



FUNDING LIFESAVING NEUROSURGICAL RESEARCH

ABC NEWS BREAKFAST REPORTER CHARLES BRICE SHARES HIS STORY AFTER A MOTORBIKE ACCIDENT AT JUST 19 LEFT HIM A QUADRIPLÉGIC



When I was 19-years-old I never thought about being a journalist. I wanted to be a pilot and was on my way to getting my pilot's licence. I was offered a job to live and work on my mate's family farm in Loxton and I jumped at the chance, resigning from my

job in Adelaide, packing up everything and moving there the next day. There were a lot of locals who I had not met and so a small group had decided to go for a casual motorbike ride together. We set off, stopping every 15 minutes or so to regroup. The farm bike I was riding was a bit slower so I was always the back of the pack, with everyone in front out of sight. As I came round a slight bend in the track there was a series of successive bumps. The front wheel dug into one of those bumps and sent me over the handlebars, landing head first on the soft sand. Lying alone on the ground, I realised I couldn't move. I was the only one in the group with a phone.

"I TRIED TO REACH INTO MY POCKET TO CALL FOR HELP BUT I COULDN'T"

I could see my legs only able to lift my head slightly, I could see my legs were at funny angles but other than that I didn't have a scratch on me. It took about 30 minutes for someone to find me, but it felt like an eternity lying there, alone, scared, with a million thoughts racing through my head. When the guys came back and found me, I had to ask them to use the phone in my pocket to call for help.

I was taken to Loxton Hospital and then flown out to the Royal Adelaide Hospital that night where my family rushed to meet me. It was there I was told that I had shattered two vertebrae in my neck and completely severed my spinal cord. I can still remember being told that I was a quadriplegic and there was only a 5% chance that I would ever walk again.

Heavily medicated and still in a bit of denial, that was the moment it became real for me. I had never imagined in my wildest dreams that I would ever hear those words from a doctor. Within hours Professor Brian Freeman operated on me to fuse my C5/C6 vertebrae. After my operation I lay unconscious for three weeks and was ventilated for nearly 2 months. I spent 52-days in the ICU, 21-days in the Spinal Ward at the RAH and then 14-months in rehab at Hampstead.

I was fortunate that I did have the support of my friends and family throughout my time in hospital, it would have made such a difference to my headspace if I didn't have that.

You can read the full interview on the NRF website under Patient Stories: nrf.com.au/patient-stories/charles-brice



Charles was an invited speaker to the NRF NeuroConnect Gala Dinner where he kindly shared his story, and is pictured above with MC and brain tumour survivor Ally's Todd.

NRF funds spinal cord injury research:

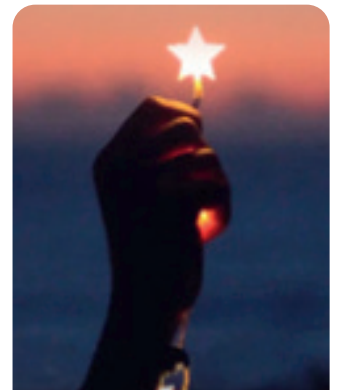
2022 - Traumatic Brain Injury & Spinal Cord Injury Research: \$262,741

- **Dr Anna Leonard** - Novel peripheral stimulation technology to reduce neuroinflammation following traumatic SCI
- **Dr Anna Leonard** - Spinal Cord Injury Equipment

2023 - Traumatic Brain Injury & Spinal Cord Injury Research: \$55,000

- **Dr Anna Leonard** - Role of concomitant TBI in neuropathic pain following SCI
- **NRF Sponsorship** - Australasian Neurotrauma Workshop

Full details on research funded can be found on the NRF website under Current research: nrf.com.au/current-traumatic-brain-injury-research



A STAR OF HOPE

Purchase a Star of Hope this Christmas and "light up the night sky" to support lifesaving neurosurgical research.

- Send a Star to someone
- Dedicate a Star in remembrance
- Buy a Star to fund lifesaving neurosurgical research

Donate now and give the gift of hope this Christmas. NRF website: nrfstarofhope.com.au



NRF 2021/2022 FINANCIAL YEAR FUNDS \$1,058,988 IN RESEARCH GRANTS ACROSS SOUTH AUSTRALIA



The NRF is proud to announce that the 2021 and 2022 grant funding has been allocated - with \$1,058,988 distributed across 24 individual grants at the University Adelaide, Uni SA, Flinders University, Royal Adelaide Hospital and Women's & Children's Hospital.

This is the highest number of individual grants the NRF has ever funded, which has been achieved thanks to the support of our dedicated donors. The details of all these projects are available on the NRF website and in the NRF Annual Report also available on the website: nrf.com.au

Research stories: Visit the NRF website and go to Research - Current Research or nrf.com.au/current-research

Annual Report: Visit the NRF website and go to News - Reports or nrf.com.au/reports



In 2021/22, the NRF will be funding innovative new research in South Australia in the following areas:

Brain Tumour Research: \$417,100

Vascular Stroke Research: \$68,000

Neurodegeneration Parkinson's Research: \$86,248

Scholarships: \$76,451

Neurosurgical Equipment: \$105,448

Paediatric Research: \$43,000

Neurotrauma - Traumatic Brain Injury & Spinal Cord Injury Research: \$262,741

NRF TEAM NEURO RAISES \$32,500 IN CITY TO BAY 2022!

The NeuroSurgical Research Foundation is very proud to announce that our dedicated fundraisers have raised an incredible \$32,500 for neurosurgical research in the City to Bay Fun Run.

This year the physical City to Bay returned after a 2 year hiatus due to Covid and no amount of cold, wind or rain could dampen the incredible atmosphere! Our very first NRF Team Neuro racer and brain tumour researcher Dr Guillermo Gomez completed the half marathon (21.1km) in an impressive 1:31:51!

Altogether 51 individuals and teams joined NRF Team Neuro, many to remember loved ones lost to diseases such as brain cancer, childhood brain swelling, and traumatic brain injury.

With the DIY race option available again this year we had racers join us from all around Australia, and even as far as Paris!

100% of all donations and fundraising will go directly to innovative new research.

Thank you to everyone who walked, ran and fundraised without you we could not fund lifesaving neurosurgical research.

**THANK YOU TO OUR LONG TERM SPONSORS
DR JONES AND PARTNERS MEDICAL IMAGING**



ABHIRAM HIWASE AWARDED THE INAUGURAL JOHN CROWLEY SCHOLARSHIP



At the recent NRF AGM and research presentation evening, researchers showcased the latest developments of their NRF funded research projects. Invited presenter Abhiram Hiwase was awarded the John Crowley Scholarship to continue his exciting research into traumatic brain injury treatment (pictured receiving his award from Rachel Crowley). This scholarship has recently been established by the NRF as a result of a generous bequest from the family of John Crowley, who was a nursing student

at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and died on 17 March 1986, aged 27 years, from a head injury sustained in a motorcycle accident.

Mr Hiwase is evaluating if an alternative coagulation blood test, rotational-thromboelastometry (ROTEM), can improve prediction of chronic subdural haematoma (cSDH) recurrence over conventional methods. Within the next decade, cSDH is expected to be one of the most frequently encountered neurosurgical conditions with recurrence occurring in up to one third of patients leading to worse neurological outcomes. This project is being run as a clinical trial at the Royal Adelaide Hospital with the aim to better understand the pathophysiology of cSDH recurrence and optimise treatment pathways for these patients. Congratulations Abhiram, and thank you to all our invited speakers and attendees.

AUGUST 2022 NRF FUNDS ADDITIONAL \$602,266 IN NEUROSURGICAL RESEARCH GRANTS

Announced at the NRF AGM where the latest research presentations were held. Presenters pictured left to right:

- **Mr Abhiram Hiwase** - Is ROTEM an important adjunct to coagulation assessment in traumatic brain injury?
- **A/Prof Renée Turner** - NRF Director of Neurosurgical Research update on stroke research in progress.
- **Dr Irina Baetu** - Using genetic information to predict medication response in Parkinson's disease.
- **Dr Brett Stringer** - Pioneering unique models of all glioblastoma subtypes to improve brain cancer treatment.

The following research grants and scholarships have been funded:

Scholarships: Dinning Memorial Neurosurgical Scholarship awarded to Dr Chris Tsimiklis \$15,000, John Crowley Scholarship awarded to Abhiram Hiwase \$17,920 and Abbie Simpson Clinical Fellowship awarded to Dr Nick Candy \$64,000 and continuing Fellow Dr Adam Wells \$50,000, 7x Vacation Research Scholarships \$14,000.



Stroke Research: \$35,195 Establishing the efficacy of disodium malonate in attenuating post-stroke ischaemia reperfusion injury in a clinically relevant model.

Traumatic Brain Injury & Spinal Cord Injury Research: \$50,000 Role of concomitant TBI in neuropathic pain following SCI. \$5000 NRF Sponsorship - Australasian Neurotrauma Workshop.

Paediatric Research: \$29,388 Braun Paediscopes - A small diameter neuroendoscope for intraventricular procedures in neonates.

Brain Tumour Research: \$321,763 (information on next page).



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THE GIFT OF
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CHRISTMAS**

Neurosurgical
Research:
Brain Tumour
Neurodegeneration
Neurotrauma -
TBI & SCI
Vascular conditions -
Stroke & aneurysms
Paediatric research

Online NRF website:
nrf.com.au

**to donate or use
enclosed donation form
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SCAN ME

NRF AND STRONG ENOUGH TO LIVE (SETL) HOLD FIRST EVER ART AUCTION RAISING **\$14,521** FOR BRAIN TUMOUR RESEARCH!



SETL was established in 2015 by Chris "Crittter" Adams who sadly passed away at the age of 26 as a result of brain cancer. From the day of his diagnosis, Crittter remained positive and

his motto was "Strong Enough to Live". He was passionate and driven and wanted his journey to inspire and help others. In order to honour his memory, the Adams family has continued SETL to raise awareness about brain cancer and fundraise for brain cancer research through the NRF.

Crittter's mum Cherrie's latest fundraising idea was to hold an art auction with the theme "Images to Inspire". 52 beautiful art works were generously donated and this fabulous event raised \$14,521! Every dollar will go to fund lifesaving brain tumour research. We are so grateful to all the artists who donated and the bidders who contributed to the success of this event, without you we could not fund new innovative research and get that much closer to finding a cure.

If you would like to help our researchers discover their next breakthrough, you can now purchase an NRF SETL "Images to Inspire" 2023 calendar featuring 12 of the art works as voted by attendees of the live viewing. A fantastic Christmas gift for a great cause!

BRAIN TUMOUR GRANTS FUNDED AUGUST 2022 **\$321,763**



Brain cancer is still the leading cause of cancer death in children and adults aged under 40 in Australia. We want to change that and are proud to be funding these life-changing brain tumour research projects as part of our latest grant round, thanks to your donations:

Dr Melinda Tea - GelCount equipment to accelerate assessment of potential new therapies. (Generously funded by a directed donation from Fred and Marina Pascale, pictured above with Dr Tea and their daughter Cecilia who was diagnosed with a brain tumour in 2014).

Dr Lisa Ebert - Initiation of the KARPOS clinical trial to treat glioblastoma (GBM).

Dr Nirmal Robinson - Evaluating CD47 regulated mechanisms to treat GBM.

Dr Melinda Tea - A new approach to enhance immunotherapy for GBM.

Dr Briony Gliddon - Roles of sphingosine kinase 1 and 2 in GBM.

Dr Sunita Ramesh - Limiting invasive capabilities of GBM cells.

Prof Michael Brown - Increasing effectiveness of immunotherapy in childhood brain cancer.

NRF sponsoring and facilitating inaugural Brain Tumour SA Research Symposium.

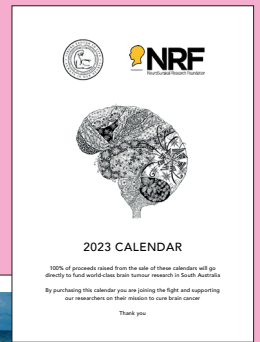
Go to the NRF website and current brain tumour research section to read about these in detail.
nrf.com.au/current-brain-tumour-research



**NRF SETL
 "IMAGES TO
 INSPIRE"**

**2023
 CALENDAR**

**\$28 EACH
 INC POSTAGE**



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