

NEURONEWS

SUMMER ISSUE 2026 | FEBRUARY

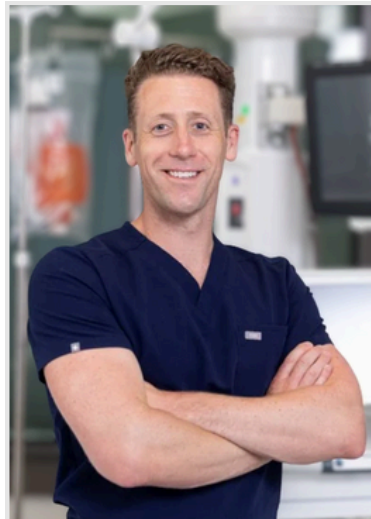
Can AI Improve TBI Treatment?

Moderate to severe traumatic brain injury (TBI) can be life-changing or fatal, and fast, accurate interpretation of CT scans is critical. New research supported by the NeuroSurgical Research Foundation is exploring how artificial intelligence (AI) can help clinicians assess brain scans more quickly and consistently.

Led by **Associate Professor Mark Plummer** at the **Royal Adelaide Hospital**, the project will use AI to analyse hundreds of real patient CT scans to improve how injury severity and outcomes are predicted.

By automating this process, the research aims to support better clinical decisions and strengthen future research in traumatic brain injury.

Read the full article online:



John Crowley Scholarships

The NRF is pleased to announce the recipients of the **2025 John Crowley Scholarships**, supporting research to improve outcomes for people affected by traumatic brain injury (TBI) and chronic subdural haematoma (cSDH).

The scholarship honours the memory of John Crowley, who was in his final year of nursing at the Royal Adelaide Hospital when he tragically died from a head injury sustained from a motorcycle accident.

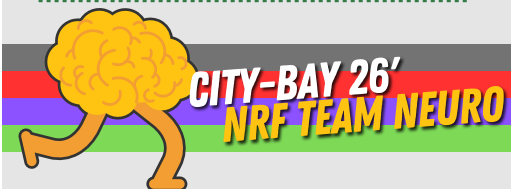
Congratulations recipients **Dr Laura May Carr**, whose research explores how traumatic brain injury may accelerate brain ageing, and **Lola Kaukas**, who is investigating factors that influence recurrence and recovery in chronic subdural haematoma.



Sock it for Brain Research!

Keep your feet warm and help fund vital brain research with our **BRAND NEW** Brain Research Socks!

Whether you're at home, at work, or out on a walk – wear your Brain Research Socks and help make a difference. **Scan here to get yours!**



The Countdown is on!

The City-Bay is back on 20th September 2026!

Registrations now open. **Join the team today!**



Share your story

If you've been impacted by brain tumours, TBI, stroke, Parkinson's or a related condition – as a patient or a carer – we invite you to reach out and share your experience.

Lived experiences play a powerful role in raising awareness and understanding.

Scan the QR code to share your story with us.



BE BOLD GO GOLD FEB 15th

International Day of Childhood Cancer Awareness

Each year, hundreds of Australian children are diagnosed with cancer, with brain cancer among the most serious. **Around 120 young Australians face a brain cancer diagnosis annually**, and survival rates remain lower than for many other childhood cancers.

But research offers hope. While advances have improved outcomes for many cancers, childhood brain tumours remain especially challenging due to their complexity. The Neurosurgical Research Foundation (NRF) funds critical paediatric research to better understand and treat these cancers.

On **International Day of Childhood Cancer Awareness**, we honour the courage of affected children and families and reaffirm our commitment to research that improves outcomes for young patients.

Show your support!
Scan the QR code. ➤



How YOU Can Get Involved!

- **Wear Gold:** Show your support on or around Sunday, 15th February. Encourage your workplace, school, or community group to join in!
- **Host a Morning Tea or Fundraising Activity:** Bake sales, gold coin donations, or fun workplace challenges – every effort counts.
- **Spread the Word:** Use our #BeBoldGoGold and tag @neurosrf_foundation.



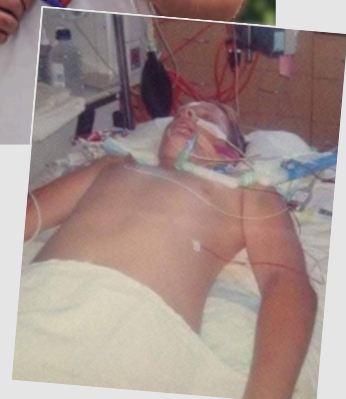
Life After TBI: Tyler's Story

At just 12 years old, Tyler Rutka-Hudson's life changed in an instant when he was hit by a car while riding his bike in Whyalla. He sustained severe injuries and a traumatic brain injury that led to a stroke, requiring urgent neurosurgery and intensive hospital care.

When Tyler woke from his coma, he faced challenges no child should have to navigate. He could not walk or talk and had to relearn everyday skills many of us take for granted. Through months of rehabilitation and sheer determination, Tyler slowly rebuilt his strength and independence.

Today, Tyler shares his experience to raise awareness about brain injury and recovery, and to remind young people of the importance of wearing a helmet. Thank you Tyler for bravely opening up and sharing your story with the NRF Community.

Tyler's journey is a powerful example of resilience and a reminder of why continued investment in neurological research and care is so important. **We invite you to watch Tyler's video interview to hear his story in his own words and learn how you can support research** ➤



Advancing Stroke Care

Stroke can take away movement, speech, and independence in an instant and for children, the impact can be life-changing. During **Childhood Stroke Awareness Week (2–8 March)**, we're shining a light on the advances that are giving young patients and their families real hope.

In an exclusive interview, **Neurosurgeon and Associate Professor Alistair Jukes** explains how clot retrieval is transforming stroke treatment, with results that can sometimes be seen in just minutes. This minimally invasive procedure removes a blood clot directly from the brain, restoring blood flow and dramatically reducing long-term damage.

A/Prof Jukes is one of just four clinicians in South Australia trained to perform clot retrieval on both adults and children. Until recently, children experiencing a stroke often needed to be transferred to the **Royal Adelaide Hospital** for treatment. Thanks to the development of a South Australian paediatric stroke protocol, children are now diagnosed and treated entirely at the **Women's and Children's Hospital** – saving precious time when every minute counts.

These breakthroughs don't happen by chance. Thanks to your support, the NRF has funded stroke research for many years – from neuroprotection studies to clinical trials. This work is helping doctors save lives and improve recovery outcomes for patients of all ages, including children affected by stroke.

Scan to watch our short interview with Associate Professor Alistair Jukes on clot retrieval and SA's improved paediatric stroke protocol – a powerful example of how rapid treatment can change outcomes within minutes.

Your support helped make this treatment available in SA – donate today to support more breakthroughs.



Better Research. Better Outcomes.

Australia is facing a research funding crisis. **Less than 10% of NHMRC grants are successful**, even when projects are world-class and highly scored.

Many research institutes are operating at a loss, and talented scientists are leaving academia or moving overseas because they simply can't secure funding.

This matters because without sustained support, we risk losing the breakthroughs that change lives. Discoveries that lead to:

- **Lifesaving treatments**
- **Better recovery and quality of life**
- **Faster access to care**

100% of donations to the NRF go directly to research. Your gift ensures South Australia has the people, equipment, and resources to keep projects alive and translate results into real outcomes for patients.

Your Gift	How it makes a difference
\$50	Test a sample for early Parkinson's risk after TBI
\$110	Study brain ageing with specialised dyes
\$230	Buy a chemotherapy vial for research
\$1,500	Fund consumables for a child's CAR-T prep

Together, we can ensure South Australia remains a leader in brain research.

Donate today and be part of the solution. Every dollar counts!



Tyler Fuller Backs TBI Research

At just 19 years old, Tyler Fuller's life changed forever. On New Year's Day 2020, Tyler suffered a devastating fall onto the rocks at Middleton, resulting in a traumatic brain injury.

Since that day, Tyler has faced his recovery with incredible strength and determination, transforming his experience into a mission to help others. He has become a passionate advocate for TBI awareness and research, dedicating his time and energy to supporting vital scientific advancements.

We want to sincerely thank Tyler (pictured right in the top photo) for his incredible fundraising efforts. Tyler kicked off his week of fundraising with a community favourite, a Bunnings BBQ at **Bunnings Kent Town**. Days later, Tyler teed off his next effort with a Golf Day at **Mount Lofty Golf Club**.

Big thanks to Tyler, his family, friends, and all who participated! Tyler went above and beyond, raising over **\$4,950** for TBI research!

Donate to TBI Research Here ➤



City-Bay 20th September 2026!

Registrations and Fundraising Open Now.

In 2025, the NRF Team Neuro community raised **\$45,000** for neurosurgical research at the City-Bay Fun Run, with over 80 participants running, walking, and fundraising.

Personal stories were at the heart of the day—from **Catherine and Matt** raising \$16,000 in honour of Catherine's late father, Olly, to teams commemorating loved ones, including **Team SurfCon** in memory of founder Mark Webber and **Team TonyTonyTony** honouring Tony Walsh through the Anthony Walsh TBI Vacation Scholarship. It was a powerful celebration of connection, community, and purpose.

Now it's your turn - join Team Neuro in 2026 to run, walk, volunteer and fundraise to help make a real difference.



Calendar Dates:

February 15th

Childhood Cancer Awareness Day

March 2nd - 8th

Childhood Stroke Awareness Week

March 1st - 31st

TBI/Brain Injury Awareness Month

April 1st - 30th

World Parkinson's Awareness Month

May 14th

Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Day

May 1st - 31st

Grey May - Brain Tumour Awareness Month

- Sat 23rd May NRF Research Presentations & Lab Tour