

Dear collaborators and MoLBi members,

Happy New Year, and best wishes for a rewarding and successful 2026. Welcome to the first edition of the MoLBi Newsletter. As we step into the year ahead, it feels timely to reflect on what has been an extraordinary period of growth and momentum for MoLBi, and to share some important updates and milestones with our community.



On behalf of the MoLBi Executive Committee, we would like to sincerely thank everyone who has contributed to building MoLBi into one of the fastest-growing live brain tumour biobanking platforms in Australia. As of January 2026, we have enrolled **>206 participants**, with our **100th patient** milestone reached in July 2025 (pic above) and our **200th biospecimen** collected on 1 January 2026 (pic left). These achievements would not have been possible without the dedication of our neurosurgical colleagues (pic below), theatre staff, MoLBi and neurosurgical researchers, students, and laboratory teams, many of whom worked tirelessly over the holiday period. Most importantly, we extend our deepest gratitude to our MoLBi participants and their families, and to our consumer advocates, in particular Tonie, Phil and Nathan Dalton, Craig Cardinal, and Mark Norris. Your trust, advocacy, and partnership remain central to everything we do. We would also like to acknowledge the enormous contributions of Janet Chang and Anh Doan, who led our wet laboratory and project management efforts, as well as Tanya Jhoomun, Beth Francis, and our extended neurosurgical registry and research support teams.



**Phase Zero Program Update:** We are also pleased to share progress on the development of our Phase Zero clinical trial platform, a key strategic initiative within MoLBi. We are now working closely with the Monash University Clinical Trials Centre (MUCTC) to finalise protocol design, biostatistical input, governance, and operational planning. This partnership ensures that our Phase Zero studies are built on a robust, executable clinical trial framework, aligned with best practice and regulatory standards. The Phase Zero platform will enable rapid assessment of drug penetration and biological activity in brain tumours using live biospecimens, strengthening both our investigator-initiated and industry-partnered translational programs



**Celebrating Success:** We are delighted to congratulate A/Prof Tu Nguyen-Dumont (School of Translational Medicine, Monash University) on her recent success in securing a \$1.75M NHMRC Ideas grant involving Monash Health (Prof Moore and Dr Ho), Faculty of IT, Monash University (Prof Makalic), and Brain Tumour Alliance Australia (Craig Cardinal). This is a significant achievement and a reflection of Tu's outstanding leadership in cancer genetics and translational research. We are proud to have Tu as a key MoLBi member, and we look forward to the impact this work will have on patient-centred cancer research.



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**Welcoming Our Students and Visitors:** MoLBi continues to grow as a vibrant training and collaboration hub. We are pleased to welcome our current Honours students: Yoseph Wahba Molano, Khoi Ly and Chanumi De Souza, and PhD student: Liem Le. We also warmly welcome Sarah Jaboury (Oncology Advanced Trainee), Shin Yi (Monash University medical student) and Kaichun Wang (a visiting researcher from Beijing, who is joining us through our international collaborative program). It has been a pleasure hosting Eamonn Gilmore, who is completing his final year of medical school at the University of Cambridge, and Sebastian Yan, who has commenced his medical internship in Taiwan University Hospital. We wish both of you every success in the next stage of your medical careers and hope your time with MoLBi has been both meaningful and inspiring.

**Research Meetings – 2026 Schedule:** Our MoLBi Research Meetings will recommence on: Tuesday, 10 February 2026 Time: 4:00 pm. All members, students, and collaborators are encouraged to attend. Meetings will continue on every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, running through to November 2026. These meetings remain an important forum for sharing data, discussing new ideas, welcoming collaborators, and fostering cross-disciplinary exchange.

**Looking Ahead:** As we move into 2026, our priorities include strengthening our governance framework, expanding national and international collaborations, progressing Phase Zero and bespoke immunotherapy programs, and continuing to build MoLBi as a sustainable, clinician-led translational platform. We are also excited to further develop the MoLBi Academy, supporting Honours, PhD, and early-career researchers across medicine, science, and engineering. This year promises to be one in which much of the groundwork laid over the past 12 months will begin to translate into tangible clinical outcomes.

Thank you once again to everyone who makes MoLBi possible. We look forward to another year of collaboration, discovery, and shared purpose.

With best wishes,

Dr Gwo Yaw Ho  
Founder and Chair, Monash Live-Biobanking

Professor Justin Moore  
Director of Neurosurgery, Monash Health