



NRF

NeuroSurgical Research Foundation

ANNUAL REPORT 2019/2020

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BOARD MEMBERS 2019/20

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Vice President - Chair Scientific Committee

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ADVISORY MEMBERS 2019/20

Assoc Prof Renée Turner

Prof Peter Reilly AO

Dr Frances Corrigan

NRF Director of Neurosurgical Research

Scientific Committee

Scientific Committee

MISSION STATEMENT

To promote, foster, develop and assist the study of all matters related to neurosurgery.

To encourage, stimulate and aid research and investigation into such matters and to stimulate public interest in neurosurgery.

To cooperate with other organisations in neurosurgical work and research.

To encourage Post-Graduate medical study in neurosurgery.

To assist the NRF Chair of Neurosurgery.

To raise funds for the above purposes.

PROF ROBERT VINK AM



With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic the last few months have certainly been challenging for all charities around Australia. Aside from the enormous health and economic impact it has had on families and the community in general, the effects on charitable operations have been significant. Research, events, general fundraising, committee meetings and even calls for grant funding have all been adversely affected. Unlike most other charities, however, the Neurosurgical Research Foundation has been able to maintain its operations throughout the entire period, even if we have not been able to host public events. There was a fall in donations at the height of the pandemic which given that 100% of our donations go directly to research support, could result in a short-term impact on how much research the NRF is able to support. Nonetheless, I am hopeful that the lifting of many pandemic restrictions in Australia in general, and South Australia in particular, will see a return of face to face events for the NRF and an increase in donations. Brain cancer, stroke, traumatic injury to the brain and spine and neurodegenerative diseases like Parkinson's disease don't stop during a pandemic, and the need for neurosurgical intervention never goes away.

Throughout the past year, there have been some notable highlights that illustrate the success of the Foundation's mission. The NRF has funded a number of first-class research projects including research into neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's disease (UniAdel), brain tumour research (UniSA), paediatric research (WCH),

stroke research (UniAdel), SCI research (UniAdel) and TBI research (UniAdel). We are delighted to be in our second of three years of funding from the James & Diana Ramsay Foundation supporting two projects: Paediatric Traumatic Head Injury by Dr Frances Corrigan (UniAdel) \$214,500 and Parkinson's disease by Assoc Prof Lyndsey Collins-Praino (UniAdel) \$219,685.

Dr Melinda Tea was awarded the 2019 Chris Adams UniSA Research Grant to undertake overseas training in the advanced use of micro-CT in understanding glioblastoma.

In partnership with the Lindsay and Heather Payne Medical Research Charitable Foundation, over \$83,000 was also awarded to Assoc Prof Renée Turner and Assoc Prof Lyndsey Collins-Praino (UniAdel) to pursue research into neurodegeneration after stroke.

At the NRF, we take pride in only funding research that is of the highest international quality, a quality that will hopefully be recognised by other agencies in subsequent major funding rounds. This is precisely what has happened with the recently announced \$1.9m award from the Australian Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) TBI Mission to a team led by Assoc Prof Lyndsey Collins-Praino (UniAdel) to identify prognostic markers of neurodegeneration after traumatic brain injury. The NRF has seed funded the early stages of this work over the past few years and it is gratifying to see such major funding being awarded to this project by the Federal Government. I would especially like to thank the scientific committee for their excellent service in identifying only the most outstanding research projects for the NRF to fund.

It is also my pleasure to advise that the NRF has now partnered with the Australian MRFF Brain Cancer Mission, a \$131.2m federal government initiative that supports research into brain cancer treatments. The 10-year aim of the Mission is to double the survival rate of Australians living with brain cancer, which certainly complements the Foundation's objective to fund research into the cause, diagnosis, prevention and treatment of this devastating disease. As part of this partnership, the NRF has pledged \$2.0m over 10 years (2017-2027) to support brain cancer research. By being a funding partner, we have been invited to be a member of the Australian Brain Cancer Mission Funders Group, where members have the opportunity to provide



strategic input into current and future research initiatives. It is certainly useful to hear what brain cancer research is being undertaken around Australia, and what efforts are being made to reduce duplication and consolidate resources.

We were very fortunate to have His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, the Governor of South Australia, host a reception at Government House last November to present 18 NRF recognition awards. These awards acknowledged the outstanding contributions of a number of personal, community and corporate benefactors who have contributed to the success of the Foundation over the past 3 years. With over 90 NRF supporters present, it was indeed a pleasure to hear the Governor speak highly of the NRF and the tremendous work the Foundation has done over the years. The feedback I have

online processing page. We are also exploring the latest donor database management systems that are far more versatile than what we have been historically using, thus allowing more personalised communication to suit our individual donors. Gemma van den Akker's appointment as our Marketing and Communications Officer has seen a number of changes introduced, including the introduction of NeuroNews as our reimagined newsletter and a significant increase in our digital outreach. Indeed, the number of digital followers continues to substantially increase every month. More recently, we have also been drafting updates to our constitution, in part to comply with legislative changes, but also to reflect modern practice. These suggested changes will be put to the membership at the AGM.

“ AT THE NRF, WE TAKE PRIDE IN ONLY FUNDING RESEARCH THAT IS OF THE HIGHEST INTERNATIONAL QUALITY, A QUALITY THAT WILL HOPEFULLY BE RECOGNISED BY OTHER AGENCIES IN SUBSEQUENT MAJOR FUNDING ROUNDS. ”

received suggests that this is a highly valued event amongst our benefactors and that future Governor's receptions are something to look forward to.

The NRF board welcomed two new members in the last few months, Dr Santosh Poonnoose and Mr Andrew Goodhand. Dr Poonnoose is a neurosurgeon based at Flinders Medical Centre with a research interest in brain tumours. Andrew Goodhand is a financial advisor with considerable industry experience in investment. Their addition to the board broadens the skill base of the board and certainly places it in a much stronger position moving forward. I am grateful that they both happily accepted the invitation to donate their time and expertise and look forward to their continuing board membership being endorsed at the AGM.

While face to face events were on hold during the pandemic, the NRF administration team took the opportunity to undertake a number of initiatives. Members will notice that the NRF website has been upgraded, with security improvements and search engine optimisation now incorporated throughout. The pages are certainly more responsive, and donations have been streamlined through a more secure

There is no question that the world is changing rapidly in response to the pandemic and even after the pandemic has passed, which it will, many practices that we took for granted will no longer be desirable or even possible. As a Foundation, we will need to change our mode of operation to meet these challenges. Your continued engagement with and support of the NRF is critical if we are to succeed in our mission to reduce the burden of neurosurgical conditions. As stated earlier, diseases of the nervous system don't just stop affecting members of our community, and at times those who are close to us. There will always be a need for neurosurgical intervention, and with that, a need for more research into how to most effectively improve outcomes in those who have been affected. I sincerely thank all NRF members for their support to date and look forward to your continued support of the NRF into the future.

Professor Robert Vink AM
President

GINTA ORCHARD

To our NRF donors, fundraisers, researchers and supporters who keep us motivated each day - without you we would not have funded \$9.5 million in life-saving neurosurgical research over the last 57 years!

Thank you to everyone who has donated, volunteered or organised a fundraiser. Despite these challenging times, with your help the NRF is well-placed to continue its success and growth into the future.

“ THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS DONATED, VOLUNTEERED OR ORGANISED A FUNDRAISER. ”

Our team here at the NRF continues to grow. I would like to welcome Gemma van den Akker who has come on board as Marketing and Communications Officer. Thank you to the Administration Team – Kerry Buttery and Matiss Reinhardt who manage and process all your valuable donations and generate the receipts.

A very special thank you to all the volunteers who have helped at our community events - your assistance is critical to our success: Di and Daniel, Hayley, Martin, David, Jessica, Kat, Kerry and Daniel, Matiss and Robin. It is incredible that some of these volunteers have been contributing their time for over 15 years. It was a pleasure to award Di Floreani and Jessica Anderson with the Donald Simpson distinguished Service Award in 2019.

Community Fundraising continues to grow, and I have had the wonderful pleasure of working with these groups and families to create inventive and fun fundraising events. I would like to highlight and thank the following:

- ◆ Shamrock Shimmi for Immi - Kate and Paul Cenko family and friends who held this event in memory of their daughter Imogen.
- ◆ Picnic for Carmel - the amazing Maio family and the Adelaide Rev Heads “Cars for a Cause” event which was held in memory of Carmel Maio.

- ◆ 100% Pure 90's – a fun night of dancing and music organised by Kate Campbell in memory of her cousin Hannah Philbey.
- ◆ Hannah's EVOS – funds raised by Hannah Philbey's family and friends - in memory of Hannah who lost her battle with brain cancer in 2019. However, her EVOS equipment in the lab will continue to remind the research team of her every day.
- ◆ Strong Enough To Live - working with the Adams Family and friends who have raised over \$130,000 in memory of Chris 'Crittter' Adams and establishing the UniSA Chris Adams Scholarship for Brain Tumour Research.

I would like to thank everyone who has fundraised for the NRF. You are all amazing and inspiring and it is a pleasure to work with you all in different ways, on different ventures. You can find the full list of Community Fundraisers on pages 16 and 17.

I encourage you all to keep in touch with up-to-date research stories, latest event information, and fundraisers, join us on social media, become my friend on Facebook at Ginta Orchard NRF and Like the Neurosurgical Research Foundation Facebook page or follow us on Twitter, Instagram or LinkedIn.



Ginta Orchard
Executive Officer

ASSOCIATE PROF RENÉE TURNER

The 2019/2020 year has been a very busy time for the Team Neuro group. Our lab is currently full of engaged and motivated students who are driving the laboratory forward through their hard work on a diverse range of projects. **New Honours students who have joined the lab are:**

- ◆ **Justin Krieg** - Exploring the relationship between neuroinflammation and axonal injury following traumatic brain injury.
- ◆ **Fenella Hall** - Assessing brain stem degeneration in normal ageing and traumatic brain injury.
- ◆ **Keziah Skein** - The impact of ageing and associated inflammatory response in the spinal cord.
- ◆ **Ryan Dorrian** - Characterising the central neuroinflammatory response and temporal profile of inflammatory cytokines expression following spinal cord injury.
- ◆ **Benjamin Ellul** - Does neuroinflammation, as measured by neuroimaging, predict cognitive and motor performance in Parkinson's disease?
- ◆ **Angus McNamara** - The correlation between neuroimaging and biomarker estimates of neuroinflammation in Parkinson's disease.
- ◆ **Laura Carr** - The safety and tolerability of nanoparticles for neurological disease implications.

We also have new PhD students who have commenced their studies in 2020:

- ◆ **Shannon Stuckey** - The role of neuroinflammation in delayed neurodegeneration post-stroke.
- ◆ **Freshta Rahimi** - Characterising the post-stroke microenvironment: impact of modulation of secondary neurodegeneration following stroke.
- ◆ **Kavi Sivasankar** - The role of neuroinflammation in mediating cognitive deficits following traumatic spinal cord injury: can Fyn kinase inhibition break the link?

Our continuing PhD students are also making excellent progress:

- ◆ **Isabella Bilecki** - is investigating changes in the blood-brain barrier, in healthy ageing and following stroke.
- ◆ **Christine Gayen** - is examining the surgical duroplasty treatment for spinal cord injury.
- ◆ **Ing Chee Wee** - is investigating the mechanisms by which neuroinflammation mediates the progression and development of Parkinson's disease studies.

Our senior PhD students are currently in the final year of their studies and are now wrapping up their lab work and writing their PhD theses:

- ◆ **Bianca Guglietti** - is concurrently working on pre-clinical and clinical studies examining the role that Fyn kinase and microglia play in neuroinflammation in Parkinson's disease.
- ◆ **Annabel Sorby-Adams** - after working with a research group at the University of Cambridge (UK) on cognition in neurodegenerative disease in 2019, Annabel has now returned to the lab to write up her PhD studies investigating the efficacy of NK1 receptor antagonist treatment for cerebral oedema and elevated intracranial pressure following stroke.
- ◆ **Jessica Sharkey** - is characterising the axonal injury profile that occurs following traumatic brain injury in a clinically-relevant model, to inform development of novel treatments.

We wish Bianca, Annabel and Jessica all the best for the completion of their PhD studies this year and wish them the best of luck as they embark on their careers, they'll be greatly missed by all in Team Neuro!

Senior members of the laboratory were thrilled to have been successful in converting NRF and James & Diana Ramsay Foundation seed funding into significant external grant success with the award of just under \$2million in Medical Research Future Funds, highlighting the value and importance of seed funding in growing greater research funding successes.

The FIND-TBI project is led by Assoc Prof Lyndsey Collins-Praino and involves fellow Team Neuro team members Assoc Prof Renée Turner and Dr Frances Corrigan, as well as NRF Abbie Simpson Clinical Fellow Dr Adam Wells, and colleagues across The University of Adelaide, South

The University of Otago (New Zealand) and The University of Lübeck (Germany), The University of Cambridge (UK), Mt Sinai Hospital (USA), SAHMRI (SA), CSIRO (SA) and The University of Melbourne (VIC).

“THE RESEARCH PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS BY THE GROUP WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT AS DONORS TO THE NRF.”

Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI; SA), Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO; SA), and international colleagues at The University of Cambridge (UK) and Mt Sinai Hospital (NY, USA). The FIND-TBI project will assess long-term risk of neurodegeneration following traumatic brain injury through the use of motor and cognitive assessment, salivary and blood biomarkers and sophisticated neuroimaging.

We congratulate Dr Anna Leonard on the birth of William in late 2019 and look forward to welcoming her back to the lab in the second half of 2020 as she returns from maternity leave. Earlier in 2020 we also welcomed back Dr Frances Corrigan to the University of Adelaide after her time at the University of South Australia.

Prior to COVID-19, members of the group were fortunate enough to have delivered conference presentations, including invited talks, at a number of national and international scientific meetings in 2019 including: Australasian Neuroscience Meeting (Adelaide), National Neurotrauma Symposium (Melbourne), International Symposium for Cerebral Blood Flow and Metabolism (Yokohama, Japan) and National Neurotrauma (Pittsburgh, USA). In addition, the team has published a number of papers including those in *Journal of Neurotrauma*, *Behavioural Brain Research* and *Frontiers in Neuroscience*, amongst many others. The team have also established new research collaborations with research groups at:

The research progress and achievements by the group would not have been possible without your support as donors to the NRF. We face particularly challenging times ahead as a research community in the wake of COVID-19 so we sincerely thank you once again, now and always, for your continued support of the NRF.



A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a circular mark followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Associate Professor Renée Turner
NRF Director of NeuroSurgical Research

BRAIN TUMOUR RESEARCH

PROF STUART PITSON, CENTRE FOR CANCER BIOLOGY UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Our research is focused on two different types of brain tumour; glioblastoma and medulloblastoma, which are the most common malignant brain tumours in adults and children, respectively. In the last few years we have worked with local neurosurgeons and the South Australian Neurological Tumour Bank to establish a 'living biobank' of glioblastoma cells extracted from patient tumours, and from this generated a series of powerful resources to advance glioblastoma research in South Australia.

This includes our collaborative studies with Dr Guillermo Gomez (Centre for Cancer Biology) to grow these tumour cells in the laboratory as cutting-edge 'organoid' cultures, which allows advanced laboratory screening for new glioblastoma drugs. Indeed, this research now also provides a critical platform for glioblastoma drug screening efforts in Melbourne, Canberra and Brisbane.

We have also established advanced pre-clinical models of glioblastoma, and are currently using these to test new approaches for glioblastoma therapy; both those developed by us to better deliver new drugs to the tumour, and in collaborative efforts with several other local research groups that have also developed potential new drugs and immunotherapies for these tumours.

We hope that by taking this multi-pronged approach, we will enhance our chances of finding new therapies for these tumours.

While our research into children's medulloblastoma is not as advanced, we have found an attractive new therapeutic target for forms of this tumour, and from this knowledge developed new drugs that we hope may be more effective and safer than those currently available.

We are now aiming to develop medulloblastoma research resources similar to those we have established for glioblastoma to both examine our new drugs, and to advance other research in South Australia into these terrible childhood brain tumours.

HANNAH'S FINAL GIFT TO BRAIN TUMOUR RESEARCH



On January 24, 2020, a new EVOS M5000 Imaging System and a plaque in memory of Hannah Philbey was unveiled in front of her loved ones and researchers working to find a cure for fatal brain cancer – the disease that tragically took her life in 2018.

Thanks to funds raised by her loved ones and the NRF, the \$22,500 all-in-one digital microscope, camera and computer will become an integral part of the Lab as it will allow for greater understanding of the effects of new drugs on tumour cell survival and migration, as well as for understanding the roles of genetic mutations in driving tumour growth and invasion.



PROJECTS FUNDED BY NRF PERPETUAL FELLOWSHIPS

PROJECT: Development of genetically engineered adoptive cell therapies to treat diffuse midline glioma in children

FUNDING: \$50,000 – NRF Paediatric Research Fund
University of Adelaide

PROJECT OVERVIEW: Standard treatments for childhood brain cancers are unsatisfactory. The cancer cells grow back and cause death in almost all patients. Breakthrough treatments using engineered white blood cells have transformed survival prospects for patients with blood cancers. We want to extend the promise of this cell therapy to brain cancer patients. Here, we will combine our expertise in basic and clinical science to develop a new cell therapy program and so harness the power of the immune system to beat brain cancer. A brain cancer diagnosis is devastating news for anyone, but for the family of a young child to find out they have rare, inoperable and incurable brain cancer such as Diffuse Midline Glioma (DMG) it is particularly upsetting. Less than 1% of children diagnosed with this cancer will be alive after 5 years.

“THESE INNOVATIVE NEW THERAPIES SUPER-POWER THE IMMUNE SYSTEM AND ALLOW A PATIENT’S OWN WHITE BLOOD CELLS TO IDENTIFY AND DESTROY THEIR TUMOUR. THESE CELL THERAPIES HAVE HAD INCREDIBLE SUCCESS IN TREATING SOME CHILDHOOD LEUKAEMIA...”

Radical new treatment options are needed, and this is where our project comes in. We are developing cell-based ‘biological’ rather than pharmaceutical therapies known as CAR-T cells and CAR-NKT cells. These innovative new therapies super-power the immune system and allow a patient’s own white blood cells to identify and destroy their tumour. These cell therapies have had incredible success in treating some childhood leukaemia (up to 86% of patients respond completely to treatment) and our team is now seeking to apply them to other tumour types including paediatric brain cancer. The grant will enable us to bring cutting-edge cell therapy technology over from the US (Baylor College of Medicine, Texas) and perform safety testing of the CAR-T and CAR-NKT cells in preparation for clinical trials to be conducted at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and Sydney Children’s Hospital.



Dr Tessa Gargett - Centre for Cancer Biology - University of South Australia



PARKINSON'S DISEASE & TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (TBI)



JAMES & DIANA
RAMSAY
FOUNDATION

The James & Diana Ramsay Foundation became a valued funding partner of the NRF in 2013. The NRF is thankful for their ongoing support of the important research projects outlined below.

CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

PROJECT: Targeting inflammation to prevent brain swelling following paediatric head injury

FUNDING: James & Diana Ramsay Foundation - University of South Australia \$71,500 x 3 years total \$214,500



PROJECT OVERVIEW: This project will investigate a potential therapeutic, an NK1 antagonist, which blocks the actions of the pro-inflammatory mediator substance P, which is present in higher levels in children. Substance P release causes ongoing neuronal injury and blocking its effects represents a novel mechanism for improving outcome. In 2019, urgent research to improve survival and recovery for children with a traumatic brain injury started at the University of South Australia and the University of Adelaide thanks to funding from the NRF and the James & Diana Ramsay Foundation.

The three-year funded project uses cutting edge cerebral micro-dialysis technology to test a promising therapeutic agent that could drastically reduce death and disability in young head injury patients. Led by Dr Frances Corrigan, the research will also utilise Australia's only preclinical paediatric brain injury model, developed in partnership with the University of Adelaide. "Paediatric head injury is a leading cause of death and long-term disability in children in Australia," says Dr Frances Corrigan who will work alongside her colleague - neuroscientist Assoc Prof Renée Turner and Adelaide neurosurgeon Assoc Prof Amal Abou-Hamden on the project. Through this work the team will also seek molecular markers so children at higher risk of severe brain swelling can be identified for more aggressive treatment sooner in order to promote survival and recovery.

PARKINSON'S DISEASE

PROJECT: The evolution of decision-making impairment in Parkinson's disease (PD): Prediction and prevention

FUNDING: James & Diana Ramsay Foundation \$73,229 x 3 years total \$219,687



PROJECT OVERVIEW: This project will develop a comprehensive behavioural testing battery to characterise differences in the integrity of specific basal ganglia circuits involved in decision making in different subtypes of PD. Additionally, we will identify genes relevant to basal ganglia circuit function that may predict risk and progression of cognitive decline in PD. Assoc Prof Lyndsey Collins-Praino at the University of Adelaide said funding from the James & Diana Ramsay Foundation would result in a rich database on how decision-making is altered in PD, how these alterations

are influenced by specific genetic factors, as well as by motor subtype of the disease, and how decision-making may decline over time. Being able to track changes in decision-making over the course of the disease is a critical first step developing a way to predict risk and progression of cognitive decline in PD and to potentially prevent it.

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT MEDICAL RESEARCH FUTURE FUND (MRFF)

PROJECT: Forecasting Impairment and Neurodegenerative disease risk following Traumatic Brain Injury (FIND-TBI): A computational neurology-driven method to predict long-term prognosis.

FUNDING: The University of Adelaide was awarded \$1,987,160 in funding from the Australian Government's MRFF to examine the long-term consequences & risk of Parkinson's disease development following Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).



PROJECT OVERVIEW: The project will be led by Assoc Prof Lyndsey Collins-Praino, while Dr Frances Corrigan and Assoc Prof Renée Turner will manage the Biomarker component. "We are extremely grateful to the MRFF for their investment in our research, as well as to both the NRF and James & Diana Ramsay Foundation, who provided the critical seed funding that helped us to get this project off the ground," Assoc Prof Collins-Praino said. The multi-disciplinary research team includes the University of Adelaide, the Royal Adelaide Hospital, Clinical & Research Imaging Centre (CRIC – a collaboration between SAHMRI and Dr Jones & Partners), Parkinson's SA and CSIRO.



DID YOU KNOW?

Each year it is estimated that 10 million people worldwide suffer a traumatic brain injury. Conservative estimates indicate there are around 70,000 people living with Parkinson's in Australia.



LIFE MEMBERS, FRIENDS, BENEFACTORS & AMBASSADORS

NRF LIFE MEMBERS

Helli Campbell
Derek Frewin AO
Brian North AO

Richard Campbell
Carolyn Hewson AO
Robert Searcy

Richard Fewster
Robert Neill
Mel Zerner

FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION - PLATINUM (\$500,000+)

James & Diana Ramsay Foundation South Australian Police

FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION - GOLD (\$100,000+)

June Bowman
Harvey Foundation
Strong Enough to Live

Coopers Brewery Foundation
Jody Koerner
Wilkins Family Foundation

Dr Jones & Partners
Judy Rischbieth

MAJOR BENEFACTORS - SILVER (\$50,000+)

Barbara Kelley & Family

MAJOR BENEFACTORS - BRONZE (\$25,000+)

Fred Caruso
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Jo Cooper
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Rosemary Waterman

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Pam Downward
Lucinda Gregory
Bethwyn Levi
Missy Pascoe
Allys Todd
Dean Williams

TREVOR DINNING DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD OVER 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Nick Vrodos

DONALD SIMPSON DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD OVER 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Di Floreani
Jessica Anderson

GOVERNMENT HOUSE 28 NOVEMBER 2019

This reception hosted by His Excellency the Governor and Mrs Le at Government House, acknowledged the outstanding contributions of several personal, community and corporate benefactors who have contributed to the success of the Foundation over the past 3 years.

Executive Officer, Ginta Orchard congratulated the award recipients and thanked them for their support. "Our sincere thanks to all the award recipients for their dedication and commitment to our cause, it enables the NRF to fund life-saving neurosurgical research in South Australia," she said.



Mr David Coorey,
The Honourable Hieu Van Le AC



The Adams Family,
The Honourable Hieu Van Le AC



Mr Grant Stevens, Ms Linda Williams
The Honourable Hieu Van Le AC



Ms Kerry de Lorme,
The Honourable Hieu Van Le AC



The Wilkins Family,
The Honourable Hieu Van Le AC



Ms Melanie Cooper AM,
The Honourable Hieu Van Le AC

Friend of the Foundation Platinum (\$500,000+)

- ★ SA Police Ride Like Crazy (Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of South Australia Police)
- ★ James & Diana Ramsay Foundation (Ms Kerry de Lorme)

Friend of the Foundation Gold (\$100,000+)

- ★ Coopers Brewery Foundation (Ms Melanie Cooper AM)
- ★ Dr Jones & Partners (Mr David Coorey)
- ★ Strong Enough To Live (Adams Family)
- ★ Wilkins Family Foundation (Wilkins Family)

RESEARCH FUNDED BY THE NRF IN 2020 \$667,514

- ◆ *Prof Stuart Pitson* – Brain Tumour Equipment – In Memoriam Hannah Philbey – Uni SA - **\$21,561**
- ◆ *Dr Nirmal Robinson* – Brain Tumour Research – Uni SA - **\$29,690**
- ◆ *Dr Paul Trim* – Neurodegeneration Research – SAHMRI - **\$29,998**
- ◆ *Dr Melinda Tea* - Paediatric Brain Tumour Research – Uni SA - **\$34,727**
- ◆ *Dr Stephen Santoreneos* – Women's & Children's Hospital Equipment – Wilkins Family Foundation - **\$17,074**
- ◆ *Assoc Prof Amal Abou-Hamden* – Paediatric Research – Women's & Children's Hospital - **\$30,000**
- ◆ *Dr Frances Corrigan* – Paediatric TBI – James & Diana Ramsay Foundation – Uni Adel - **\$71,500**
- ◆ *Assoc Prof Lyndsey Collins-Praino* – Parkinson's disease – James & Diana Ramsay Foundation - **\$73,229**
- ◆ *Dr Anna Leonard* – Spinal Cord Injury Research – Uni Adel - **\$31,688**
- ◆ *Dr Gobert Lee* – Spinal Cord Injury Research – Flinders Uni - **\$16,360**
- ◆ *Assoc Prof Renée Turner* – Stroke Research – Perpetual – Uni Adel - **\$83,304**
- ◆ *Assoc Prof Renée Turner* – Stroke Research – Coopers Brewery Foundation – Uni Adel - **\$142,400**
- ◆ *Assoc Prof Renée Turner* – TBI Research – City to Bay – Uni Adel - **\$9,668**
- ◆ *Dr Amy Claire Reichelt* – Traumatic Brain Injury Research – Uni Adel **\$29,960**
- ◆ *Dr Frances Corrigan* – TBI Equipment – Wilkins Family Foundation – Uni Adel - **\$46,355**

COOPERS GOLF DAY



The NRF was the recipient of the funds raised at the Coopers Brewery Foundation's 11th Golf Day on Thursday 30th May 2019 at Kooyonga Golf Club.

The Golf Day raised an incredible \$142,400 for Stroke Research.

The day was a great success - attracting 120 players, 30 teams and 17 corporate hole sponsors, who created a festive atmosphere for the golfers by providing a variety of entertainment activities and catering on course. Raising money towards Stroke research funding, a new project to use the brains' own protective mechanisms to treat stroke. This research will aim to reduce the amount of brain tissue injured, facilitate recovery and improve patient outcomes.

With special thanks to Kooyonga Golf Club, MC Tom Rhen and Auctioneers Ouwens Casserly Real Estate – Sharon Gray and Bernie Altschwager.



Left - Golf Day participants. Above - Dr Tim Cooper AM, Assoc Prof Renee Turner, Ms Melanie Cooper AM, Ms Leanne Gelly, Ms Ginta Orchard.



The Golf Day raised an incredible \$142,400 for Stroke Research.

WILKINS FAMILY FOUNDATION

The Wilkins Family Foundation gave two generous gifts recently, which will help researchers and surgeons make a real difference. The Foundation is comprised of Michael and Sandy and their three children, Kelsey, Kristen and Mitchell Wilkins.

Several years ago Kristen received a brain tumour diagnosis and has since recovered and is doing well. It was this experience that prompted the family to want to give back and help others going through similar situations.



On Thursday 13th February 2020, the NRF held a thank you ceremony, attended by Michael, Sandy and Kristen Wilkins, University of Adelaide researchers Assoc Prof Reneé Turner, Dr Frances Corrigan and NRF representatives at the ComPath research facility at Gilles Plains.

NRF Executive Officer Ginta Orchard thanked the Wilkins Family Foundation for their generous donation, which has enabled the purchase of three new pieces of vital medical research equipment for the University of Adelaide.

“The NRF is extremely grateful for the support of the Wilkins Family Foundation. This project will contribute to improved patient outcomes for those people living with Traumatic Brain Injury and Stroke,” she said.

In October 2019, the Foundation also generously donated funds to the Women’s and Children’s Hospital, enabling the purchase of new neurosurgical equipment which will save children’s lives.

The neurosurgical team led by Dr Stephen Santoreneos and Dr Cindy Molloy at WCH recommended the purchase of Aneurysm Applicators and Fukushima Suckers. This equipment enables neurosurgeons to clip aneurysms and stop them from bleeding into the brain.

The WCH neurosurgical team thanked Sandy and Michael Wilkins on behalf of the Foundation at the WCH on Wednesday 30 October 2019 and was attended by Dr Stephen Santoreneos, Dr Cindy Molloy, Dr Amal Abou-Hamden, Dr Xenia Doorenbosch, Dr Stephanie Chan and Dr David Tredan.



HOW TO SUPPORT THE NRF



The objective of the foundation is directed towards funding research into the cause, diagnosis, prevention and treatment of disease or malfunction of the brain, spine and nerves and it is through the generosity of our supporters that we are able to continue this life saving work.

DONATIONS AND REGULAR MONTHLY PAYMENTS



The NRF relies on your generosity to continue to support vital neurological and neurosurgical research and to be able to donate equipment for both research and treatment.

Regular monthly donations are a great way to spread your giving throughout the year, and an annual statement summarising your donations will be delivered to you.

One-off donations and regular monthly donations can be made either online, at www.nrf.com.au, by clicking the “Donate Now” button, or by completing the enclosed form.

GIFTS IN WILLS



Looking for a way to make your final wishes really count? Consider leaving a gift in your Will to the NeuroSurgical Research Foundation.

To leave a gift in your Will to the Foundation, contact your solicitor, who will advise you of the required documentation. The correct full name to be listed in your Will should read NeuroSurgical Research Foundation.

We wish to thank Annie Roman and Ronald Graham Dalip for leaving a Gift in their Will to the NeuroSurgical Research Foundation in the last 5 years. These contributions enabled the NRF to establish the \$1million NRF Chair of Brain Tumour Research.

IN MEMORIAM DONATIONS



In memoriam gifts are donations that may be made in lieu of sending flowers, or in memory of a loved friend, relative, or colleague. They are a positive and thoughtful way to honour the memory of a loved one. Family members are notified of all donors, and gifts are receipted and acknowledged promptly.

The NRF wishes to acknowledge the following In Memoriam donations received from families and friends in memory of their loved ones:

Amanda Maiolo	Kim Morris	Carol Moule
Eve Nowakowski	Mark Brenton Standley	Margaret Walker McAlister

IN CELEBRATION DONATIONS



Next time you're celebrating a birthday, anniversary, engagement, or special event, why not ask friends and family to skip presents and donate to lifesaving research instead.

The NRF wishes to acknowledge the following In Celebration donation received this year:

Prue Astley	Jeremy Thompson
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THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY FUNDRAISERS

In October 2019 the NRF supported three fundraisers in memory of three special people – Carmel Maio, Hannah Philbey and Imogen Cenko.

PICNIC FOR CARMEL



The 'Picnic for Carmel' event was held in memory of Carmel Maio who sadly passed away from a brain tumour. The event was organised by Carmel's husband Carmine and their families. The event was organised in partnership with the Adelaide Rev Heads 'Cars for a Cause' event on the 20th October in Athelstone, raising an incredible \$14,000 for brain tumour research.

100% PURE 90S



'100% Pure 90s' was a gig performed by the friends and cousin of Hannah Philbey, a young Mum and NRF Ambassador who sadly passed away from brain cancer. This fantastic event raised vital funds for NRF brain tumour research. The event on October 25th raised \$6,000.

SHAMROCK SHIMMI FOR IMMI



On October 26, Kate and Paul Cenko and family held a fun event at the Irish Club in memory of their daughter Imogen - 'Shamrock Shimmi for Immi' was a wonderful event celebrating the life of their daughter and raised \$14,000 for brain swelling research.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FOR YEAR END 31 MARCH 2020



The NeuroSurgical Research Foundation Inc Statement of Comprehensive Income

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
NOTE		
INCOME - RESEARCH FUND		
Donations and Fundraising	893,913	894,217
TOTAL INCOME	893,913	894,217
LESS EXPENSES		
Research Grant Expenditure	4 673,528	1,189,126
SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT) RESEARCH FUND	220,385	(294,909)
INCOME - INVESTMENT FUND		
Investment Income	(269,151)	294,846
Membership	905	700
TOTAL INCOME	(268,246)	295,546
LESS EXPENSES		
Administrative Expenses	179,356	154,001
Surplus (deficit) - Investment Fund	(447,602)	141,545
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME / (LOSS)	(227,217)	(153,364)

NOTE 4 RESEARCH GRANTS EXPENDITURE

NRF Chair of NeuroSurgical Research Neurodegeneration	73,229	57,438
NRF Chair of NeuroSurgical Research Stroke	225,704	---
NRF Chair of NeuroSurgical Research SCI/TBI	9,698	54,812
Paediatric Research	71,500	---
Paediatric - other	31,214	---
Equipment - Royal Adelaide Hospital	46,058	---
Equipment - Women's and Children's Hospital	16,985	---
University SA - NRF Brain Tumour Chair	---	905,779
University SA - Brain Tumour Research	21,561	1,600
Unallocated research grants	177,579	169,497
	673,528	1,189,126

NOTE 5 UNALLOCATED RESEARCH GRANTS PAYABLE

Opening Balance	195,226	281,550
University SA - Brain Tumour Research	(99,959)	---
University SA - Traumatic Brain Injury	(30,000)	---
University SA - Brain Tumour Research	(20,000)	---
University SA - Brain Tumour Research	(29,615)	---
University SA - Chris Adams Scholarship	---	(120,000)
University SA - Brain Tumour Chair	---	(94,221)
Flinders University - Brain Tumour Bank	---	(41,600)
Current year expense	177,579	169,497
Closing Balance	193,231	195,226

The NeuroSurgical Research Foundation Inc Statement of Financial Position

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
NOTE		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	469,884	81,439
Inventories	500	500
Prepayments and accrued income	5,080	3,292
Accrued income	69	---
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	475,533	85,231
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Office Equipment and Computer Software	508	1,201
Managed Investment Portfolio	3,821,072	4,310,417
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	3,821,580	4,311,618
TOTAL ASSETS	4,297,113	4,396,849
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Payables	122,195	1,866
Unallocated research grants payable	5 193,231	195,226
Accrued expenses	4,217	---
Provisions	6,801	4,902
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	326,444	201,994
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Provisions	12,970	9,939
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	12,970	9,939
TOTAL LIABILITIES	339,414	211,933
NET ASSETS	3,957,699	4,184,916
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS	3,957,699	4,184,916

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACCUMULATED FUNDS

Year ended 31 March 2020	Investment Fund	Research Fund	Total
Accumulated funds at beginning of year	4,141,545	43,371	4,184,916
Total comprehensive income	(447,602)	220,385	(227,217)
Accumulated funds at end of year	3,693,943	263,756	3,957,699
Year ended 31 March 2019	Investment Fund	Research Fund	Total
Accumulated funds at beginning of year	3,903,647	434,633	4,338,280
Total comprehensive income	141,545	(294,909)	(153,364)
Transfer	96,353	(96,353)	---
Accumulated funds at end of year	4,141,545	43,371	4,184,916

This financial report has been prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1985 (SA) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. These pages are extracts from the Audited Financial Statement. If you require a full set of the Financial Statement, please contact Ginta Orchard - Hon Secretary by either phone (08) 8371 0771 or email ginta.orchard@nrf.com.au.

Thank you to William Buck for pro-bono audit services.

CITY TO BAY 2019

NRF Team Neuro had another very successful year, raising over \$25,300 for world-class neurosurgical research. Thank you to all our wonderful participants, sponsors, volunteers and friends who took part or volunteered. Thank you to our 212 donors, 10 volunteers and a team of 70 City to Bay runners. What an incredible achievement – your support saves lives!

This support will enable the NRF to fund research into brain cancer, brain tumours, Parkinson's disease, concussion, stroke, spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury and paediatric research. We are so lucky to have such a dedicated and committed team of fundraisers and supporters who take part in this event regularly and continue to do their bit to raise funds for the NRF. In fact, over the past 8 years, NRF Team Neuro has raised more than \$320,000.



Thank you to NRF Team Neuro!

Fundraisers – Runners -Walkers - Volunteers:

- Dr Jones & Partners staff
- Mark Zanella
- Dr Stephen & Maria Santoreneos
- Sandy & Kristin Wilkins
- Stuart Pitson Lab – UniSA/CCB
- Stuart Pitson & family
- Tom & Cheynne Willis
- Leech family - Tyson, Ollie, Bailey & Narelle
- Dr Amal Abou-Hamden & family
- Running for Richard - Buttery family & friends
- Nadia Kingham - Felicity
- Jason Powell & family
- Mel, Mel, Lori, Victoria, Manjun, Hi & Thao
- Dr Nick, Anna & Nicholas Vrodos





The Neurosurgical Research Foundation Inc. was formed in 1963 and was the first of its kind in Australia. 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. Our researchers share a common goal, to improve the lives of people facing a neurosurgical or neurological disease diagnosis, now and in the future.

We fund research into neurosurgical and neurological conditions including:

- ★ Brain Tumours & Brain Cancer
- ★ Paediatric Research
- ★ Neurotrauma:
 - Spinal Cord Injury
 - Traumatic Brain Injury
- ★ Neurodegeneration
 - Parkinson's disease
 - Concussion


There are many ways you can help to fund our research.

- ★ Give today.
- ★ Pledge over time – join as a regular giver.
- ★ Fundraise for us.

Plan for the future – make a gift in your will.

Donations to the NeuroSurgical Research Foundation are tax deductible.

 @NRFTeamNeuro

 @NeuroSurgR

 @neurosurgicalresearch



NeuroSurgical Research Foundation

Executive Officer: Ginta Orchard

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Mobile: 0419 844511

Email: info@nrf.com.au

Website & Online Donations: www.nrf.com.au

The NeuroSurgical Research Foundation acknowledges the traditional Country of the Kaurna people of the Adelaide Plains and pays respect to Elders past and present.