

12th March 2026

Subject: Acknowledgement of the Ruth Prosser Women's Cancer Research Award Penguins Against Cancer

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Penguins Against Cancer for awarding the Ruth Prosser Women's Cancer Research Award in support of our research project, *Advancing Precision Diagnosis of Cervical Cancer and Precancers: Biomarker Discovery Through Multimodal Metabolic Imaging*. This generous funding provides important support for early-stage, innovative research aimed at improving the diagnosis and management of cervical cancer.

Cervical cancer remains a major global health challenge, and current diagnostic pathways often require multiple clinical visits and invasive procedures to identify and classify precancerous lesions and early-stage disease. Our research seeks to address this challenge by developing new analytical approaches that use advanced mass spectrometry technologies to identify metabolic biomarkers associated with cervical cancer and its precancerous stages. By mapping the metabolic landscape of cervical tissues at high spatial resolution and integrating these data with cellular and clinical information, we aim to discover markers that can help improve the accuracy and speed of diagnosis.

Ultimately, the goal of this work is to contribute to the development of more precise diagnostic tools that could support earlier detection of cervical disease, guide clinical decision-making, and reduce the need for repeated invasive procedures. Improving diagnostic precision has the potential not only to enhance patient outcomes but also to reduce the physical and emotional burden experienced by many individuals undergoing investigation and treatment for cervical abnormalities.

Support from charitable organisations such as Penguins Against Cancer plays a crucial role in enabling researchers to explore new ideas and generate the preliminary data needed to develop transformative technologies. This award will help advance our work towards more accurate, biomarker-driven approaches to cancer diagnosis and translation into clinical practice.

I am deeply grateful to the Trustees, members, and volunteers of Penguins Against Cancer for their continued dedication to supporting cancer research and improving outcomes for patients.

Dr Stefania Maneta-Stavarakaki

