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# NRF

NeuroSurgical Research Foundation

SPRING

## World Class Research at NRF AGM



“At the NRF Annual General Meeting Professor Robert Vink introduced this year’s team of researchers from the University of Adelaide Centre for Neuroscience Research”

**Each research project is of world class standard and at the forefront of its field.**

**Stroke** is a leading cause of death and disability worldwide, often presenting with paralysis of the arm and leg. Each year, stroke affects 15 million people worldwide and in Australia, there is one stroke every 10 minutes. More than 1,000 drugs are known to be effective in small models of stroke but only one has successfully translated into an effective clinical therapy. Dr Renée Turner has developed the only large model in the world that will enable translation of experimental discoveries into effective stroke treatments.

**Parkinson’s disease (PD)** affects 1 in 350 Australians with 30 new cases every day. In PD, dopamine levels decrease due to a slow and progressive death of brain cells. It is critical for the treatment of PD to target this cell death. Dr Emma Thornton is the only researcher in the world who has identified that substance P plays a role in dopamine cell death. When we block its action

with an antagonist, we protect dopamine cells and restore brain function. Testing this discovery in patients is in progress.

**Brain tumours** are the leading cause of cancer related deaths in the under-40 year olds. Elizabeth Harford-Wright is the first in the world to show that the lethal complication of brain swelling is associated with increased substance P in leaky blood vessels around brain tumours. Treatment that blocks substance P reduces brain swelling which in turn may treat one of the serious complications of brain tumours.

**Traumatic brain injury (TBI)** is the leading cause of death in Australians under the age of 44 years. Frances Corrigan has worked with APP, a protein that protects the brain. She has identified that a modified version of APP is as effective as the entire protein in brain protection.

This may well lead to improved treatment of TBI and better outcomes.

**Brain swelling** in patients with TBI poses a critical threat to them; it accounts for 50% of all deaths and is a leading cause of disability for survivors. Kimberley Mander has worked with water channels in the brain. Using drugs exclusive to the Centre’s laboratory, these channels are targeted by activating or blocking the channels. To date, these are the only worldwide agents known to block channels and are potentially the basis of treatment to prevent, slow, or reduce the formation of brain swelling and so improve patient outcome.





# City to Bay 2012 - NRF Team Neuro Sponsored by Dr Jones & Partners

NRF Team Neuro was made up of the following teams and participants who raised \$50,000 for neurosurgical research.



## Dr Jones & Partners Team

Not only did Dr Jones & Partners sponsor NRF Team Neuro but their amazing staff – David, Amy, Lucy, Amanda and Nicholas – took part and raised \$2,000.



Rebecca, Carolyn, Ginta, Rita, Heather



Anna, Corrina & Ian



Di with friends & family



## Aussie Farmers Direct

Quality. Convenience. Everyday.

Thank you to Aussie Farmers Direct for sponsoring the NRF Team Neuro village site and breakfast. They donated fruit, water and the marquees so a great breakfast could be supplied for all the NRF Team Neuro participants.



Moira, Randall, David, Tim and Jessica joined the team, raising \$1,000. Pictured here are Tim and David joined by researcher Corrina.

## NRF Members & Ambassadors Included:

**NRF Patron:** Carolyn Hewson

**Neurosurgeon:** Amal

**University of Adelaide researchers and staff:** Aye Aye, Corinna, Andrea, Kimberley & Kate

## Memorial Hospital staff:

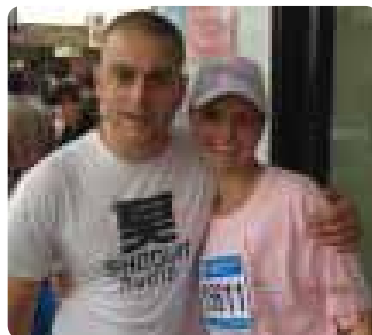
Rita & Heather

**RAH staff:** Melissa & Nicole

**NRF ambassador:** Di & family

**NRF members:** Ros, Ian & Anna.

All joined by friends and family who together walked and ran, while raising funds for neurosurgical research.



The Harris Foundation Team included 150 staff, friends and family who raised \$25,000 for brain tumour research. The team was led by Phil Harris, with Jaynie and Lucy recruiting participants and encouraging fundraising. There were BBQ's, additional events, even a Quiz Night in Roxby, which contributed to the fundraising total. Also joining in was



the Gross family. This cause was particularly special for them as their son Tom is currently battling with a brain tumour. Thank you to all participants, donors and fundraisers. *Pictured: Tom & Lucy*



## Krystal & Olivia Trimboli:

They were joined by friends, family and Olivia's neurosurgeon Amal, to raise funds for paediatric research.

*Pictured: Olivia & Amal*

# Introducing Tom Morris, NRF Neurosurgical Trainee Fellow for 2013



“I am very excited to be working with Professor Vink and his team in 2013, and I am very grateful to the NRF for their sponsorship. I’m hopeful that this research may have meaningful clinical utility into the future,” TOM MORRIS.

In 2013 he will be undertaking a Master of Philosophy degree under the guidance of Professor Robert Vink. His research will be looking into a new kind of therapy for the treatment of cerebral vasospasm, a cause of stroke in people who have suffered a specific kind of brain haemorrhage – subarachnoid haemorrhage. He plans on using a rat model of subarachnoid haemorrhage to see if these kinds of strokes can be prevented by injecting a protein normally found in the blood into the animal brains.

Tom grew up in Melbourne, and moved to Adelaide in 2001 to study medicine at the University of Adelaide. He met his wife, Kortnye, on the first day of medical school and they were married in their final year.

Tom commenced his internship at the Royal Adelaide Hospital in 2007, followed by three more years at the RAH in the Department of Neurosurgery.

Kortnye is currently a Physician trainee at the RAH and they have two children.

Tom is currently an advanced trainee in Neurosurgery at the RAH.



## Barbara Survives Traumatic Brain Injury

Barbara Kelley with her neurosurgeon Amal Abou-Hamden

Barbara lives a full life as an active 80-year-old, which includes looking after her grandson and doing Pilates as often as she can.

Barbara and her family are celebrating her survival and amazing recovery from a life threatening traumatic brain injury last year. It all happened very quickly, and suddenly she was in hospital fighting for her life.

Returning from a 40th birthday celebration, when walking up a steep driveway she tripped, fell and

hit her head, causing a brain haemorrhage.

Three lifesaving neurosurgical procedures were needed to stop the bleeding in her brain.

Barbara and her family are extremely grateful to the neurosurgical teams at both the RAH and Memorial Hospital and particularly to Dr Ashish Jonathan and Dr Amal Abou-Hamden for saving her life.

Barbara Kelley & Family

### Brain Tumour Survivors:

Toni, Natalia and Mel walked and ran, joined by friends and family.



# Ride Like Crazy

## Sunday 20 January 2013



Ride Like Crazy 2013 is raising funds to fight cancer. Since 2010 the event has attracted over 6,000 riders and raised a staggering \$480,000!!

### Fundraise And Ride For Free!

Help raise funds to fight cancer. The first 500 registered participants for RLC 2013 who raise \$300 through Everyday Hero are eligible for a full refund of their registration fee. Create an online fundraising page on our Ride Like Crazy web page [www.everydayhero.com.au/event/ridelikecrazy2013](http://www.everydayhero.com.au/event/ridelikecrazy2013)

Once you have reached \$300 or more, send us an email via the Ride Like Crazy website and we will refund your registration fee.

### For more information go to!

Website: [www.ridelikecrazy.com](http://www.ridelikecrazy.com)

Email: [ridelikecrazy@police.sa.gov.au](mailto:ridelikecrazy@police.sa.gov.au)



## Event Information!

If you want a jersey to wear on the day of the ride you must register by 4th November 2012.

Full distance	107.05 km
Short-cut route	90.82 km
Half distance	51.24 km
Adult \$110	all distances
Child \$55	all distances

Woodside transfer: \$15

## NRF Celebrating 50 years in 2013

### Important Diary Date:

“Gold ‘n Stars” Celebration Dinner

Friday 17th May 2013 Adelaide Entertainment Centre



We seek donations for the auction & silent auction. Please help us with fundraising on the night.

### Sponsors for the event are sought:

We invite companies to support this event through sponsorship – various levels are available.

If you are interested in sponsorship or donating items to this event, phone Ginta direct on 8371 0771.

### The type of items sought:

- Holiday, pamper, makeover and relaxation packages
- Luxury goods and jewellery
- Kitchenware and office accessories
- Electrical goods and vouchers
- Sports memorabilia and collectables
- Luxury food and drinks
- Entertainment and much more

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