



**NRF**  
NeuroSurgical Research Foundation

CELEBRATING  
**50 YEARS**  
1963 - 2013

*Celebrating 50 years  
of lifesaving  
and life-changing  
neurosurgical research*

With your support the NeuroSurgical Research Foundation (NRF) has assisted people across the full spectrum of their lives, beginning with the youngest generation.

## Nurturing our beginnings

The NRF has been successful in developing lifesaving treatments in childhood conditions including, spina bifida, hydrocephalus, syringomyelia and Arnold Chiari malformation. There are approximately 50 new cases of children diagnosed with these conditions in SA each year.



Callan's parents want to thank the NRF for giving their son a future. Without improved treatments Callan would not have survived all four of these conditions.

Amelia is alive today thanks to a lifesaving shunt inserted after a traumatic fall caused a potentially lethal head injury. 41% of deaths in children aged 1 – 14 years are the result of traumatic brain injury.



Future research priorities are improving treatment outcomes for children in the following areas: epilepsy, vascular conditions, hydrocephalus, and brain tumours.

## Protecting our beginnings

Treating brain swelling has been a priority for the NRF. Brain injury caused by brain swelling is the leading cause of death in Australians under the age of 44 years. Brain swelling results from falls, car accidents, cycling accidents and sporting incidents.



Harry suffered a traumatic head injury due to a bicycle accident when he was 11 years old. Harry is now 20 and living a full and active life thanks to an emergency procedure to drain fluid build-up on his brain.



Tyler was not wearing a helmet when he had a cycling accident aged 13. Tyler would not be alive today if it had not been for his craniotomy to stop a brain haemorrhage.

Significant lives will be saved through investing in the protection of the brain from brain injury, brain swelling and concussion.

## Investing in our future

Baby Boomers are the fastest growing demographic in our society. A future priority is prevention of brain deterioration particularly in conditions such as stroke and Parkinson's disease.



Ann survived a stroke against all odds. Stroke is a leading cause of death and disability worldwide. Nearly 60,000 people will suffer a stroke in Australia each year. That is one every 10 minutes, 1 in 5 people die immediately! There is no

cure. Research is looking for a surgical cure so everyone can be saved.

Nigel had a groundbreaking neurosurgical procedure to help him live with Parkinson's, controlling his tremors. Parkinson's disease affects 1 in 350 Australians with 30 new cases diagnosed every day.



As we are all living longer the brain conditions occurring in the older age groups such as stroke, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease and aneurysms are becoming more common. Research into these diseases is a priority.



# NRF Celebrating 50 years - 1963 - 2013

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE FOUNDATION IS DIRECTED TOWARDS FUNDING RESEARCH INTO THE CAUSE, DIAGNOSIS, PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF DISEASE, INJURIES OR MALFUNCTION OF THE BRAIN, SPINE AND NERVES.

Neurosurgeons and neuroscience researchers ask you to continue to donate to the NeuroSurgical Research Foundation to enable them to continue their lifesaving work.

## Continue nurturing our beginnings

### Neurosurgeon Dr Cindy Molloy

Head of Surgery at the Women's & Children's Hospital encourages donations to paediatric research. "Without research there is no hope and no future. Paediatric cases are increasing; only through research can we improve treatments and save lives."



### Neurosurgeon and Researcher Dr Amal Abou-Hamden

Adult & Paediatric neurosurgeon, cerebrovascular surgeon, senior lecturer and paediatric neurosurgery researcher is a passionate supporter of the NRF: "By donating to the NRF's 50th appeal, you are supporting our world class research aimed at advancing treatment and ultimately finding cures for children like Olivia."



## Investing in and protecting our future

### Neuroscience Researcher Associate Professor Corinna Van Den Heuvel

Is an active NRF fundraiser who works with the research team on traumatic brain swelling. "Together by donating to the NRF's 50th Appeal, we can improve ways to protect our adolescent generation from brain injury and concussion."



## Progressing towards our future

### Professor Robert Vink, NRF Chair of Neurosurgical Research

Asks you to donate so the team can purchase an MRI machine for laboratory based research. "Together by donating to the NRF's 50th Appeal, we can prevent brain degeneration."



### Neurosurgeon Nick Vrodos

Is encouraging you to donate to join him in saving lives. I have the privilege of saving lives every day through neurosurgery. I encourage you to join me as together we can save lives in the future through funding research.



### Neurosurgeon Matthew McDonald

Parkinson's disease is one of the most common neurological conditions in Australia. People suffering this debilitating condition have difficulty with movement and neurological function. There have been recent improvements in treatment with Deep Brain Stimulation using electrodes implanted into the brain. This ground breaking treatment improves the symptoms of Parkinson's disease but is not a cure. "I encourage donations, as much research is needed to find a cure and develop long term treatments which results in improved quality of life."

