• The Hon Jack Snelling MP Minister for Health;

• Professor Steve Wesselingh, Executive Director, SAHMRI;

• Professor Don Bursill AM, South Australia’s Chief Scientist;

• Ms Jenny Richter, Deputy Chief Executive, SA Health;

• Mr Ken Barr, Executive Director, SA Pathology;

• Mr Jim Hallion, Chief Executive, Department of Premier and Cabinet;

• Chancellor Dr Ian Gould and Council Members;

• Professor Angel Lopez and Professor Sharad Kumar and CCB staff

• Good afternoon, welcome and thank you for joining us.
• Let me first acknowledge that this ceremony is taking place on Kaurna (Gar-na) land.

• The Kaurna people have performed ceremonies on this land for many centuries, and we pay respect to their living culture and the unique role they continue to play in the life of the Adelaide region.

• They not only performed ceremonies on this land, they had a school across the road.

• In 1839 they opened a school at Pirltawardli (POOLTA WARDLY) in the west Parklands north of the River Torrens where the children were taught to read and write in Kaurna.

• German missionaries Schurmann (SHERMAN) and Teichelmann (TEEKALMAN) recorded a vocabulary of over 2,000 words and with that, saved the Kaurna language for future generations.
• So UniSA is just carrying on a great tradition of education at this end of town.

• When we first moved to this part of the city in 1997 and began building what would become the City West campus a lot of people thought we were crazy.

• This part of the city was considered the back-of-beyond and people wondered what on earth we were thinking.

• We had foresight even back then because the city’s west end will soon be a world renowned centre of excellence for medicine and health sciences.

• Just look around at all the activity you can see from here.
  
  o The convention centre is being revitalised;
  o the cricket ground had a massive facelift;

• and across from where we stand this afternoon a centre for medical excellence is taking shape
the new SAMHRI building has already opened,

- the new Royal Adelaide Hospital will open in mid 2016.
- And our new Health Precinct Building will bookend the row of buildings in the State’s Health and Biomedical Precinct.

- Last year the Federal Government invested $40 million to build a partnership between UniSA and SA Pathology to accommodate and support the growth of a Centre For Cancer Biology.

- And right where teenagers are even now skinning their knees in the skate park, we will build an iconic new $100 million Health Precinct Building,

- And in that building UniSA, in partnership with SA Pathology, will support the growth of one Australia’s top cancer research centres.
This afternoon we officially launch the Centre for Cancer Biology,

And develop links between the UniSA community and up to 250 of Australia’s top researchers who are working towards a deeper understanding of blood cancers like leukemia.

Finding a cure for cancer is a monumental, almost insurmountable task,

one that absorbs the world’s finest researchers,

not to mention huge amounts of money.

Yet cancer keeps defying their efforts.

But the CCB researchers are making it personal.

The CCB is currently one of the top three cancer research centres in Australia.
• It is considered Australia’s leading research centre for leukemia.

• There are 21 teams working within the CCB researching a range of cancers including breast, prostate, bowel and lung cancers and melanoma.

• Crucially, through its cancer genomics facility, CCB is also the only Centre in South Australia providing research and support for personalised DNA targeted treatments which are revolutionising cancer treatment and recovery.

• The major challenges in cancer treatments today are controlling progression of the disease and preventing relapse.

• Research breakthroughs in these leukaemias will provide broader understanding of the causes of cancer progression and relapse and lead to significant advances in cancer treatment.
• The combination their research excellence with our expertise in the quality use of medicines, pharmaceutical science and pharmacokinetics research,

• along with our recent investment in attracting international research leaders in cancer medicinal therapy and innovative drug formulation,

• made a partnership between UniSA and SA Pathology an inspired idea.

• There are also clear links with the University’s advanced manufacturing capabilities in nanotechnology and coatings and with our technological leadership in the new CRC for Cell Therapy Manufacture.

• And the partnership has already attracted some useful and gratefully received attention.

• In November last year the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) awarded the CCB nine Grants with a total value of almost $6 million
• (a success rate about twice the national average I might add)

• In February this year the NHMRC awarded CCB a $6.67 million Program Grant to lead new research into leukemia.

• So this afternoon we celebrate those people who may help us to better understand cancer and minimise its horrible impact on the community.

• We have a commitment to that community; it is part of our DNA, and our partnership with CCB has key benefits not just for the community, but also for the nation and the state.

• CCB will strengthen our capacity to translate cancer research into improved practice,
• and applications such as prevention or early diagnosis will improve sustainability and reduce cost in the health system.

• It will boost Australia’s reputation for excellence in cancer and cell biology and attract more world-class researchers to South Australia and to the Health & Biomedical Precinct;

• It will complete a unified world-class health and medical precinct that will provide synergies between UniSA and Flinders and Adelaide research and teaching, and between SAHMRI, CSIRO and the new Royal Adelaide Hospital;

• It will increase opportunities for the commercialisation of research into the global pharmaceutical and other healthcare industries and boost local job creation;

• And it will attract international investment to Australia.
• And so I welcome the brilliant members of the Centre for Cancer Biology to our community.

• We’ll give you space to grow; we’ll support your success.

• And maybe, working together and putting our cross disciplinary expertise to work, we can better understand this invidious disease,

• And that simple stretch of north North Terrace, once home to a Kaurna school and now home to skaters’ skinned knees,

• might just become the place to transform the health outcomes of millions of patients.

• And make Adelaide into a global hot spot for health and biomedical research and commercialisation.

• Thank you.
• Now I would like to introduce to you the Honorable Jack Snelling MP

• Jack was first elected to the South Australian Parliament in 1997 at the age of 24 as the Member for Playford, which includes the suburbs of Ingle Farm, Para Hills, Pooraka and Walkley Heights.

• He currently holds office as Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Defence Industries, Minister for Health Industries and is the Leader of Government Business in State Parliament.

• Please join me in welcoming Jack Snelling.