

The Cerebral Palsy Foundation provides funding for cerebral palsy research in Australia and overseas. The Foundation was launched in 2005 with a bequest, and a donation of \$500,000 from the Prime Minister.

In Australia, a child is born with cerebral palsy (CP) every 15 hours. CP is caused by an injury to the developing brain, usually before birth. It is a permanent disability which affects a person's movement.

The condition of cerebral palsy has long been a neglected area of research. On one hand this is surprising because CP is the most common, physical disability in childhood. Until recently, the prevention and cure of cerebral palsy was not a high priority in Australia or overseas. This was in part due to the long held belief that brain damage in an infant could not be cured. However, new technologies offer hope; early intervention techniques are being developed. We look to further research finding strategies for the prevention of CP and ultimately a cure.

In 2007, the Cerebral Palsy Institute (funded by the Cerebral Palsy Foundation) conducted an international Delphi Study to identify priority research areas. As a result, over 100 experts world wide identified 33 research priorities. These were grouped into seven key research themes; genetics, infections/viruses, blood disorders, brain repair, predictors in pregnancy, research tools and intervention/management. These evidence-based priorities have helped the Foundation focus on key research areas which will provide the maximum impact and benefit.

The Cerebral Palsy Foundation also benefits from a partnership with the National Health and Research Council (NH&RC) which matches funding for projects that meet their criteria. Since 2006, the Foundation has awarded over \$3million to 33 research projects in Australia and overseas

We have always known cerebral palsy has a significant impact on the Australian economy. The 2007 Access Economics Report estimated the financial and wellbeing cost of cerebral palsy to be \$3.87 billion - \$1.47 billion in financial costs and \$2.4 billion for costs associated with lost wellbeing. Therefore, research into cerebral palsy will have a direct and positive impact on the Australian economy. In the long term, research will bring Australia revenue as it generates innovative interventions and procedures.

Ultimately it's people with CP and their families, as well as many future generations who will benefit from philanthropic investment into cerebral palsy research.

For more information, please contact Marisa Chilcott, Manager Cerebral Palsy Foundation at [mchilcott@cerebralpalsy.org.au](mailto:mchilcott@cerebralpalsy.org.au)

Article from: **Janine Jones**, Marketing Manager - Cerebral Palsy Foundation

## THE DIRECTOR'S CUT



Dr. Noel Chambers

*We would like to thank guests who attended the inaugural joint forum with Philanthropy Australia on 27th May, as well as those who attended our philanthropy seminar in Adelaide. Please note that we will be holding similar seminars across the country in the next few months – details are included in the events section.*

*Over the past few months, grant makers have been expressing their concerns about publically funded institutions seeking additional funding to cover full costs of research. Interested grant makers should look at or register with the Australian Competitive Grants Register (ACGR). Eligible grants on the ACGR may be provided reimbursement from The Commonwealth, known as the Research Infrastructure Block Grant (RIBG) to cover up to 20% of the final total covering other costs and the contribution to infrastructure.*

*We are always looking for case studies as they are exceptionally important to demonstrate how supporting health & medical research can make a difference.*

# Invited articles

## Stroke patients to receive Wii therapy via National Broadband Network



Stroke patients living in regional and remote Australia will soon be able to access rehabilitation therapy over the internet.

Neuroscience Research Australia and NBN Co will work together to test the delivery of rehabilitation training – in the form of 'Wii therapy' – to 50 people with stroke-affected hands and arms living in the National Broadband Network test sites of Minnamurra (NSW), Willunga (SA), Brunswick (VIC), Armidale (NSW) and Townsville (QLD).

“Studies at Neuroscience Research Australia have shown that this form of therapy can significantly improve movement in stroke affected limbs after only two weeks,” said lead researcher Dr Penelope McNulty from Neuroscience Research Australia.

Mike Quigley, who started as NBN Co Chief Executive in July last year and is on the Neuroscience Research Australia board, has donated his first year's salary – \$2 million – to fund this project, as well as other projects at Neuroscience Research Australia.

Each participant will take part in ten one-hour sessions playing sports on the Nintendo Wii in their home over a two-week period. They will be supervised by a therapist in Sydney, who will use the network to receive high quality video images and sensor data to analyse the patient's movements and provide feedback.

For more information, please visit [www.neura.edu.au](http://www.neura.edu.au) or contact Maryke Steffens at Neuroscience Research Australia by mobile 0406 599 569 or email [m.steffens@neura.edu.au](mailto:m.steffens@neura.edu.au)

## Bupa Health Foundation partnerships



Since its inception in 2005, and as one of the largest sources of corporate giving dedicated to health in Australia, the Bupa Health Foundation (previously MBF Foundation) has made a combined investment of over \$14M in around 50 partnerships across the national health industry.

Bupa Health Foundation invests in partnerships and activities specifically related to;

- Promotion of health research (including health outcomes, health information and health policy);
- Promotion of health education and health awareness; and,
- Promotion of health related programs for leading healthy lives.

The Foundation is particularly interested in health initiatives that address research gaps and those aligned with its key focus areas of wellness and obesity, healthy ageing and keeping healthcare affordable. The Foundation proactively seeks out partnerships with credible organisations through a mixture of targeted programs and a competitive national Expression of Interest (EOI) grants program where new relationships are reviewed and developed.

In June, Bupa Health Foundation proudly announced 8 new partnerships which have the potential to positively influence the health outcomes of our community now and into the future. The new partners include Cancer Council Victoria; Monash University/Southern Health; Baker IDI Heart & Diabetes Institute; Co-operative Research Centre for Oral Health Science; Brain & Mind Research Institute (University of Sydney); Cabrini Hospital; St John of God Health Care/University of NSW; and James Cook University.

Together with our partners, the Foundation is developing a reputation for innovative and pioneering work which will truly make a difference in the important objective of building a healthier Australian community.

For more information, please contact Teresa Howarth, Health Partnership Manager (02)9323 9816 or email: [teresa.howarth@bupa.com.au](mailto:teresa.howarth@bupa.com.au)

# Feature

## Philanthropic Funding of medical research, what does the community gain?

Broadening the impact of philanthropic funding of medical research.

Paragraph 19 of the Declaration of Helsinki states “medical research is only justified if there is a reasonable likelihood that the populations in which the research is carried out stand to benefit from the results of the research”. Consistent with this, the emphasis on funding research is primarily that the proposed research is responsive to specific health needs of the community and that it falls within the health research priorities of the community. Implicit in this approach is the expectation that the research findings will translate into community benefit. That this is not always the case is a critical issue for philanthropists and philanthropic agencies.

In order to maximize community gain from philanthropic funding, consideration should be given to both how the health needs and research priorities of the community are determined and what does community benefit actually mean.

Firstly, who defines the health needs and research priorities? A scenario to examine this issue is cancer research. The community of the unaffected may have quite different priorities to those who are affected. Hence, early diagnosis and prevention may be priorities for those without cancer whereas understanding the needs of survivors, ie cancer survivorship research, is most likely a priority for those affected. From this perspective, philanthropic support to improve the health and wellbeing of individuals affected by an array conditions that chronically impact on quality of life, ranging from cancer survivorship to mental illness, is vital. This may not seem scientifically ‘ground breaking’ research but at a grass roots level the funding of such research has vast community impact.

Community benefit from philanthropic support should also be considered beyond the boundaries of immediate research findings as it includes the training and career development of young basic scientists and clinical researchers. Philanthropists have the opportunity to investment in the people power of Australian medical

research, a need inadequately met by traditional career structures such as the ARC or NHMRC.

This is an aspect of medical research where philanthropy can make a profound impact. One might go as far as to suggest that in addition to philanthropic agencies requiring evidence of “the need” and impact of outcomes, that training of junior researchers, and appropriate allocation of funding for this purpose, be a requirement for grant applications.

Philanthropists are also in the position to support novel ideas and proposals from less experienced researchers. Such research proposals are rarely supported by NHMRC or ARC funding, as these are usually judged as not being sufficiently ‘competitive’. However such research might have substantial outcomes. It is important philanthropic organizations support research at a conceptual stage. Although this might be considered risky, if successful the investment may result in a quantum leap in the management of a health condition. Philanthropists might well ask whether research that fails Level 1 funding evaluation can really ever lead to quantum leaps in knowledge. The answer is undoubtedly yes. Rejection of level 1 funding applications by Nobel laureates Barry Marshall and Robin Warren, whose research resulted in a paradigm shift in the diagnosis and treatment of ulcer disease, is a sobering example.

Australia has a strong philanthropic tradition in terms of the support of medical research. The impact of this support has been substantial at a community level in terms of provision of essential infrastructure for new research and advances in diagnosis and treatment of disease. The impact can be even greater with strong investment in career pathways for young researchers and ongoing support of those who think outside the box.

### Professor Susan R Davis MBBS FRACP PhD

Professor of Women's Health and NHMRC Principal Research Fellow

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# AUSTRALIAN ROTARY HEALTH

## – a Health Promotion Charity



Australian Rotary Health began life as the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund in 1981. The dream of a Rotarian – Ian Scott – who wanted to set up a Rotary charity in Australia that would raise funds through the Rotary network and give money to research into Cot Death.

The first research grants were paid in 1986 and during the next few years over \$500,000 was invested in Cot Death research. One of the main projects funded was the work of Professor Terry Dwyer at the University of Tasmania whose longitudinal studies showed a proven link between Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and sleeping babies on their stomachs. Professor Dwyer's work in Australia helped form the policy for sleeping position of babies – thus reducing the number of Cot Deaths in Australia and around the world.

During the next decade, the focus on research was broadened and research programs began in The Aged, Adolescent Health and Family Health however there seemed to be a strong link to mental health problems emerging. In 1999, the focus of research changed to Mental Health – and today, over \$12 million has been invested in this major area of research.

All research fund applications to Australian Rotary Health are peer-reviewed and competitively selected. A Research Committee comprising eminent professions in mental health assess all applications received and make their recommendations on which ones could be funded with the approval of the board. Funding is provided to universities and hospitals around Australia.

Australian Rotary Health has become one of the largest providers of funds in Mental Health research in Australia. As well as providing funds for research, Australian Rotary Health also provides funds for scholarships – PhD research scholarships, Rural Doctor's Scholarships, Rural Nurse's Scholarships and Indigenous Health Scholarships.

In 2004, still continuing with mental health research, Australian Rotary Health commenced a new area of health funding – PhD scholarships in health areas other than mental health. This program is a cooperative between a Rotary Club or a Rotarian, the university and Australian Rotary Health and in 2010, 50 research PhD scholarships have been awarded in areas such as cancer research, motor neurone research, multiple sclerosis, heart disease and many other health areas.

Australian Rotary Health also held, in conjunction with a Rotary Club, over 500 mental health community forums – educating and informing members of the public on mental health issues. This program has now been followed by Mental Health First Aid courses, again being held around Australia.

The Australian Rotary Health Research Fund was originally registered as a company limited by guarantee operating a Trust Fund. The Trust Fund was registered with the Australian Taxation Office as a Charitable Fund and was endorsed as a DGR (deductible gift recipient), with GST concessions and income tax exemption.

In 2008, due to the range of programs being funded and administered by Australian Rotary Health, approval was received to change the name to "Australian Rotary Health" and to change legal endorsement from a "Charitable Fund" to a "Health Promotion Charity". As well as the existing tax benefits, fringe benefit tax concessions were also approved.

On 30th June 2010, the "Trust Fund" was officially wound up and the health promotion charity Australian Rotary Health, a company limited by guarantee - with a new constitution – continues to fund research and health awareness programs in Australia.

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www.australianrotaryhealth.org.au

# News in Brief

## Neuroscience Research Australia News Brief

Assoc Prof Jacqui Close and colleagues at Neuroscience Research Australia have been awarded a \$330,000 Health Promotion Demonstration Grant from NSW Health for a project entitled: 'Fit to be Left at Home – A new model of care to safely assess, intervene and prevent further falls and fall related injury in older people who call an ambulance as a result of a fall.'

Hicksons Lawyers are providing two supplementary scholarships to researchers at Neuroscience Research Australia. Karen Murphy is looking at progressive degenerative brain disorders and Maoyi Tian is focussing on how the brain controls muscles after injury. These scholarships are designed to ensure that the nation's best and brightest are attracted to careers in medical research.

## Research Australia Awards Nominations

The Research Australia Awards recognises the great leaders and innovators, philanthropists, advocates and researchers that contribute to improving the health and lives of all Australians.

Presented annually for the past eight years, the Research Australia Awards aims to raise the profile of health and medical research in the community and brings together the leaders in research, industry and the philanthropic sector. It is an opportunity to recognise your valued employees or your industry peers for their accomplishments. There's simply no better way to show them that you think their work is award winning.

We hope you will join us in celebrating by either joining us a sponsor or submitting a nomination. Nominations close Monday, 2 August 2010. Visit the events page at [www.researchaustralia.org](http://www.researchaustralia.org)

## Case Study Publication

Over the past few months, Research Australia has been working strenuously to put together a compilation of case study. We have been working with the community, clinicians and researchers to put together solid examples of the benefits achieved through health and medical research.

We sincerely thank everyone who has been involved with this and encourage you to fill in and submit to us the case study template, available at [www.researchaustralia.org](http://www.researchaustralia.org)

We have been able to compose a series of 8 case studies ranging from a variety of conditions. These demonstrate the impact of research into practice as it involves aspects from the community, clinicians and researchers. Case studies are currently at press and being published into a document, which will soon be available on our website.

## Vital Research for a Vital Australia - Health and Medical Research Federal Election Policy Proposal

Research Australia has developed a series of six policy positions which we believe will grow the industry with the objective of improving health and ensuring Australia ingenuity is nurtured and its rewards are reaped. Please see [www.researchaustralia.org](http://www.researchaustralia.org) for the pdf version of this plan. If you would like a physical copy, please contact [enquiries@researchaustralia.org](mailto:enquiries@researchaustralia.org)

There are many ways through which you can help spread our message. We encourage you to meet with members of parliament, upload a pdf of the policy on your website, distribute copies of the proposal, as well as write articles and letters.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

## South Australia's Health and Medical Research Institute to Begin Construction

Federal Health Minister Hon Nicola Roxon MP announced a commitment of \$200m from the Australian Government's Health and Hospital Fund to begin construction of a 25,000 square metre world-class research institute, the South Australia Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI).

"Once completed, the facility will house up to 675 researchers - with around half of those expected to be new to South Australia," said Minister Roxon.

South Australian Health Minister, Hon John Hill MP said "This new, unified health and medical research institute will not only help to attract the best and brightest researchers from around the world, it will also bring together leading researchers

# Events

## Detail

**Philanthropy Australia Conference 2010: *Philanthropy at the tipping point?*** **Tue, 31 Aug 2010**

Melbourne, 31st August - 1st September 2010

Speakers include Professor Patrick D. McGorry and many more

please see [www.philanthropy.org.au](http://www.philanthropy.org.au) for more information or to register

**Research Australia Philanthropy Seminar - Brisbane** **Tue, 14 Sep 2010**

Perpetual, 260 Queen Street, between 12:00pm - 2:00pm

To RSVP, E: [nancy.piche@researchaustraliaphilanthropy.org](mailto:nancy.piche@researchaustraliaphilanthropy.org) or call (03)9662 9419

**Research Australia Philanthropy Seminar - Sydney** **Thu, 30 Sep 2010**

DLA Phillips Fox, 201 Elizabeth Street, between 11:00am - 1:30pm

A light lunch will be served

To RSVP, E: [nancy.piche@researchaustraliaphilanthropy.org](mailto:nancy.piche@researchaustraliaphilanthropy.org) or call (03)9662 9419

**Research Australia Awards 2010** **Wed, 24 Nov 2010**

Sydney - Australian National Maritime Museum at 6:30pm

Please see [www.researchaustralia.org](http://www.researchaustralia.org) for more information or to RSVP

# Funding Opportunities

## Summary

## Closing Date

The Leukaemia Foundation currently has various 2011 funding opportunities. Some of the funding available includes a Clinical Trial Grant valued up to \$200,000 pa for three years. Other funding opportunities include scholarships and a fellowship. For more information, please contact Dr Susan O'Brien at the Leukaemia Foundation (07) 3866 4038, email [sobrien@leukaemia.org.au](mailto:sobrien@leukaemia.org.au) or visit [www.leukaemia.org.au](http://www.leukaemia.org.au)

**Fri, 27 Aug 2010**

Grants for Research into Motor Neurone Disease 2011 are now available. Applications are now being considered for Grants-in-aid of up to \$100,000 along with the Bill Gole MND Postdoctoral Fellowship (\$75,000 pa up to three years). Please see [www.mndaust.asn.au](http://www.mndaust.asn.au) for more information or email [info@mndresearch.asn.au](mailto:info@mndresearch.asn.au)

**Fri, 27 Aug 2010**

The Kidney Health Australia Medical Research Funding Program is providing up to \$1 million dollars of funding annually to kidney related research projects. Funding available includes project grants and scholarships. For further inquiries, please visit the [www.kidney.org.au](http://www.kidney.org.au) or contact Joanna Stoic (08) 8334 7500 or email [info@kidney.org.au](mailto:info@kidney.org.au)

**Mon, 30 Aug 2010**

The Cancer & Bowel Research Trust is now accepting applications for funding. It supports both externally and internally conducted research through awards of educational, scholarship, fellowship, equipment and grant assistance. Grants between 1-3 years and

**Mon, 30 Aug 2010**

## Research Australia

An alliance for discoveries in health

### Want to make a difference to health and medical research?

Research Australia provides strategic guidance, tools and resources to support effective partnerships between health & medical research and philanthropy.

We can help you:

- Develop effective giving strategies that make a difference.
- Find quality research projects that meet your giving needs.
- Review research projects using our expert advisory panel services including scientific review.

For further information please contact Dr. Noel Chambers (03) 9662 9366

[www.researchaustralia.org](http://www.researchaustralia.org)



Research Australia  
Philanthropy

Research Australia's proprietary tools, experience and expertise can help you identify, review and maintain research projects that meet your giving needs. Our personal advisory service, offers confidential, independent and transparent governance procedures linking you with Australia's leading scientists.

Our suite of linkage services can help you by:

- Developing effective giving strategies that make a difference.
- Identifying quality research projects that meet your giving needs.
- Reviewing research projects using our advisory panel whose considerations include scientific merit and community benefit.
- Providing recommendations against alternative research options to assist decision making.
- Assisting with your acquittal processes.
- Delivering administrative efficiencies to grant making programs conducted by established Trusts and Foundations.
- Providing independent and transparent processes to assist in delivering best practice solutions.
- Expanding your networks.

Friday, 23 July 2010

### Our services

#### RAP Linkage Program

Our RAP linkage program is operated through a centrally co-ordinated unit within Research Australia preserving anonymity for philanthropists and researchers.

#### Advisory Panel

Research Australia has established an advisory panel to provide expert review of research projects including scientific merit and community benefit. This service is part of the linkage program but may be accessed separately where a grant maker has independently identified a short list of projects for potential funding.

#### Research Register

The Research Register is managed by Research Australia to facilitate linkages between grant seekers, grant makers and philanthropic service providers. The register is not publically available and assists Research Australia to identify potential research programs that match the criteria provided by grant makers.

#### Administration

Research Australia can assist organisations with the management of their grant making administration by undertaking this role in a contractual capacity. In particular, this service provides cost savings to smaller organisations where the size of gifts may not justify the resources to manage them in-house.

#### Toolkit

The Research Australia Philanthropy Toolkit: Giving to Health & Medical Research is an educational resource for grant makers, grant seekers, service providers, corporate entities and the community. Copies will be available for purchase by non members. A free copy of this toolkit is available to our members upon request.

#### Membership

Research Australia's Medallion members and above are entitled to a discount on our linkage program services. They have access to a member's only area on the Research Australia website and receive invitations to participate in Health & Medical Research Philanthropic roundtables.

For further information please visit our website [www.researchaustralia.org](http://www.researchaustralia.org) or call 03 9662 9366.

Dr. Noel Chambers: Director Philanthropy  
Ms. Jessica Gilbert: Project Manager

# Research Australia

An alliance for discoveries in health

Research Australia is currently seeking a major supporter for the philanthropy initiative.

Please contact Dr. Noel Chambers for further information.

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The Building Philanthropic Support for Australian Health and Medical Research initiative undertaken by Research Australia is supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

## Contact us

[www.researchaustralia.org](http://www.researchaustralia.org)

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