




NEURONEWS

FUNDING LIFESAVING NEUROSURGICAL RESEARCH

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STROKE RESEARCH



NRF
NeuroSurgical Research Foundation

ANNABEL SORBY-ADAMS

Final year PhD Candidate - University of Adelaide

“I HOPE MY RESEARCH WILL IMPROVE
THE LIVES AND OUTCOMES FOR
THOSE AFFECTED IN YEARS TO COME.”



What is your PhD research focused on?

“Over 17 million people worldwide experience a stroke each year (one person every 2 seconds), two thirds of which will die or be left permanently disabled as a result. Specifically, I am researching the development of cerebral oedema and associated rise in intracranial pressure, complications which can arise post stroke, contributing to mortality and poor outcomes.

“Unfortunately, limited treatment options for these processes currently exist. That’s where my research comes in! I am seeking to

evaluate a new treatment to halt these damaging complications and improve stroke outcomes,” Annabel said.

What motivated you to pursue this area of research?

“In the midst of studying for my first-year exams, I experienced a stroke. Thankfully it was minor, however, at only 19 this experience had a profound impact on me. I was compelled to understand what had happened, to learn more about the human brain and how lives can be changed so drastically when it is damaged. In pursuit of this knowledge my passion for neuroscience was ignited.

“After a full recovery, I continued my undergraduate degree in Health and Medical Science at the University of Adelaide, majoring in Neuroscience, Pathology and Physiology,

ultimately leading me to on my Honours and PhD, with a focus on post-stroke complications and treatment development,” she said.

How do you hope your research will help patients who suffer a stroke?

“Developing new therapies for stroke and its complications has the potential to be impactful for both current and future generations, and I hope my research will improve the lives and outcomes for those affected in years to come. In the short-term, I hope the NK1-R clinical trials will reveal favourable results so that the treatment can be approved for use in the treatment of cerebral oedema and elevated intracranial pressure following stroke,” Annabel said.

Read the full interview:
www.nrf.com.au/news

HOW TO SUPPORT US



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Organise a fundraiser



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Research Foundation

RESEARCH CHANGES LIVES

“WITH 60 MEMBERS ATTENDING, IT WAS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO MEET IN PERSON AND DISCUSS THE IMPACT OF YOUR DONATIONS”



RESEARCHERS INCLUDED:

- **Prof Stuart Pitson**
NRF Chair of Brain Tumour Research – University of South Australia
- **Dr Lisa Ebert**
Brain Tumour Researcher – University of South Australia
- **Assoc Prof Lyndsey Collins-Praino**
- Parkinson's disease Researcher – University of Adelaide
- **Ryan Dorrian**
Honours candidate - Spinal cord injury Researcher – University of Adelaide
- **Annabel Sorby-Adams**
PhD candidate - Stroke Researcher – University of Adelaide

With 60 members attending, it was a wonderful opportunity to meet in person and discuss the impact of your donations, fundraising and support impacts positive research outcomes.

We would like to thank everyone who attended for adhering to the COVID-19 safety regulations. It was the first physical event we have held since COVID-19 in 2020 and we were so pleased to be able to share this with you all in person. We thank you for your continued support.

Visit www.nrf.com.au for full details and to watch the video versions of the speaker's presentations.

At the NRF Annual General Meeting on Wednesday September 23, 2020 five key NRF researchers presented an overview of their current work, showcasing the life-changing research being funded by the NRF, thanks to your support.

Assoc Prof Renée Turner, NRF Director of Neurosurgical Research from the University of Adelaide provided an update on the work of 16 researchers in the areas of Traumatic Brain Injury, Spinal Cord Injury, Stroke and Parkinson's disease.



BRAIN TUMOUR RESEARCH DR LISA EBERT

Dr Lisa Ebert is a Research Associate at the Centre for Cancer Biology - University of South Australia/ SA Pathology. She presented her latest research findings at the NRF's Annual Research presentations event. Her research is focused on supercharging the immune system to beat brain cancer.

"CAR-T cell therapy is a new type of cancer treatment based on

'supercharging' a patient's own immune system. It has shown great success in the treatment of certain blood cancers, and our team is now adapting this approach for the treatment of adult and childhood brain cancer," Dr Ebert said.

To find out more about this research please visit www.nrf.com.au.

“LISA'S RESEARCH IS FOCUSED ON SUPERCHARGING THE IMMUNE SYSTEM TO BEAT BRAIN CANCER”

OVER \$277,000 IN NEW RESEARCH FUNDED

THANKS TO YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS, the following new research grants are being funded by the NRF in 2021 – covering Brain Tumour (adult and paediatric), Traumatic Brain Injury and Neurodegeneration and Spinal Cord Injury research.

The NRF is proud to be funding world-class research at SA's three universities, in addition to the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) and the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

Visit www.nrf.com.au for full details.

• BRAIN TUMOUR RESEARCH



Dr Briony Gliddon

University of South Australia,
Centre for Cancer Biology

Targeting cyclin-dependent kinase 4 in glioblastoma - **\$29,972**



Dr Guillermo Gomez

University of South Australia,
Centre for Cancer Biology

Identification and targeting of the master regulators of glioma cancer cell plasticity to overcome therapy resistance in glioblastoma - **\$29,856**



Dr Nirmal Robinson

University of South Australia
Centre for Cancer Biology

Targeting Endoplasmic Reticulum-specific autophagy using a small molecule to treat glioblastoma - **\$29,690**



Dr Lisa Ebert

University of South Australia
Centre for Cancer Biology

Optimising a new immunotherapy approach for glioblastoma - **\$30,000**

• PAEDIATRIC BRAIN TUMOUR



Dr Mel Tea

University of South Australia
Centre for Cancer Biology

Developing preclinical models of sonic hedgehog medulloblastoma and assessment of targeting 14-3-3 in these models - **\$49,925**

• TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY & NEURODEGENERATION



Dr Amy Claire Reichelt

University of Adelaide

The role of diet in mediating the effect on cognitive impairment and cortical perineuronal net alterations following traumatic brain injury - **\$29,960**



Dr Paul J. Trim

SA Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI)

Does the brainstem drive neurodegeneration following traumatic brain injury? - **\$29,998**

• SPINAL CORD INJURY



Dr Gobert Lee

Flinders University

Deep Synthesis of Spinal CT Images from MRI for Neurosurgical Planning – Improving Workflow and Minimising Exposure to Ionisation Radiation - **\$16,360**



Dr Anna Leonard

University of Adelaide

Evaluating the efficacy of peripheral nerve stimulation via a novel graft antenna to reduce neuroinflammation in SCI - **\$31,688**



GIVE A GIFT WHICH MAKES A DIFFERENCE

CHRISTMAS CARDS

We have a range of beautiful Christmas Card designs to choose from! All proceeds go to the NRF and help fund life-saving neurosurgical research. To purchase your Christmas Cards simply email info@nrf.com.au or phone us on 08 8371 0771.



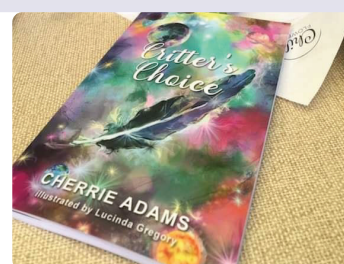
CRITTER'S CHOICE

By Cherrie Adams from Strong Enough to Live

Read this inspiring book written by Cherrie Adams whose son Christopher 'Crittter' Adams sadly passed away from a brain tumour aged 26 years. All proceeds from the sale of this book will go to brain tumour research. Order your copy online! www.nrf.com.au

A book of hope, love, loss, Life and Death.

Mother writes book after loss of her son from brain cancer.



BUY A SCENTED CANDLE

Limited edition 100% Soybean Wax soy candles are available in 5 different scents: Cranberry, Coconut Lime, Vanilla, Pomegranite and Grapefruit. Handmade by Wickhead Scents from Adelaide – these make a perfect Christmas gift for this year, plus you will be supporting brain tumour research. Candles can be delivered to you. **Please order online or call us on 08 8371 0771.**



ENTER TO WIN \$250,000 CASH!

Looking for a great gift idea to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or even a thank you gift? Play For Purpose tickets are the perfect win-win gift. It's the gift that gives you the chance to win amazing prizes, all while supporting Neurosurgical Research Foundation. **A minimum of \$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 - November 25th! So, put it in your diary!

Play For Purpose Draw 9 closes at 08:00pm on 17 December 2020, and will be drawn at approximately 10:30am AEST on 18 December 2020. 395 winners are selected at random in order of prize level.

Visit our website for more information! www.nrf.com.au

CHRISTMAS EVENT ALL WELCOME

Brain Tumour Research Christmas Lunch

Adelaide Brain Tumour Support, together with the NeuroSurgical Research Foundation, invite you to join us for a Christmas Lunch at the Strathmore Hotel. Meet and chat with the researchers, enjoy a Christmas themed lunch, and take part in a raffle!

Hear from three world-leading researchers from the University of South Australia/Centre for Cancer Biology's Brain Tumour Research Laboratory.

- **Professor Stuart Pitson**
- **Dr Mel Tea**
Research Associate
- **Dr Lisa Ebert**
Research Associate

Event Information:

Saturday 21st Nov
12pm to 2pm
Booking essential

Tickets: \$30 – all proceeds go to brain tumour research in South Australia

Includes lunch / coffee or soft drink, 1 raffle ticket and a gift

Venue: Strathmore Hotel, North Terrace, Adelaide

RSVP Essential due to COVID-19 regulations.

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