

26 March 2021

**AMENEH KHATAMI**

One of my favourite aspects of my role here at Cystic Fibrosis Australia (CFA) is the giant cheques. Alas, they are not made out in my name, but instead they are addressed to CFA itself, and it is my proud duty as CEO to receive these donations on behalf of CFA and the Australian Cystic Fibrosis Trust (ACFRT) and put the funding to good use.

Still, the pageantry of giant oversized cheques is undeniable, and there are several large cardboard novelties of this nature on display at our CFA headquarters, a testament to the resourcefulness and good will of our many donors.

The only thing better than receiving a giant cheque on behalf of CFA is bestowing such a cheque on one of our amazing researchers. Every year we are blessed to have some of Australia's sharpest medical talent competing for the chance to explore new avenues of CF treatment.

Many of us are lamenting the simple joys of human contact that COVID-19 continues to inhibit, but I want Ameneh Khatami's name to reach as many eyes today as possible. She is doing extremely important work on phage therapy – an alternative to antibiotics that is targeted at viruses which replicate inside bacteria in the chest. This is a direct route to saving CF lives and we have awarded her the Conquer CF Grant in order to support her amazing project.

Sadly, we are not living in the age of the giant cheque. This is the age of the Zoom call and the Facebook notification. When we bestowed the Conquer CF Grant on Ameneh Khatami last week we were not able to do so with a novelty cheque or a red ribbon. The customary CFA skywriting squadron remained grounded and our tickertape marching band has been stood down indefinitely.

For now, the muted rituals of the online world will have to suffice to show our gratitude and faith in her work. We are excited about phage therapy and we believe there will be many more opportunities to celebrate Ameneh's work - in person - in future.

We are also very grateful to Conquer CF for their fabulous fundraising and generous donations to the ACFRT. In 2020, Conquer CF funded two very important research grants to the tune of \$100,000. As true conquerors they really are supporting Australian CF researchers in the most effective way.

To learn more about what Ameneh is up to, and to explore future grant opportunities with CFA, click through the link [HERE](#).

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nettie Burke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nettie Burke,  
CEO Cystic Fibrosis Australia  
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