# Canterbury Medical Research Foundation

Final report for Travel Grant 001


**Grant recipient**

Dr Andrew Das
University of Otago
Pathology and Biomedical Science

andrew.das@otago.ac.nz
+643786159
Centre for Free Radical Research Department of Pathology and Biomedical Science University of Otago, Christchurch PO Box 4345 Christchurch 8140


**Grant details**

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|---|---|---|---|
| GRANT TYPE | Travel Grant | FUNDING ROUND | 2018 Travel Grant |
| GRANT REFERENCE | 001 | GRANT AMOUNT | $2,000 |

## Final report

### 1. Scientific Assessing Committee report

## CMRF Travel Grant Report

### Purpose of travel

Presenting my research findings at the Cancer and Epigenetics Gordon Research Conference. The specific theme this time was "How Alterations in DNA Sequence and Chromatin Modifications Impact Cancer Etiology and Therapy". The work I presented had exciting implications for patients with Leukemia, and therefore, attendance provided the opportunity for research done in Canterbury to have a wider impact.

### Details of the conference and value for me

The conference itself provided a really good overview of the role of the epigenetic processes that contribute to the development of cancer. Most of the work had not yet been published and therefore attendance provided access to information that was otherwise unaccessible. Furthermore, there was ample opportunity to connect with international leaders in the field and get feedback on my current research project, which is also funded by CMRF. My current research focus is to develop cell models of acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) that can be used to predict response to ascorbate. I was able to get feedback from experts on my experimental approach and received offers of collaboration as well as offers for help if I experience technical difficulties moving forward. One significant highlight for me was meeting Professor Ari Melnic from Cornell University in Ney York. His feedback interest in our work was encouraging, and he suggested a few alternative cell models that could be used to answer our question. Another highlight was Professor Anjana Rao’s talk, which highlighted the importance of understanding the role of TET2 enzykes in cancer. Current understanding is that they mainly demethylate DNA and also generate hydroxymethylcytosine. Interestingly, her data suggests that they have additional roles that relate to DNMT3a, which when disrupted can lead to leukaemia. I was able to connect with both of them over evening meals and the poster session. This provided the opportunity to grapple with some of these concepts and how they relate to our project.

### Reporting

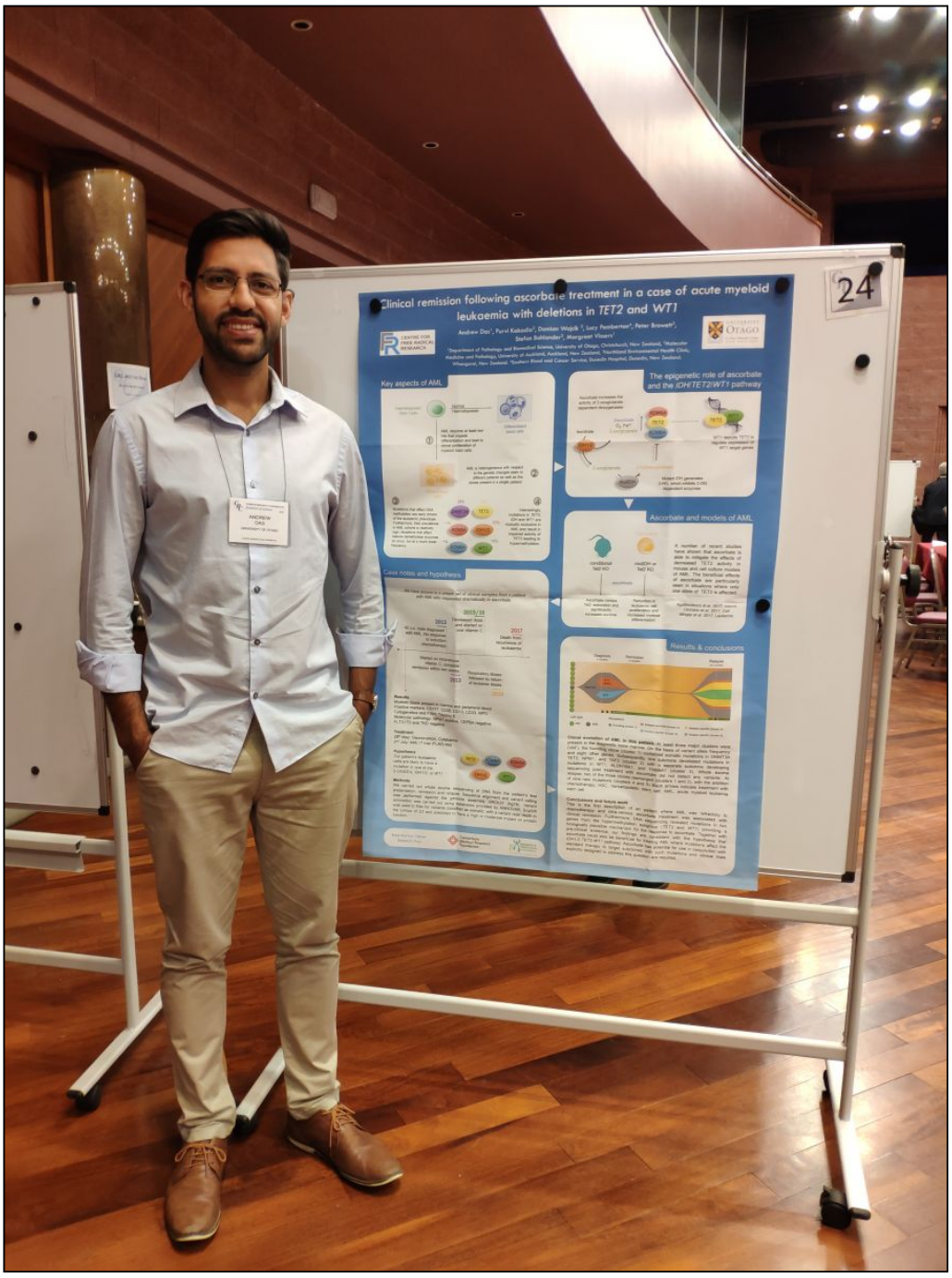
I have been relaying these and other important issues to my lab group. I am also happy to be contacted to share knowledge gained and details of my current research in whatever contexts CMRF deems appropriate.

## 2. Photographs

*View an attachment by double clicking the icon to the left of the file name. Icons are not displayed and attachments are not accessible when this PDF is viewed in a web browser; you must open it in PDF reader software.*

GRC 2019 Group photo.jpg
1.9 MiB

GRC 2019 Poster.jpg
4.0 MiB




## 3. Feedback