients.

Mater Research's approach to treating and defeating cancer is through creating a collaborative ecosystem that starts right back from innovative ideas, working those through to viable therapies, delivering that to patients in the clinic and drawing on international expertise to ensure we do this as quickly as possible for patients.

Our end goal is to ensure patients are diagnosed early, have treatment options that are best for them and have minimal impact on their wellbeing, so they can live a healthy and long life after a cancer diagnosis.

Thanks to you, Mater researchers continue to push boundaries and bring hope to patients and families affected by cancer.

Professor Allison Pettit
Executive Director Mater Research





**This is an extraordinary community.
I'm a better person thanks to the
experiences, and friendships, I've
shared through Smiddy.**

Smiddy advocate David Gyte

Let's make cancer just one chapter, not the ending.

I'm a proud long-term Mater Foundation supporter, through the Smiddy community.

But I never imagined one day I would come to rely upon the cancer research funding we have helped delivered. But life has a way of continually surprising us, doesn't it?

I was diagnosed with bowel cancer on 4 October 2023 and underwent surgery at Mater. Until I relied upon them, I never fully understood the advancements we have helped enable. I am one of the lucky ones.

Survivorship, and living well beyond cancer, are sentiments that really resonate with me. I'm back at work, back enjoying life, and even getting back in the saddle with Smiddy in 2026.

I've shared many laughs, and tears, along this journey with Smiddy and I've seen our community's impact from many different angles.

Firstly, through my work with Liquor Marketing Group (represented by Bottlemart) and our generous partners who have contributed since 2007, and also as a rider who has done multiple Challenge events over the years.

And now also as a cancer patient who has directly benefitted from this community's fundraising efforts. Thank you.

I was honoured to accept the Mater Foundations's Betty McGrath Award for Philanthropy in 2016 on behalf of everyone at Bottlemart, but I know it's always been a team effort. I speak on behalf of all our individual members when I say how proud we are of our ongoing partnership.

This is an extraordinary community. I'm a better person thanks to the experiences, and friendships, I've shared through Smiddy. Long may they continue.

David Gyte

Head of Digital & Marketing,
Liquor Marketing Group



2006–2010

The beginning: a ride that sparked a movement.

None of us knew what the future would hold when Sharky, Ron and Ollie set off on that very first ride just weeks after Adam's passing.

Their "one-off ride" was destined to be so much more.

In 2007, 22 riders joined the 1600km Bottlemart Smiddy Challenge ride. It was dubbed "A Journey of Friends" and raised \$192,000.

The group included Olympic swimming legend Duncan Armstrong, the first of many big-name Smiddies who would join in the subsequent decades—including cycling royalty, Phil 'Skippy' Anderson, Annette 'Nettie' Edmondson, and Richie Porte.

The 'Smiddy push', later referred to as "the hand of God" by Professor Brian Gabrielli, grew to become a powerful symbol of the Smiddy community's values of teamwork, spirit and mateship.

In 2008, Smiling for Smiddy committed the proceeds of its efforts to Mater Research for the first time, as 40 riders took on the 1600km journey from Brisbane to Townsville

to deliver \$420,000 in cancer research funding. Momentum continued to grow in 2009, when 50 riders tallied \$520,000, before Smiddy would again pick up the pace.

In 2010, Smiddy expanded beyond its signature 1600km "Challenge" event for the first time, adding several new events to enable more participants to join the Smiddy huddle.

Smiddy made its first splash beyond cycling at Adam's favourite event, the Noosa Triathlon, a presence that continues to this day.

The first of its popular "Midi Smiddy" model—a 3-day, 570km route around the Darling Downs also emerged. There would be six annual instalments of the Midi Smiddy from 2010–15.

This period also featured the NSW Smiddy, spearheaded by foundation sponsor, Bottlemart, and its generous partners, including Coca-Cola Amatil through Smiddy legends Peter Hammond, Tim Dalton and others. All have remained incredible long-term supporters.

Our long-term association with Allsports Physiotherapy, now Healthia, began thanks to the generous support of Tony Ganter, as did our cycling apparel supplier, Tineli, through Jo Stewart.

There was even a one-off Kiddy Smiddy Family Day in the park—with our next generation's smiles and limitless sense of adventure personifying the Smiddy spirit.

My favourite Smiddy day was in 2010, the breaking of the millennial drought—243kms, it rained all day, and there was not an ounce of whingeing in the peloton because we knew the trouble and pain we were going through was nothing in comparison to people suffering with cancer. We brought it home that day—one of the longest days I've ever done in the saddle.

Smiddy participant Mick Young





2011–2015

Growing momentum: community, courage and change.

New events, the Half Smiddy and 4-Day Smiddy, emerged in 2011 and 2012 respectively, while the Noosa Smiddy Challenge (2012–16) also took shape with the generous backing of Sealy Australia, and key advocates Peter Dyer, Mike Dyer and Andy Loney.

In 2012, the Smiddy peloton went global, embarking upon its first international event to the French Pyrenees—followed by two other European ventures to the French Alps (2013), and Italian Dolomites (2014).

Smiddy welcomed Professional Cleaning Services to its major partner portfolio through the generous support of director Zane Williams. Zane, and executive manager Garath Thomas, have remained mainstays of the program as both participants and volunteers.

Increasing our triathlon presence across the sport of triathlon, Smiddy also embarked upon its first of five ventures to Busselton for Ironman WA, and four appearances at Sunshine Coast 70.3.

Meanwhile, at The University of Queensland where Sharky and Adam first met, the swimming community led by Jae Marr completed numerous 10km Swim Challenges as an annual fundraising effort.

In 2013, Smiddy joined the final legs of Sharky's "OZ 7in7" adventure, a seven-year quest around Australia that began in 2007 with road crew mainstay Kevvy Enchelmaier in tow, and included a full Smiddy peloton for its routes around Tasmania (2013) and, in successive weeks, from Melbourne–Sydney–Brisbane (2014).

In 2015, Smiling for Smiddy marked its 10th year, venturing across the Tasman for the first time. It would be one of four visits to New Zealand—including three straight challenge events from 2015–17.

The Smiddy community mourned the sad passing of Maria Smiddy on 23 May 2015. During the 10th Bottlemart Smiddy Challenge to Townsville, Inaugural riders Ron and Ollie rejoined Sharky in the peloton, and the group was presented with the rainbow socks Maria proudly wore.

Backed by a generous community, Smiddy fundraisers have sizzled sausages, sold meat trays, baked goodies and sold raffle tickets by the bucket-load. They have held live auctions, movie screenings, trivia and pasta nights, long lunches, even gala events—and everything in between.

2016–2020

A legacy of impact: breaking new ground in research.

Smiddy held 23 events in the five years between 2016–20.

Smiddy has received significant philanthropic support from lead advocates Stephen Russell and Brendan Flanagan through the annual Russells Macquarie Long Lunch.

Stephen, who first rode a Midi Smiddy in 2012, has been a mainstay in the peloton for over a decade, while Brendan has also played a major role in workplace engagement and recruitment for both riders and road crew.

Wayne Messer, a generous long-term donor of Smiddy legend Kim Grylls, joined the Smiddy peloton in New Zealand in 2017—and hasn't missed a ride since.

Our peloton returned to New Zealand, Tasmania, and a maiden trip to South Australia during this period. While the vineyards and

picturesque vistas of the Adelaide Hills proved popular and is representative of Smiddy's evolution to more compact, destination-driven adventures—our peloton's thirst for red dirt and punishing outback roads was quenched on an epic two-year journey.

In 2016–17, the Smiddy peloton rode from Adelaide to Uluru, and then Uluru to Darwin—an adventure characterised by Smiddy swags, starry skies and freezing desert nights.

Our triathletes continued their with efforts at Ironman WA (Busselton), Sunshine Coast 70.3 and, of course, making the largest splash at Noosa Triathlon every November.

In 2020, the Smiddy peloton returned from its New Zealand Challenge event just as the COVID-19 pandemic began to sweep the globe and thrust Mater's healthcare workers into the frontline.



Every dollar raised by this grassroots community has been thanks to passionate individuals and their generous donors rolling up their sleeves. Getting it done, together.





2021–2025

More stories of strength.

In 2021 and 2022, the Smiddy peloton ventured to the Tropics of North Queensland for a five-day itinerary.

This period also saw the evolution of two pelotons during Smiddy rides. The 'blue' and 'red' teams also added a new level of friendly rivalry and true Smiddy banter through stunning vistas and steep terrains in Tasmania (2023), South Australia (2024) and NSW Snowies (2025).

Smiddy runners also took on the Point to Pinnacle in Hobart, framed as the 'world's toughest half marathon'.

I can truly say that the Smiddy community healed me and my family after my husband (Herm) passed away—having such amazing people around me, no matter what.

Smiddy volunteer Michelle Meredith-Herlaar

The Smiddy community mourned the sad passing of Gina Savage on 12 June 2023.

Gina, 28, was an inspirational advocate and fundraiser for melanoma research and awareness, founding the "Six Hour Project".

'Crazy sock day', school visits and community billeting remained a core component of Smiddy's grassroots DNA.

The Smiddy tradition of participants and road crew supporting each other's fundraising events, efforts, and activities continued. This culture ensures the active community nature of Smiddy is interwoven into the lives of not only active and past participants and volunteers, but their families and friends also.

These fundraising activities include major annual events, such as the Russells Macquarie Long Lunch, Bruce and Jenny Frazer's famed 'Eat Cake and Beat Cancer' homebake, plus regular Bunnings barbecues, money boards, morning teas and trivia nights.





Maria.

Maria Smiddy was practically perfect in every way.

When the first call went out for road crew volunteers to support Smiling for Smiddy, Adam's grieving parents Maria and David Smiddy, were first in line to lead the way.

Where was no handbook on how to feed a peloton of hungry cyclists riding from dawn until dusk. From her years perfecting the Home Hill State High School tuckshop, however, Maria knew ensuring they had a stomach full of delicious food was a great start.

Plus, Maria sprinkled in a few extra ingredients of her own—kind eyes, a radiant smile, big warm hugs and a laugh that could warm your socks. She epitomised the love, care and positivity of this community.

Maria gave her unwavering care and devotion to every person who pulled on a Smiddy jersey, their loved ones, and all who supported our cause.

When any rider had a rough day on the bike, it was Maria who comforted them with a big hug and kind words to get them back on track. When the alarm clocks went off at 3.30am, it was Maria who pumped up the spirits of the tired road crew. On a scorcher of a day, it was Maria who surprised weary riders with ice blocks to spur them on.

And, of course, it was Maria who served up the first of the legendary Smiddy SAOs.

Maria's battle with an aggressive cancer—and likewise her unflinching courage, character, beautiful smile and selfless nature prior to her devastating passing on 23 May 2015—only served to strengthen our community's resolve.

Maria's spirit endures through the Café Maria sign which greets our peloton at its rest stops, Maria's favourite flowers (gerbera) which adorn our gear, and Maria's favourite rainbow socks which are proudly worn within our community.

In loving memory of Maria Smiddy.

I owe my love of cycling to my late Dad, Jeff. Some of my fondest childhood memories revolve around the sport, with Dad front and centre, cheering on his little girl, “Claire Bear”.

My Dad, Jeff Scheider, was a beloved schoolteacher with a beaming smile, booming laugh and larger-than-life personality.

Before Dad passed away in 2013 to melanoma—he gently nudged me towards Smiling for Smiddy. It proved a gift. I fell in love with everything Smiddy has to offer and what it means.

I’ve been a proud advocate of Mater Foundation ever since. I’ve funded cancer research efforts, made lifelong friendships and even created new family memories on the bike alongside my brother, James.

I’ve even made the decision to leave a Gift in my Will to Mater.

It’s a desperate area of need, medical research in this country. The government funding just isn’t enough. I feel confident that Mater have got the runs on the board for getting the money out there into the medical research and patient support community.

Through my involvement with Smiddy, which will be a lifelong one, I have come to understand the complexities of cancer research. I’m proud my ongoing involvement helps support the collaborative initiatives of Mater clinicians and researchers.

We need to keep up the good work.

Reflection by Claire Schneider.



Claire & James.



For Smiddy triathlete Tom Leworthy, Noosa Triathlon is more than just a swim, ride and run.

The father-of-three—with Eva, Remi and Rae his “Go Smiddy!” cheer squad—the “hurt locker” is relative. Tom knows he would likely not be alive today without ongoing cancer research.

In 2015, Tom was living in Abu Dhabi with his young family. He was fit, healthy and in the prime of his life—before his world was tipped on its head by a Stage 3 metastatic melanoma diagnosis that later progresses to Stage 4 when a large metastasis was found in his bowel.

“I was given 12 months life expectancy,” Tom reflects. “Determined to keep going, I went back on treatment, despite the severe side effects. I struggled more so mentally than physically throughout this journey. I always try to keep a positive mind.

“On my next scan, the cancer was all gone. I’ve been cancer-free ever since but I’m still taking the treatment. My odds of relapse are 50 per cent.

“My symptoms mirrored Adam Smiddy’s. I wonder what would have happened if Adam had access to the new treatments which I’ve been lucky to receive. Continued research is so important.”

Tom.

While significant progress has been made in some cancer types, including melanoma, others are still met with toxic treatments, few options and abysmal outcomes. Research is changing that story for all cancers.

Ena.

After six years battling multiple rounds of chemotherapy and immunotherapy, ovarian cancer patient Ena Menerey has bravely nominated for a 'seek and destroy' antibody now being trialled for ovarian and bladder cancer patients.

In April 2025, Ena became the first person in Australia to receive a ground-breaking new therapy, developed by Mater Research, renewing hope it may mark a turning point in how the disease is detected and treated.

More than two decades in the making, this clinical trial was underpinned by Smiddy funding—and is designed to seek out and destroy cancer cells with unprecedented precision.

It uses a specially engineered antibody, identified by Professor John Hooper, that targets a protein found in many aggressive cancers, including ovarian and bladder cancer.

"I hope this trial helps other sufferers be diagnosed and treated early," Ena said.

The trial therapy represents a major leap forward towards personalised cancer treatments.

By targeting cancer cells directly, it has the potential to reduce side effects and improve outcomes for patients with ovarian, bladder, and other metastatic cancers.

"The ability to deliver very targeted radiation to tumour deposits opens up a whole new field of treatment options for patients," Dr Catherine Shannon, Mater Medical Oncologist, said.



Team Angus is a family of long-time Smiddy supporters who have contributed over \$300,000 to cancer research at Noosa Triathlon.

Theirs is a towering fundraising legacy for Mark "Angus" Burgess, who died of melanoma in 2012, aged 55.

Up to 17 family members have been known to line up in Smiddy colours, drawing from a 50-plus strong family gathering that spans generations and includes Mark's widow, Dierdre.

"It's taken on a life of its own," Mark's brother, Matt, said. "It's an absolute buzz. It's quite addictive. It's a great charity, a great event, and a pleasure to try to raise funds for you guys—having that family aspect.

"He (Mark) was one of those rare, modest, super-doer type guys. A beloved GP (general practitioner). He always made time for everyone. He made time to know what was going on in your life.

"It was devastating... like a bad nightmare. It was such a surreal experience. Just horrible for everyone in the family. I think he'd be quite proud people are still getting together in his name. He'd be really chuffed.

"The current treatments are mind-boggling for us. Without doubt my sister (Fiona) wouldn't be alive today without the advances that have been made in research and treatment."



Angus.

Joel.



Joel Staite personified the Smiddy values. Kindness and gratitude were his default settings.

Joel had a magic about him, and it was felt by everyone who was lucky enough to cross his path.

As Professor Gabrielli would say, he was a “statistical anomaly”.

Joel had a very rare type of kidney cancer that only 50–60 people in the world are diagnosed with annually.

He rode on the Smiddy Reverse Challenge from Townsville to Brisbane in 2019 while on an immunotherapy trial. He participated in several Smiddy events, including the Noosa Triathlon and Challenge in the Tropics. By that time, Joel’s cancer had returned.

He was on another cancer research trial with a lot of painful side-effects during the 2021 Challenge in the Tropics, but true to his strength, was a ride leader and literally pushed struggling riders up the hills.

Joel had this way of looking at the world in a different way. He was able to find happiness every single day. He didn’t sweat the small stuff and had a laser focus on the things that truly mattered to him—his family, friends, and making the world a better place.

Joel passed away on 8 October 2022, but not before he left a lasting legacy within our community, and far beyond it.

In loving memory of Joel Staite.

Turning diagnosis into direction.

2006

Adam Smiddy tragically passes away from an aggressive melanoma, aged 26.

Mater researchers conduct a first in man Phase 1 clinical trial of a potentially life-saving new treatment for prostate cancer.

Smiling for Smiddy's journey begins when Mark 'Sharky' Smoothy, Ron Steel and Oliver Bodak ride from Brisbane to Home Hill, raising \$24,000.

2007

Mater Research leads an important melanoma immunotherapy trial in collaboration with scientists from Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR) with some patients achieving sustained remission.

Smiddy raises \$192,000 with 22 riders taking on the 1600km Bottlemart Smiddy Challenge event.

2008

Smiling for Smiddy begins formal partnership with Mater Foundation with initial prostate cancer and melanoma focus that soon expands across all of Mater Research's cancer program, contributing almost \$20 million ahead of its 20-year milestone.

The Bottlemart Smiddy Challenge raises over \$420,000.

2009

Professor Kristen Radford takes the lead in the prostate cancer and immunotherapy research programs following the departure of inaugural Mater Medical Research Institute Director, Professor Derek Hart.

The Bottlemart Smiddy Challenge raises over \$520,000.

2010

Professor John Hooper joins Mater Medical Research Institute (now Mater Research) with a stellar record of research in prostate cancer, biology and metastasis.

Mater researchers conduct clinical trials to develop a simple blood test to screen for ovarian cancer and identify women who need further testing.

Smiddy raises over \$570,000 including a first appearance at Noosa Triathlon.



2011

Medscape, a lead resource for healthcare professionals worldwide, hails as “unprecedented” the development of two new metastatic melanoma drugs—Vemurafenib and Ipilimumab—a game-changing global breakthrough after decades of stagnation for patients.

In an Australian first, Mater researchers commence a three-year trial into lymphedema, with Smiddy contributing over \$600,000.

2012

The Mater Ovarian Cancer Research Collaborative (MOCRC) is formed with over 20 researchers to find better diagnosis, therapies and potential vaccines for ovarian cancer.

Smiddy raises over \$650,000 through a suite of events spanning cycling, triathlon and swim challenges.

2013

Mater researchers find a way to inhibit a particular protein's ability to encourage ovarian cancer cells to spread throughout the body.

Mater Cancer Care Centre (MCCC) launches an Art Therapy Program to provide patients with relief from the emotional and physical stress of cancer treatment.

Smiddy raises over \$1.2m.

2014

Researchers at Mater discover a way to make chemotherapy safer and reduce its debilitating side effects, while cell receptors that appear to promote the growth of tumours in the bone are discovered.

Smiddy raises over \$1.6m.

2015

Maria Smiddy, Adam's mother and beloved matriarch of this community, sadly passes away from cancer.

BDCA-1BDC-01 vaccine clinical trial results published.

Mater researchers start developing antibody drug that kills ovarian cancer cells in pre-clinical models of ovarian cancer.

The Smiddy program marks its 10th anniversary and raises over \$1.38m from seven events.



2016

Professor Allison Pettit, in collaboration with Professor John Hooper, publish significant research findings that define a novel mechanism in prostate cancer bone metastasis; exposing a potential therapeutic mechanism that could be manipulated to break the metastatic prostate cancer vicious cycle and increase treatment response rates.

Smiddy raises over \$1.6m from eight events.

2017

Professor Brian Gabrielli, Smiling for Smiddy Cell Cycle Melanoma Research Group Leader, publishes on the challenges and opportunities of cell cycle-tailored targeting of metastatic melanoma.

Smiddy raises over \$1.4m from six events.

2018

Professor Brian Gabrielli joins the peloton for the 1600km Bottlemart Smiddy Challenge event.

Mater Cancer Care Centre (MCCC) begins a pioneering clinical trial to halve tumour growth, providing the first treatment in Australia to combine immunotherapy and chemotherapy for lung cancer. It has since become a standard option for treatment of the disease.

Smiddy raises over \$1.45m from four events.

2019

Mater researchers lead a clinical trial to harness CAR-T cells as therapy for patients with primary refractory aggressive lymphoma.

Mater partners with Queensland University of Technology (QUT) to establish a breast cancer biobank to help fast-track identification of novel targeted treatments.

Smiddy raises just under \$1.4m from three events.

2020

Researchers trial a new 'precision-medicine' agent designed to deliver anti-cancer drugs to patients. Professor John Hooper progresses targeted treatments for advanced cancers beyond prostate.

Professor Lewis Perrin lauds Mater's multidisciplinary approach to surgery and expert after-care as critical to the success of a HIPEC (Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy) trial for patients with advanced ovarian cancer.

Smiddy raises over \$740,000. Noosa Triathlon is cancelled due to the COVID pandemic.



2021

A world-first therapy conducted by haematologist, Professor Maher Gandhi, provides a cure for patients with a rare type of lymphoma. Funding is secured to conduct a larger, national study of this new therapy.

Mater Research publishes 481 research contributions and reports over 600 active research projects for the 2020-21 financial year.

Smiddy raises over \$1.1m.

2022

Associate Professor Jim Coward leads a Phase II trial targeting treatment-resistant stem cells to prevent ovarian cancer recurrence. Through Professor Maher Gandhi's team, Mater Research also trials a new immunotherapy for EBV-associated diffuse large B-cell lymphoma—a rare, aggressive blood cancer with high relapse and poor survival rates.

Smiddy raises over \$1.16m.

2023

Professor John Hooper secures funding for a bladder cancer clinical trial using a novel theranostic vaccine with theranostic technology, combining imaging and treatment. Dr Joshua Tobin and Dr Jay Gunawardana received major grants for lymphoma research, while Professor Brian Gabrielli investigates a potential tablet therapy to improve outcomes in ovarian cancer.

Smiddy raises over \$1.64m.

2024

Mater Research, first opened in 1999, marks 25 years of discovery, translation and integration.

Professor Kristen Radford unveils multiple vaccine strategies for multiple cancers. Professor John Hooper progresses targeted treatments for advanced cancers beyond prostate.

Smiddy raises over \$1.69m.

2025

Professor John Hooper launches a long-awaited clinical trial for a seek-and-destroy ovarian cancer therapy. Dr Joshua Tobin receives the 2025 Future Leaders Fellowship to advance personalised lymphoma immunotherapy. Returning from the Mayo Clinic, Dr Lena Batoon to resume breast cancer bone metastasis research.

Mater's clinical trials span prostate, breast, blood, bladder and advanced solid tumours.

Smiddy raises over \$1m at Challenge Snowies and Noosa Triathlon.



It started, and continues, with community support.



Your generosity has enabled the decades of persistent, painstaking research that has led to this moment in history.

A new discovery under the leadership of Mater researcher and cancer immunologist, Professor Kristen Radford (pictured far right, with Nikita Rosendahl, left), has led to the development of a world-first novel prototype cancer vaccine that will change the cancer journey for patients forever.

The new vaccine is designed to tap into the body's own inbuilt defence system, meaning it could be effective across many different types of cancer, including prostate, ovarian, breast, head and neck, bladder and blood cancers as well as metastatic melanoma. Importantly, this vaccine also has the potential to stop a patient's cancer from recurring.

The identification of the cell subtype cDC1 by Professor Radford right here in south-east Queensland is a seminal discovery in the field of cancer immunology right around the world.

It is a key player in the immune system's ability to recognise and protect the body from cancer.

This breakthrough has enabled the Mater Research team to take immunotherapy to the next level with a 'guided missile' cancer vaccine.

This is the broader cancer impact we have achieved together, so far. Progressing this work along the translational pathway towards a clinical trial to benefit cancer patients is our next key priority.

The future of cancer research will continue to be forged with this powerful combination of vision and generosity.

We are only just beginning to understand how complex and personalised cancer is, and this new knowledge will provide more opportunities for safer, more effective and personalised treatments.

Professor Kristen Radford



Cancer is a very personal journey.



A new drug combination for clinical trial.

A very sincere thank you for all you have done for us as researchers.

You provide not only the funds, but you are also the 'WHY'—why we are pushing so hard to get our ideas experimentally validated and into trials.

Understanding the potential benefit of the drug combination we are trying to get into clinical trial would not have happened without the support of Smiddy.

The other support is the constant encouragement we receive from the Smiddy community to keep pushing forward.

From a personal point of view, I want to express my gratitude. Being embraced by the Smiddy family has made a huge difference to my life and outlook. It drives me on when I am tiring.

For all of that, thank you!

Reflection by Professor Brian Gabrielli.

A new agent for detection and treatment.

Without Smiddy support I wouldn't have a job. Simple as that.

I wouldn't have been able to develop a new agent for detection and hopefully treatment of cancer patients that we're now testing in two clinical trials for bladder and ovarian cancer patients.

Community funding enables researchers to lead the risky research—to bring together different disciplines so we can address the big questions.

Your support has also helped to drive the development of Mater cancer research collaboratives and the Mater biobanks, helping to increase the quantity and quality of cancer research projects around south-east Queensland—so wonderful legacies.

Thank you, Smiddy.

Reflection by Professor John Hooper.

KR Professor Kristen Radford

JH Professor John Hooper

BG Professor Brian Gabrielli

What was your first reaction when you learnt about Smiddy, and their epic Challenge events?

KR Exhilaration from their relentless energy and enthusiasm.

JH Tears. The first event I went to was in 2015 and it was a celebration of that year's ride. When they showed a video summary, there wasn't a dry eye in the room!

BG Bloody mad! And... I wonder if I could do one of these?

Why are you passionate about being a cancer researcher? What excites or motivates you?

KR There is so much we still don't understand about cancer. We are only just beginning to realise the enormous potential of harnessing the immune system as a treatment. Discovering new things about this disease has always excited me, but what really motivates me is the potential impact on changing lives that translation of our research can have.

JH I love scientific discovery, and I love working as part of a team and I'm not scared to bring in people who have different skills and knowledge. These characteristics have supported the development of a new agent for detection and hopefully treatment of cancer.

BG To do something useful with the research and knowledge we have gained. Plus being a part of the Smiddy family, I know from first-hand experience that we are still burying too many good people too soon and maybe our research can do something to change that.

At Mater and beyond—at a very topline—how does the landscape look versus 20 years ago?

KR Our knowledge has expanded at an exponential rate and with that has come game changing new treatments such as immunotherapies that are saving lives.

JH There's a lot more hope that we're heading towards cancer being treatable as a chronic disease for several major cancers and hopefully soon for most cancers.

BG The surgical advances made at Mater has improved survival to some extent, but we still depend on a very toxic chemotherapy. This is where our research, and the work of John and Kristen, is trying to improve the quality of life of patients on treatment and their survival chances. We have a real opportunity here.

Swapping a magnifying glass for a crystal ball, what do you expect to be the next major piece(s) of the puzzle to be unlocked?

KR We are only just beginning to understand just how complex and personalised cancer is, and this new knowledge will provide more opportunities for safer, more effective and personalised treatments.

JH There's such a plethora of new drugs in development and testing, I'm hopeful cancer care will become much more personalised so that each patient can be matched with the best drug for their cancer, and can live longer and even more productive lives.

BG I really think that engaging the patient's immune system to fight their own cancer is a major piece of this puzzle. The work at Mater Research in ovarian cancer is all directed to this end. The other big piece for all cancers, but especially ovarian cancer, is early diagnosis.

What three words best describe the Smiddy community?

KR Exuberant, passionate, tenacious.

JH Happy, supportive and interested.

BG Bloody wonderful people.

From fear to forward—a new era for cancer care.

Mater Research leads a dynamic and compassionate cancer research program focused on improving outcomes for people affected by cancer.

Mater researchers and clinicians are investigating the underlying biology of both solid and blood cancers, working to improve how cancer is diagnosed, treated, and managed—including through palliative care.

From developing cutting-edge therapies and running clinical trials to exploring personalised medicine and innovative technologies, Mater Research is driven by a commitment to transforming lives through evidence-based care.

Beyond ongoing work to further these lead discoveries of Professors Radford, Hooper, Gabrielli and their teams—future Smiddy funding will also extend to several other pioneering efforts across Mater's multi-faceted approach to cancer research.



Unlocking the secrets of our DNA to better understand cancer.

Reading the human genome—our complete set of DNA—was a huge scientific breakthrough.

Researchers hoped it would help explain how our bodies work and why diseases like cancer happen. While it gave us a basic map of our genes, it turned out that this map alone couldn't explain all the complex ways our bodies' function, especially when it comes to cancer.

To truly understand how cancer develops and changes over time, researchers need to look closely at the small changes in DNA that build up. These changes can affect how cancer grows, how it responds to treatment, and whether it becomes resistant to certain therapies.

Accurately identifying and understanding these changes is key to improving diagnosis, creating personalised treatments, and developing new therapies.

Replacing one-size-fits-all with personalised treatment.



Exploring hidden DNA clues to improve lung cancer survival.

Professor Geoff Faulkner and Dr Barun Pradhan

With your support, Mater Research is investing in pioneering lung and brain cancer research with a team led by Professor Geoff Faulkner.

This work is aimed to deliver a blood test for lung cancer, with the diagnostic information then able to be applied to development of a cancer treatment vaccine (a mobile DNA immunotherapy).

This approach has promise in detecting brain metastasis early and tailoring treatment to improve outcomes. Lung cancer is the deadliest cancer worldwide, and sadly, survival rates are still very low.

Surprisingly, up to 1 in 5 people who get lung cancer have never smoked, which shows that other things—like genetics and the environment—also play a role. One possible clue is a piece of DNA called LINE-1, a type of “jumping gene” that can copy itself and move to new places in our DNA.

Normally, LINE-1 stays quiet in healthy cells. But in many cancers, including lung cancer, it becomes active and inserts itself into new spots. This can mess with important genes and help cancer cells grow and change.



Until now, scientists haven’t been able to study LINE-1 properly because older DNA reading tools couldn’t tell the difference between old and new copies.

That’s where Dr Barun Pradhan, supported by Professor Geoff Faulkner, comes in. They’re using a new technology called long-read sequencing to track LINE-1 more accurately.

They, alongside Associate Professor Adam Ewing, have been at the forefront of perfecting the application of this technique for cancer discovery.

Their research will look at where LINE-1 has inserted itself in lung cancer cells, and how it interacts with another DNA signal called methylation, which can switch genes off.

By combining this information, they hope to understand how these changes affect cancer behaviour.

The big goal? To find unique LINE-1 patterns in lung tumours that could be used as a super-sensitive test to detect lung cancer early. This could help doctors choose the best treatment sooner—and hopefully, save more lives.



Mapping cancer-causing DNA changes.

Associate Professor Adam Ewing

Mater Research Cancer Program Co-Leader

Associate Professor Adam Ewing's team are developing and using powerful computer models to make the most of long-read sequencing.

These computer models help them explore the complicated changes in DNA that happen as cancer develops. Their work has already helped set new international standards and led to real improvements in health care.

Right now, they're using this technology to study breast, prostate, and pancreatic cancers. Their goal is to find which DNA changes actually cause cancer (called "driver" mutations) and which ones are harmless (called "passenger" mutations).

This knowledge could help doctors diagnose cancer earlier and choose the most effective treatments for each patient.



Compassionate treatments for advanced cancer.

Professor Phillip Good

Mater Research Cancer Program Co-Leader

In 2024, Mater launched a medicinal cannabis trial for symptom relief for palliative patients with advanced cancer. The trial is investigating the effectiveness of Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and Cannabidiol (CBD), where the medication is administered orally in liquid form.

Palliative care is about living well. Professor Phillip Good's team is working with patients across Australia, including those in regional areas, to test which cannabis formulas work best with the fewest side effects.

For remote patient Jacqueline Pool—from the tiny outback town of Aramac—the trial has proven "life-changing" in her management of advanced endometrial cancer.

Training the immune system to fight blood cancer.

Dr Joshua Tobin

Follicular Lymphoma (FL) is a common cancer that affects the immune system. While many patients respond well to treatment, approximately one in four experience a more aggressive form of the disease that grows quickly and is harder to treat.

Dr Joshua Tobin's research has shown that the way a person's immune system reacts to FL plays a bigger role in how the disease behaves than the cancer's genetic mutations. Now, he's building on this discovery by studying how the immune environment—the mix of immune cells around the cancer—differs between patients with slow-growing and fast-growing FL.

By understanding how immune cells recognise and respond to cancer, Dr Tobin hopes to develop personalised immune therapies. One exciting approach is called CAR T-cell therapy, where a patient's immune cells are specially engineered to target and destroy cancer cells.

Dr Tobin plans to test this tailored treatment in a clinical trial for patients with aggressive lymphoma.

The long-term goal is to create a fast and reliable system for designing and producing these personalised therapies. Dr Tobin believes this method could also be used to treat other cancers, like melanoma. His team is exploring the use of umbilical cord blood cells, collected at Mater, to help make these therapies more accessible.

**When you hear cancer,
you'll feel hope.**



Cancer program at Mater Research.

100+

Active cancer clinical research studies, including pioneering clinical trials and cohort studies.



Key focus on tumours and blood cancers, with dedicated research groups that are advancing breakthroughs in women's cancers.

60

Researchers are led by two program co-leads and supported by six group leaders.



Strong clinical interface with Mater Health, who offer clinical trials to Mater patients as part of their treatment.

4

Major biobanks, underpinning many programs from discovery and translational research, through to clinical trials.



At the forefront of global discovery, translating cancer vaccines and precision approaches to improve diagnosis and care.



Imagine a world where cancer doesn't scare us anymore.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) forecasts the number of new cancer cases worldwide to grow by more than 75% by 2050 from approximately 22 million to over 35 million.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that cancer still kills around 10 million people a year and remains a leading cause of death globally.

Cancer research continues to advance at an unprecedented pace, with new treatments offering new options to millions of patients worldwide.

Several ground-breaking therapies and innovations are gathering pace and reshaping cancer care—including personalised vaccines, gene-editing technologies, re-purposed drugs, and alternative cancer treatments. Recent advancements include AI and DNA sequencing, dietary impact and Gut Microbiome, PARP Inhibitors, and Menin Inhibitors.

Exciting new breakthroughs listed by the World Economic Forum extend to personalised cancer vaccines, US-based tests to identify 18 early-stage cancers, a UK-based approach to deliver a seven-minute cancer treatment jab for lung and breast cancers, precision oncology, liquid and synthetic biopsies, CAR-T-cell therapy, and a global cervical cancer treatment breakthrough.

Mater has pioneered several discoveries, including the advancement of immunotherapy to a 'guided missile' cancer vaccine and world-leading outcomes for ovarian cancer patients.

Mater remains at the forefront of this shift towards a future where every cancer diagnosis is met with the clarity of an optimal, personalised response to diagnosis.

Thanks to Smiddy's ongoing support, Mater researchers will continue to stand at the forefront of these breakthroughs, leading the push towards this new frontier.

To give patients knowledge, power, options. ALWAYS.

Research provides the roadmap, treatments and pathways that give cancer patients choice, control and hope. Research is not just about curing cancer, it's about transforming lives today and building a future where all cancers are liveable, treatable and beatable.

Smiddy partner Stephen Russell

A snapshot of active clinical trials.



A drug comparison for patients with newly diagnosed metastatic hormone-sensitive prostate cancer.



A new way of taking hormone tablets for prostate cancer patients.



Assessing the effectiveness of DB-1303 in the treatment of HER2-low breast cancer.



A new treatment for B-Cell malignancies, a Phase 1 trial in haematology providing an exciting first-in-class drug.



A study into muscle-invasive bladder cancer.



A study into improved diagnoses of confirmed advanced solid tumours, ovarian, peritoneal and fallopian tube cancers.





Reframing cancer research.

Mater has always had a focus on meeting unmet need and that includes ensuring that equity, diversity and inclusion are a key approach of our healthcare efforts, research focus and workforce dynamics.

In a world where only a third of researchers are women, Mater Research is proudly breaking down the gender gap barrier with a female workforce of nearly 80 per cent—led by Executive Director Allison Pettit.

Mater Research Director of Operations Emily Bailey says initiatives like the targeted Strategic Grant for Outstanding Women are aimed at amplifying female researchers who have excelled in their field despite circumstances and barriers that could impact on career progression.

"This grant helps to overcome the gender-based career interruptions that so often affect women in research," Bailey said. "This naturally leads to more women at Mater Research holding lead investigator roles and senior academic positions."

Retention is a key challenge in biomedical research, according to Professor Radford, Mater Research's longest-serving researcher—with Smiddy funding proudly investing in the next wave of talents.

"We need to ensure women in science have the career progression into leadership roles to maximise their potential and impact as well as to support and inspire the next generation," Professor Radford said.

Mater Research and The University of Queensland PhD student Nikita Rosendahl—who is inspired to make exciting new discoveries that will benefit patients—is part of Mater Research's Cancer Immunotherapies Research Group. It is led by Professor Radford, and based at the Translational Research Institute (TRI).

Rosendahl is one of several exciting next-generation talents at Mater that also includes the likes of Jenny Zeng, Kylie Alexander, Rabina Giri and Michaela Kindlova.

"Our early—and mid-career researchers are the core of our research engine and Smiddy will support those individuals to continue to develop innovative options for cancer patients," Professor Pettit said.

The next horizon.

From before sunrise to after sunset, at home and abroad, the Smiddy colours have been worn with pride, purpose and humility.

Our pelotons have rolled along bitumen highways and bumped along red dirt roads amidst countless horizons, landscapes, road trains and coal trains. Our triathletes have stared down the Pacific Ocean, the Indian Ocean, and navigated transition zones in faraway lands.

In Smiddy's early years, our pelotons and tri suits were bright and colourful. Every colour of the rainbow... almost.

In 2014, the vibrant Smiddy blue and eye-catching red stripe emerged.

Smiddy's beloved road crew, volunteers and supporters have also busily mixed it up from navy polos, grey tees, fluoro, I LOVE Smiddy tees, red and blue-collar work shirts.

To mark our community's 20th year milestone—a new purple and navy kit has been launched, geared to bring Smiddy closer to its roots and its ongoing Mission.

Purple was Adam Smiddy's favourite colour. It is also the colour, alongside navy, that identifies Mater Research.

Representing both our past and future, it will belong on our backs.

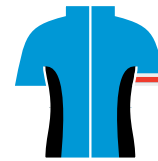
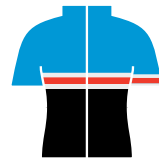
Regardless of which colour we wear, every fibre of the Smiddy fabric remains the same.

It is woven—with every thread—from teamwork, spirit and mateship. It bears our laughs and tears. Our **why**.

It belongs to us all.

**A heartfelt thank you.
You guys are a rainbow of hope!**

Professor John Hooper



**Woven—with every
thread—from
teamwork, spirit
and mateship.**

A world beyond fear, a future beyond cancer.

It often feels bitter-sweet to reflect on our Smiddy journey.

A part of me will forever hold sadness for my good mate, Adam. But I'm also immensely proud of how this community responded, and the advances we have made for others.

I'll always be grateful to Mark, Ron and Ollie for doing that very first ride, likewise to David and Maria for their courage and commitment.

I cherish the many great friendships and experiences I have gained through Smiddy. They have enriched my life. It's with a sense of pride and responsibility that I remain one of this community's many custodians—both personally and professionally.

As I've paused to reflect ahead of this 2026 milestone, I've done so with a mix of emotions.

***uncancer* defines our vision to realise a future where all cancers are reframed as treatable, liveable, beatable.**

What will Smiddy's legacy be in another 20 years?

We remain committed to provide vital funding for the pioneering cancer research that delivers kinder treatment options and better long-term outcomes as a new standard of care.

As we look to the next horizon, our community will officially adopt a shorter name from 2026, evolving from "Mater Smiling for Smiddy" to "Smiddy".

Smiddy embodies everything, and everyone, we stand for. It belongs to a new umbrella brand that will sit across Mater Foundation's cancer efforts—Mater uncancer.

I'm excited about what the next horizon may bring.

What do we mean when we say *uncancer*?

Our vision is to realise a world where a cancer diagnosis doesn't scare us anymore.

A world in which, when we or our loved ones hear the words "you've got cancer", it is met with certainty and control.

Research will inform this existential shift in how we interpret the word cancer.

Yes, *uncancer* is bold and ambitious, and a little unheard of—just like Sharky, Ron and Ollie embarking upon that very first credit card ride.

I look forward to sharing many more adventures with you as we continue to huddle around our shared belief that cancer shouldn't steal anyone's future.

Smiddy! Smiddy! Smiddy!

Rowan Foster

Director Corporate and Community Engagement Mater Foundation

**Together, we've come so far.
But we're not done yet...
Because cancer shouldn't
steal your future.**



 **mater** | uncancer.

Smiddy

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Towards the next horizon.

Together, our journey to fund cancer research rolls on.

Turning diagnosis into direction. Realising a world
where cancer doesn't scare us anymore.

Smiddy's next challenge awaits.