

6 November 2020



## UNDER THE RADAR

Little things can cause big problems, and that goes double in the world of cystic fibrosis (CF) treatment and advocacy.

CF is a complicated condition, the science itself is complicated and often only partially understood. New information comes to light, old assumptions are challenged. It can be tempting to turn a blind eye but hidden in the mess of figures and vocabulary are lifesaving lessons and insights.

During my time as CEO of Cystic Fibrosis Australia I have tried to make CF education a priority alongside Research, Advocacy and Outreach. For those Australians living with CF and for all the rest of us it is crucial to be up to date and aware.

'Mycobacteria' is a tricky word because it refers to many things at once. It is a Pandora's Box of complex micro-organisms, all of them with inscrutable scientific names in Latin or an alpha-numeric.

There are over 190 species of bacterium in this genus, they are real and they are dangerous – especially to those who live with CF.

In cases like these we need a guide, a sage voice of knowledge and reason to help us map the risks in our environment, and we're in luck. This **Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> of November at 6:30pm**, Consumer Connect is extremely proud to be hosting Professor Scott Bell, the Chief Executive of the Translational Research Institute and a Senior Physician of the Adult Cystic Fibrosis Centre at TPCCH. Professor Bell is exactly the right person to ask about Mycobacteria and CF and he is a stalwart supporter of our community.

Professor Bell also leads the Lung Bacteria Laboratory at UQ's Children's Health Research Centre and has more than 260 peer reviewed publications. In short, he can answer your questions – including the ones you didn't know you had – about dangerous mycobacterium and I urge you to register for (and participate in) the conversation this Monday.

To participate in the event [CLICK HERE](#)

To watch the event [CLICK HERE](#)

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nettie Burke', written in a cursive style.

Nettie Burke, CEO  
Cystic Fibrosis Australia  
0404 034 294  
[nettieb@cfa.org.au](mailto:nettieb@cfa.org.au)