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NRF

NeuroSurgical Research Foundation

AUTUMN

NRF 2012 AGM Wednesday 8th August

To be held at the Wakefield Hospital, 3rd Floor Auditorium, starting at 6pm. **Including Research Snapshot.** Presentations of research funded by your donations will be delivered by:



Renee Turner
Stroke: Laboratory
Models of Human Stroke



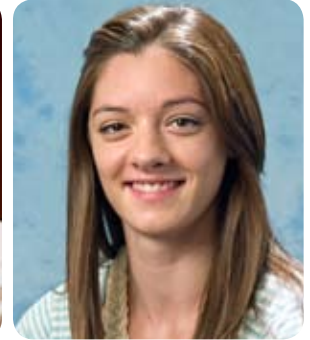
Emma Thornton
Parkinson's Disease:
Early Therapy



Elizabeth Harford-Wright
Brain Tumours:
Inflammation Linked to
Brain Tumours



Frances Corrigan
Traumatic Brain Injury:
Neuroprotection



Kimberly Mander
Brain Swelling:
Controlling Water
Channels

RSVP to Ginta phone 8371 0771 or email info@nrf.com.au

Please Renew Your Membership Now!

Membership costs \$5 per person, incl. GST, and is valid from 1st April 2012 – 31st March 2013.

Membership Entitlements:
Voting rights at the AGM, NRF Newsletters (three per year), a copy of the NRF Annual Report, an invitation to the AGM and the NRF Chair Lecture at the University of Adelaide.

Please show your commitment to supporting research into disease and injury of the brain, spine and nerves by continuing your NRF membership. Your Membership Subscription form is enclosed.

Stroke Research Update!



Dr Adam Wells

Dr. Adam Wells, neurosurgical trainee based at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, has entered his final year as a PhD student at the University of Adelaide under the supervision of Professor Robert Vink and Dr. Renee Turner.

Funded by the NRF, Dr. Wells' work has focused on understanding the highly complicated changes that occur early after stroke and the role of surgery in treatment.

Dr. Wells' groundbreaking work into the early stage of strokes was recognised last year when he was awarded the prestigious NIMMO Prize for best research at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

After this initial success, Dr. Wells and his team are now aiming to investigate the role of various therapies, including surgery that treats life-threatening swelling that occurs early after a stroke. The stroke team's work is highly unique, and addresses many of the problems that are a major obstacle to finding a treatment for stroke.

Last year in Australia 60,000 people suffered a stroke, and up to 80% of people that have a very large stroke die within the first week. The ongoing results of Dr. Wells' research has the potential to save thousands of lives every year.

Dr. Wells and the stroke team at the Adelaide Centre for Neuroscience Research are extremely grateful to have the generous contributions of the Neurosurgical Research Foundation to enable this vital research to continue.

Muriel Gunn Medical Research Trust Fund

Mr. David Gunn, Trustee of the Muriel Gunn Medical Research Trust Fund, and neurosurgeon, Dr. Amal Abou-Hamden, unveiled much needed clinical and research equipment for the Neurosurgical Departments at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and Women's & Children's Hospital.

This included:

1. Computer Equipment: to establish the paediatric neurosurgery database at the Adelaide Women's and Children's Hospital.

2. Ojemann Cortical Stimulators: used for brain tumour and epilepsy surgery in children and adults, and also in operations for tumours or other lesions in critical brain areas, which can be performed while the patient is conscious. The stimulator maps out the position of important brain areas (such as speech centre and motor strip) and so minimises surgical damage in critical areas. This is very important

equipment to ensure a successful outcome for patients.

3. Neuropilots: Operating microscopes are fitted with a "mouthpiece" or "neuropilot" to remove the need for the surgeon to move their hands away from the operating field in order to adjust the microscope. This is important for surgery of aneurysms and arterio-venous malformations of the brain and spinal cord. It is also particularly important for operations where one blood vessel needs to be connected to another using very fine sutures, in order to bypass an area of abnormality such as a giant aneurysm or an artery stenosis (the narrowing of a blood vessel whereby not enough blood is reaching a region of the brain).

The NRF along with the Muriel Gunn Research Trust Fund have funded Microscopic Instruments and fitted the operating microscopes with a "mouthpiece" or "neuropilot" to ensure

this procedure and many more are efficient and successful.

Without training, research, development and equipment, these life saving neurosurgical techniques are not possible.



Andrew *Stroke Survivor:*



Andrew was not feeling right, he was feeling light headed, had frequent headaches and had a kaleidoscope effect in his vision. For a farmer working with heavy machinery and long hours this was not good and especially not safe.

His wife Rose convinced him to see the doctor, this was almost too late as the following night Andrew suffered a stroke. He had been suffering multiple TIA's with further tests revealing a narrowing of an artery in the brain.

The implant of a stent to open up the artery was thought to be dangerous. Andrew needed a more complex neurosurgical procedure to bypass the narrowed blood vessel and prevent him from having a devastating stroke. This surgical procedure was formerly only available in Sydney.

Fortunately neurosurgeon Dr. Amal Abou-Hamden had just returned to Adelaide after 2 years in North America where she gained expertise in this type of surgery.

Andrew was the first in Adelaide to have this difficult but permanent solution to restore blood flow to his brain and prevent him from having further strokes.

He was out of hospital and home only seven days after this surgery.

Full stories available on the NRF website www.nrf.com.au.

Steven *Beats Giant Aneurysm:*



Steven suffered with headaches for four days. They increased to the point where he could no longer work. Thursday morning his wife was unable to wake him. He was taken to Hospital where a CT scan showed one of the largest brain aneurysms.

No one could believe Steven was alive.

The aneurysm was 4.8cm in diameter. Around the aneurysm was a further 5cm of swelling. To everyone's amazement the aneurysm had not ruptured but was partly calcified and filled with a blood clot. The pressure from the aneurysm combined with associated swelling had caused the brain to sleep.

On Steven and Bev's 11th wedding anniversary, he underwent mammoth surgery to save his life. A vein was harvested from his leg and used to bypass Stevens aneurysm and allowing safe clipping of his aneurysm.

Steve and his family are grateful to Dr. Amal Abou-Hamden and her neurosurgical team for their skill and attention to care in his life saving treatment. They are also extremely grateful to the ICU team at the RAH who were always attentive and caring in his recovery. Interestingly even before this incident his 11 year old daughter aspired to be a neurosurgeon. She is now even more motivated.

Just after 6 weeks since the headaches began Steven has returned to full time work.

WOMEN AND SUCCESS LUNCH

Date & Time: Friday 12th October, 12pm – 2pm
Venue: Adelaide Festival Centre
Tickets: \$120 per person, tables of 10 available

Generously sponsored by:

 **ERNST & YOUNG**
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 **FINLAYSONS**
LAWYERS

Three inspiring women share how their vision for positive change became stories of success.

Nationally recognized corporate executives and community activists, The Hon. Catherine Branson QC, Ms. Carolyn Hewson AO and Dr. Amal Abou-Hamden speak about the work-life balance, community activism and living a rewarding life as professional women in the 21st Century.

These three dynamic women draw on their years of experience to offer fresh, new and inspiring thoughts and approaches as to how they achieved passion, power and purpose in their lives and work.

The Hon. Catherine Branson QC

The President of the Australian Human Rights Commission and Human Rights Commissioner



The Hon. Catherine Branson is a former Federal Court judge turned human rights practitioner. Ms. Branson commenced a five year appointment as President of the Australian Human Rights Commission in October 2008, becoming the Human Rights Commissioner in July 2009. A dynamic advocate, Ms. Branson extends her support for the community at every opportunity.

Ms. Carolyn Hewson AO

Non-executive Director of BHP Billiton, Stockland Corporation, Westpac Banking Corporation & BT Investment Management



Ms. Hewson is recognized not only as a former Executive Director of the leading Australian investment bank Shroders, but also for her services to business and the community, especially the YWCA. In 2009 Ms. Hewson was made an Officer in the Order of Australia and in 2001 was awarded a Centenary Medal for service in business leadership. Few high-profile bankers have successfully balanced the rigors of Executive Directorships with an active involvement in and enthusiasm for contributing to the not-for-profit sector.

Dr. Amal Abou-Hamden

Neurosurgeon, Royal Adelaide Hospital Women's & Children's Hospital Memorial Hospital



Dr. Abou-Hamden is a leading Adelaide-based neurosurgeon specialising in neurovascular, paediatric and epilepsy surgery. A passionate supporter of the NeuroSurgical Research Foundation, she leads the NRF and the Ramsay Foundation-funded Paediatric Neurosurgery Research. Dr. Abou-Hamden is also a Senior Clinical Lecturer at the University of Adelaide.

IN MEMORIAM

The NRF pays tribute to Dr. Jeremy Hallpike, a valued NRF Life Member and donor who passed away last month. We would like to convey our deepest sympathy to Dr. Hallpike's family and friends.

The NRF is very grateful to the families of Rex Sweatman and Margaret Crompton (Kirkwood) for directing In Memoriam Donations to the NRF. Our thoughts are with the families and friends.

The Art of Giving

The We give of ourselves when we give gifts of the heart:
Love, kindness, joy, understanding, sympathy, tolerance, forgiveness.

We give of ourselves when we give gifts of the mind:
Ideas, dreams, purposes, ideals, principles,
plans, projects, poetry.

We give of ourselves when we give gifts of the spirit: Prayer, vision, beauty, aspiration, peace, faith.

We give of ourselves when we give the gift of words:
Encouragement, inspiration, guidance.

Emerson said it well:

“Rings and jewels are not gifts, but apologies for gifts. The only true gift is a portion of thyself.”

From *The Art of Living* by Wilfred A. Peterson

The above poem was read at Margaret Crompton (Kirkwood) funeral.

NRF TEAM NEURO

CITY TO BAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 2012



Register NOW Go to www.city-bay.org.au and join NRF Team Neuro in support of the NeuroSurgical Research Foundation.

How to Fundraise Register at www.everydayhero.com.au/nrf_team_neuro. To register your team or join our team; the password you will need is pinkpanda.

Get Your NRF Team Neuro T-shirt All participants who raise \$100 or more will receive a free NRF T-shirt to wear on the day. It is important to reach the donation target by Monday, 3 September to receive your T-shirt. Donations received after this date will receive a T-shirt after the event.

You may also purchase a T-shirt from the website at \$50 each. Simply download the order form. Orders must be received no later than 3, September to ensure you receive your T-shirt prior to the run.

Here are some of the NRF teams already registered: Join us or donate.



Lifelong friends and NRF members Dr Amal Abou-Hamden and Assoc Prof Corinna Van Den Heuvel

Amal and Corinna went to University together, worked with the Chair of Neurosurgical Research and followed their passion - Amal as neurosurgeon and neurosurgery researcher and Corinna as a researcher at the Adelaide Centre for Neuroscience Research.

The pair had such a fabulous time last year, they wanted to lead the NRF's Team Neuro this year – and they're asking you to join with them, to help raise funds for ongoing neurosurgical research.
www.everydayhero.com.au/nrf_team_neuro



Olivia's family and friends raise money for Paediatric Neurosurgical Research.

At one year old, Olivia continues

to amaze family and friends in everything she does!

Born premature at 36 weeks and at one week old was having increasing frequent blue-grey 'dusky spells'. The family watched as our newborn stop breathing more times than we can remember and had never felt such utter helplessness and devastation.

After the longest 48 hrs of our lives, the doctors attributed her seizures to a two centimetre brain lesion in the right temporal lobe. At this stage her options are brain surgery or no surgery.

We feel so blessed to have Olivia in our lives and continue to cherish every single moment that we spend with her.
www.nrf.gofundraise.com.au/page/TrimboliK



Carolyn Hewson

NRF Patron, Carolyn Hewson will be forming a team in this year's City to Bay to raise funds for the NRF.

She is looking forward to joining the masses and making her personal stamp on fundraising for neurosurgical research. Carolyn encourages everyone to join NRF Team Neuro or make a donation.
www.everydayhero.com.au/carolyn_hewson

The Harris Foundation Helps Tom's Fight with Brain Cancer



In September 2010 my brother Tom was diagnosed with a Grade 2

Oligoastrocytoma. He was 25 years old. After two partial resections, the tumor continues to grow and is now a grade 3.

I am so enamored by Tom's capacity to cope with his illness - I felt like I had to

do something. Together with the Harris Foundation, our family and Tom's many, many mates, we are!

Inspired by Tom, the Harris Foundation has decided to dedicate its 2012 City to Bay campaign to the Neurosurgical Research Foundation. A team of 300 participants will aim to raise \$15,000 for the NRF.

The Harris Foundation is passionate about supporting the brilliant work of the Neurosurgical Research Foundation. We believe that through research we can find

a cure for Tom and for others who also suffer from similar tumours.

Tom is looking forward to completing his treatment so he can resume an active, healthy life.

If you would like to join our team, sponsor our campaign or simply drop a line of support to Tom, I'd love to hear from you at www.everydayhero.com.au/harrisfoundation

Lucy Cornes
Harris Foundation Director

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