

NEURO NEWS

FUNDING LIFESAVING | NEUROSURGICAL RESEARCH

NRF Celebrates 60 Years



Specialist Surgical Supplies Team holding tight to Mark Zanella

In 1963, from humble beginnings, the NeuroSurgical Research Foundation was formed by Dr Trevor Dinning and Prof Donald Simpson - two dedicated neurosurgeons, with the objective of funding research into the cause, diagnosis, prevention and treatment of disease or malfunction of the brain, spine and nerves. Over the years, we have witnessed groundbreaking discoveries that have transformed the landscape of neurosurgery, enabling us to offer new hope and better outcomes to patients and their families. From pioneering minimally invasive techniques to harnessing the power of neuroimaging, our collective endeavours have pushed the boundaries of what's possible in treating neurosurgical disorders.

Since 1963 the NRF has directly funded \$12 million in neurosurgical research and leveraged these funds to attract \$23 million in Federal and Industry funding. The total benefit to SA neurosurgical community \$35 million.

The NRF Sparkling 60th Celebration - our most dazzling & well attended event yet with over 430 people coming together in support.

Together, thanks to your amazing efforts we raised \$195,000 for life-saving neurosurgical research.

A big thank you from Team NRF to all those who attended, supported and volunteered their time. The highlight was the amazing tunes provided by the one and only Velvet Soap Opera Company which saw many people hitting the dance floor.

Without our generous sponsors, the night would not have been possible, please turn over to see the full list.

Our tremendous drinks & fundraising sponsors provided the best SA has to offer:

- Coopers beers including the new Australian Lager
- Patrick of Coonawarra selection of wines
- Sidewood Estate Wine Wall
- 23rd Street Distillery gins for cocktails on the night
- Thank you to all 110 prize donors making the fundraising possible



Give hope and donate today

A Star of Hope



SCAN ME

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

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PRIZE DONOR LIST AND ALL THE PHOTOS CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE:
www.nrf.com.au/sparkling-60th-fundraiser

Grants Summary

The NRF is ecstatic to announce our latest grant funding round. This year, with your help, we are able to contribute a total of **\$1,284,337 to 27 different research grants.**

These include adult and child research projects and equipment purchases for labs spanning across 5 institutes including: The University of Adelaide, University of South Australia, Flinders University, South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) and the Royal Adelaide Hospital (Central Adelaide Local Health Network)

- **\$827,684 for life-changing brain tumour research projects**
- **\$456,653 for life-changing TBI, SCI, Stroke & Parkinsons research projects and equipment TBI (\$238,180), Stroke (\$134,565), Neurodegeneration (\$83,908)**

1. Visit the website to learn more about all of these projects: www.nrf.com.au/current-research
2. Read the latest Impact Report: www.nrf.com.au/news/2022-2023-impact-report
3. Keep up to date on our social media for highlights [f](#) [@](#) [in](#)



Spotlight On 16 Brain Tumour Research Projects Totalling \$827,684

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 lifechanging brain tumour research projects as part of our latest grant round, thanks to your donations:



Dr Briony Gliddon - Developing a preclinical model of glioblastoma for drug discovery and improved translational research.

University of South Australia \$50,000



A/Prof Lisa Ebert - Exploiting blood vessels as conduits for the entry of therapeutic CAR-T cells into brain tumours.

University of South Australia \$50,000

Pete's Army - In Memory of Pete Cutting

Preclinical models that recapitulate key characteristics of glioblastoma, namely invasiveness, heterogeneity, immune microenvironment, and intact blood-brain-barrier are essential for successful clinical translation of research. The immune system is fundamental to how glioblastoma responds to treatments, however, preclinical models that mimic interactions between the immune system and glioblastoma tumour are limited. To overcome this, we propose to develop a humanised preclinical model of glioblastoma which will produce human immune cells which harbor brain tumours derived from patient glioblastoma cells. This will generate superior preclinical models of glioblastoma, leading to improved translation of research and better patient outcomes.

Patrick of Coonawarra - In Memory of Patrick Tocaciu

Developing a new treatment for glioblastoma based on a revolutionary type of 'living drug' known as CAR-T cells. Here, we aim to maximise the ability of CAR-T cells to enter brain tumours. We will do this by studying blood vessels within brain tumours of glioblastoma patients and preclinical models, to find out what makes them permissive to the entry of CAR-T cells. Then we will engineer our therapy to take full advantage of this gateway, hence enhancing treatment success.

Honouring A Legacy

Today, under the stewardship of Patrick's son, Luke Tocaciu, the winery continues to support the NRF. Over the past decade, Patrick of Coonawarra has wholeheartedly contributed to the NRF's efforts, donating over \$40,000 to further their vital research.



Pat's Story

Tragically, Patrick Tocaciu's battle came to an end in 2013. Yet, his legacy of resilience and commitment to a greater cause lives on through the winery he built and the impactful work undertaken in his memory.

How Can You Help?

You too can become a part of this impactful partnership by visiting Patrick of Coonawarra's website. Through the purchase of an NRF partner pack, you not only indulge in the exquisite offerings of the winery but also contribute to the NRF's vital research initiatives. With 15% of sales from the NRF partner pack donated back to the foundation, every sip becomes a gesture of hope and solidarity.

Spotlight On Equipment Funding

A Prof Lydnsey Collins-Praino
Equipment: Dual-arm digital stereotax
Neurodegeneration - University of Adelaide \$34,060

The dual-arm stereotax with digital readout allows for the generation of experimental models of neurological disease with a high degree of precision not previously possible. This equipment has broad application across multiple disease models, ranging from Parkinson's disease to stroke to traumatic brain injury, and will allow us to carry out the foundational experiments that further our understanding of disease mechanisms and bring us one step closer to translating treatment strategies from the bench to the bedside.

Dr Anna Leonard
Equipment: Cat Walk TX gait analysis system
TBI/SCI - University of Adelaide \$59,020

Neurological diseases or injuries can drastically impair motor function; however, these deficits can be difficult to identify and characterise in preclinical models. The Cat Walk TX is a state-of-the-art system that will allow us to automatically quantify deficits in key motor outcomes, including walking speed, stride pattern, pressure, and coordination. This will enhance our understanding of various pathologies such as Spinal Cord Injury, Traumatic Brain Injury and Stroke, and enable us to examine potential interventions that may one day improve outcomes for people living with these conditions.



Eleanor Bowley-Schubert, Samantha Edwards



Ryan Dorrian, Anna Leonard



Dr Chloe Shard - Targeting glutamine metabolism: a new therapeutic avenue for glioblastoma.

University of South Australia \$46,950

In Memory of Rick Schembri

Tumour cells have a high demand for energy, often fueled by metabolites supplied by the surrounding healthy brain cells. This project aims to identify new therapeutic targets in aggressive glioblastoma tumours by inhibiting supportive metabolic networks in the microenvironment to improve brain cancer patients' survival.



NRF PARTNER PACK



SCAN QR CODE TO SHOP THE PACK.

15% OF SALES WILL BE DONATED BACK TO THE NRF.



Looking for a great Christmas gift idea this year?



SCAN ME

- ✓ It's the gift that gives you the chance to win amazing prizes, all while supporting the NRF.
- ✓ \$5 from every \$10 ticket will support our cause, so your gift could be life-changing in more ways than one!
- ✓ You could win \$250,000 cash and much more!
- ✓ You have the chance to win a \$250 Wish Gift Voucher if you buy your tickets on the NRF Feature Day - Nov 25th!
- ✓ P4P Draw 21 closes at 8pm on 17 Dec.

NRF Team Neuro Raises \$22,670 In City To Bay 2023

A big thank you to everyone who walked, ran and fundraised in this years City to Bay, together you all raised an incredible \$22,670 for neurosurgical research.

This year we had 52 individuals and 4 teams who joined NRF Team Neuro remembering those lost to diseases such as brain cancer & traumatic brain injuries.

Keep an eye out for the opening of our 2024 registrations. We need your help to reach a record number of participants in the 50th running of the City-Bay Fun Run. City to Bay is targeting 50,000 for their 50th - if everyone that competed in 2023 invites 4 friends to join them next year, they can reach that goal, lets spread the word!



Tony Tony Tony with Tara & Uni SA



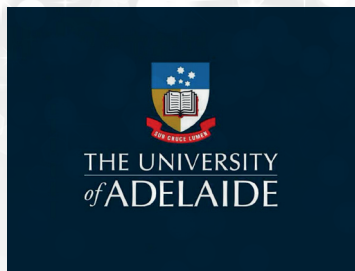
Uni SA - The Pitson Lab



Jones Radiology - A Clearer Picture

Thank You To Our 60th Sponsors

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