NRF NeuroSurgical Research Foundation

NEURONEWS

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From Injury to Innovation

On New Year's Day 2020, Tyler Fuller fell from a cliff edge at Middleton and suffered a traumatic brain injury, spending 19 days in a coma and facing a long road to recovery.

Tyler turned that experience into action. Defying expectations just 18 months later he took part in the City-Bay Fun Run alongside two of his neurosurgeons, fundraising for brain injury research to help others living with TBI. He has continued to raise awareness and support the brain injury community ever since, holding regular fundraising events to help make a difference.

Now a promising new TBI treatment has progressed into a Phase 1 clinical trial at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. A new formulation high-dose Vitamin C could potentially offer a safer, more effective alternative to current treatment.

> *"This treatment would make me feel grateful for the promising recovery TBI survivors may now have ahead of them. As someone who sustained a TBI and now raises funds for TBI research with the NRF, I'm excited for the future of TBI survivors and the possibilities for recovery."* **- Tyler Fuller**

Head of Research and Innovation and the RAH Intensive Care Unit is A/Prof Mark Plummer who explained, ***"If the clinical trials are successful, this could become the first treatment for traumatic brain injury that not only reduced brain swelling but also protects brain cells from further damage."***



New Paths to Stroke Recovery

After a stroke, around 70% of survivors experience long-term cognitive difficulties due to secondary neurodegeneration, where progressive brain tissue loss occurs after the initial stroke.

Prof. Renée Turner, NRF Chair of Neurosurgical Research and Head of the Adelaide University Translational Neuropathology Lab, is leading a team taking a "*beyond the brain*" approach to explore new treatments.

Using Faecal Microbiota Transplant, the team is investigating whether restoring a healthy gut microbiome can reduce tissue loss and improve outcomes for stroke survivors.

The team recently received a five-year $3.518 million NHMRC Ideas Grant, with the **NRF providing an additional $500,000** for essential equipment and post-doctoral salaries to help make this research possible.



Going the Distance for Research



Celebrating more than $50,000 raised by NRF Team Neuro

More than $50,000 raised for neurosurgical research! Our 2026 NRF City-Bay team has achieved an incredible fundraising milestone, with 81 participants coming together to raise more than $50,000 for neurosurgical research.

Behind every kilometre was a reason to take part, from supporting loved ones and honouring those we have lost, to raising awareness and helping create better outcomes for people living with neurological conditions.

We are incredibly grateful to every participant, donor, family member and volunteers who helped make this achievement possible.

A very special thank you goes to our generous sponsors **Surfacing Contractors Australia, Jones Radiology and Pick a Local Pick SA Fruit and Veg**, for their valued support of our team and our fundraising efforts.

Every participant had their own reason for taking part. Read the full story to meet some of the people behind our City-Bay team and discover the personal stories that helped make this $50,000+ fundraising effort possible.



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The Power of Going Grey

Over $195,000 raised for brain tumour research!

This incredible result was made possible by the generosity of our supporters, sponsors, business partners, community groups, volunteers and everyone who donated, fundraised, purchased merchandise or helped spread the word throughout May.

Your support is already at work. Topped up by the NRF, $195,000 has grown into $250,000, now funding five new South Australian brain tumour projects:

- **Prof Sharad Kumar** — how glioblastoma cells communicate and spread
- **Dr Chloe Shard** — new targets in glioblastoma
- **Dr Tessa Gargett** — engineering CAR-T therapy for brain tumours
- **Dr Nirmal Robinson** — a new strategy to target a brain cancer protein
- **Prof Jillian Carr** — using viruses to target brain tumours

Thank you to everyone who made Grey May 2026 possible. Your support is turning $195,000 raised by our community into vital investment in brain tumour research and better outcomes.









Thank you to our sponsors:

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Supporting Vital Stroke and Brain Cancer Research

The NRF and the South Australian Hotel Industry are proud to support stroke and brain cancer research through funding for two specialised pieces of research equipment.

The funding will support a Cognitive Assessment System for stroke research and an Antigen Retrieval Chamber (ARC) High Voltage for brain cancer research.

Funded by the Independent Gaming Corporation (IGC) through its Community Grants Program, facilitated by AHA|SA through Pubs with Heart and Clubs SA, the equipment will help South Australian researchers work towards improved treatments and outcomes.

> ***"The South Australian hotel industry is delighted to support the Neurosurgical Research Foundation through this IGC Community Grant, helping fund the purchase of two important pieces of research equipment. It is a great example of the outstanding work being undertaken by South Australian researchers and the contribution they are making on a global scale.***
>
> ***We're proud to play a part in supporting this work and look forward to hearing about the research and discoveries these projects will enable, particularly in the areas of stroke and brain cancer."*** **David Basheer - President, AHA|SA**

The research is led by Professor Renée Turner, NRF Chair of Neurosurgical Research, and Professor Stuart Pitson, Chair of Brain Tumour Research.

Scan the QR code to read the full article.



SPEAKING UP FOR PATIENTS

Brain tumour patient Kyla Glover recently shared her powerful experience at Parliament House, speaking about the realities of living with a brain tumour and calling for greater support for patients and their families.

Watch Kyla's powerful speech here.



MAJOR TREATMENT BREAKTHROUGH

In August, Voranigo (vorasidenib) was added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), becoming the first new targeted treatment for eligible patients with IDH-mutant astrocytoma and oligodendroglioma in more than 20 years.

The PBS listing makes the treatment more accessible, reducing the cost from around $28,000 to no more than $25 per prescription for eligible patients.

