



**SAHMRI**  
South Australian Health &  
Medical Research Institute

# SAHMRI

## Annual Report

# 2024

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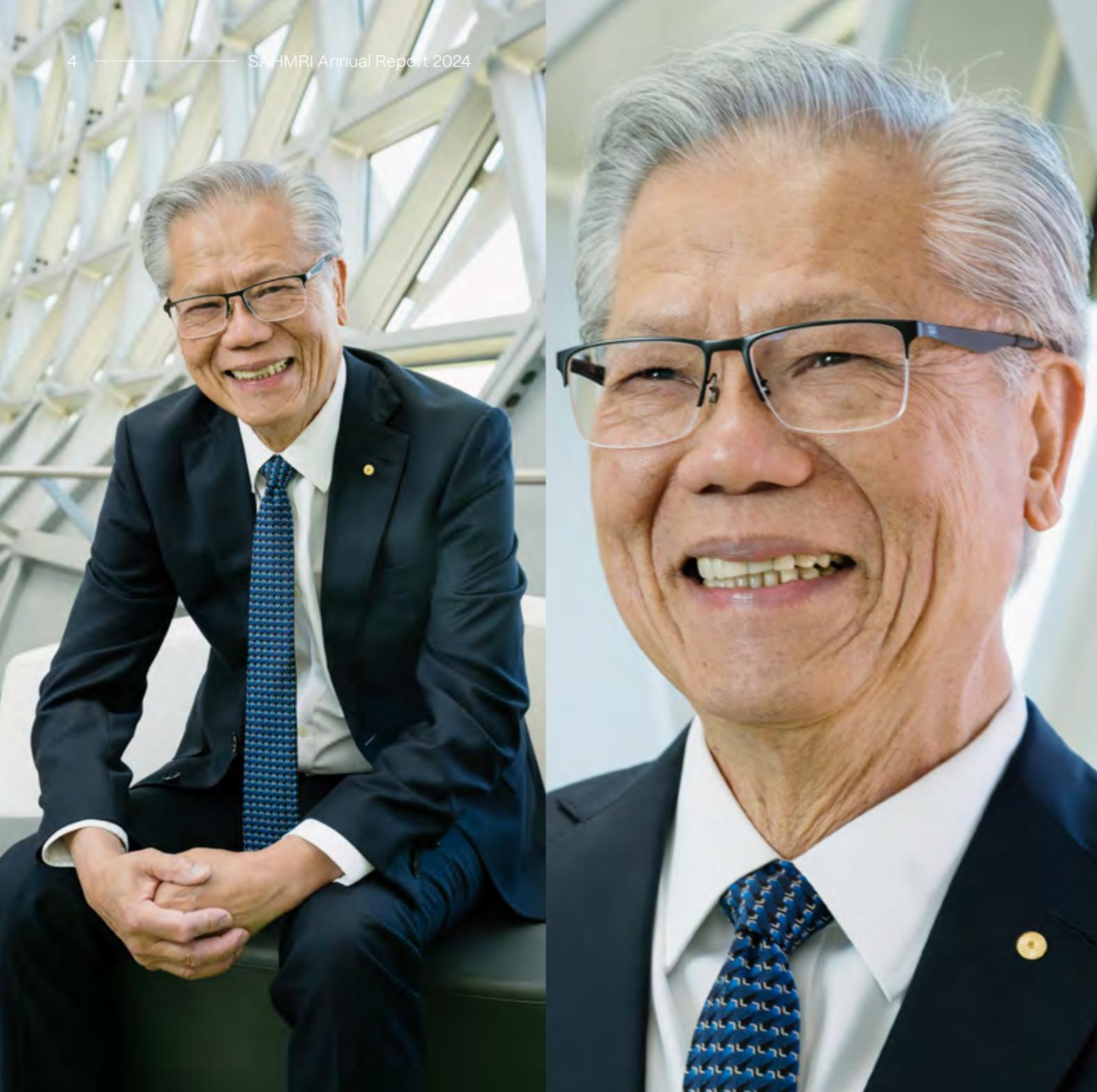
Pictured: A segment from SAHMRI's Inaugural Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2018–2020 Artwork *Karrawirra Pari* by Allan Sumner

## Acknowledgement of Country

The South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) acknowledges the Kaurna people as the Traditional Custodians of the Adelaide plains, where our buildings are located.

We recognise the Kaurna people's cultural, spiritual, physical and emotional connection with the land. We honour and pay our respects to Kaurna elders both past and present and all generations of Kaurna people, now and into the future.

We acknowledge other Traditional Owners who live across South Australia and Australia, where SAHMRI research is conducted.



## Letter from the Board Chair

# Hieu Van Le AC

Serving as Chair of the SAHMRI Board continues to be one of the greatest privileges of my professional life. Each year I am reminded of how much our extraordinary institute means to the state — not only through the excellence of our research but in the spirit of service, compassion, and collaboration that runs through every corner of the organisation.

In 2024, we have seen SAHMRI deepen our roots in the community and embrace continuing innovation while staying true to our mission to improve lives through better health.

We began this year with the unveiling of Wardlipari — our stunning 88m<sup>2</sup> Indigenous STEMM Mural. Created by Ngarrindjeri and Kaurna artist Allan Sumner, the mural honours the long-standing contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine and stands as a symbol of SAHMRI's commitment to Reconciliation, recognition and truth-telling.

Ahead of NAIDOC Week, we were honoured to host the national launch of the Medical Journal of Australia's first ever dedicated Indigenous health research edition. That this important collection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led research was launched at SAHMRI speaks volumes about the role our institute continues to play in addressing inequity in health care and services.

Also mid-year, we celebrated our community connections when more than 1300 people braved the mid-winter weather to take part in our annual BRIGHT Walk fundraiser. Leading the pack was our 2024 BRIGHT Accelerator, A/Prof Christina Bursill, whose research that targets the fatty blockages causing heart attacks is being supported by proceeds from the 2023 BRIGHT Walk.

Our Open Day in August once again welcomed hundreds of visitors through the doors of the Cheesegrater. Engagement opportunities like this enable us to share the spirit of SAHMRI

with the public, demystifying science and inviting people to connect with the human stories behind our research.

In October, we hosted the final Bowen Oliver Oration, fittingly delivered by SAHMRI's inaugural Executive Director, Professor Steve Wesselingh. For the past decade this event has celebrated the memory of Bowen Oliver, who was diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder when very young and died at the age of 20. From next year onwards, the oration will be replaced by the Bowen Oliver Communicator Award, honouring Bowen's renowned curiosity and passion for storytelling by recognising and encouraging excellence in science communication.

Another noteworthy engagement opportunity this year when SAHMRI was invited to partner with the Sohn Hearts & Minds Investment Leaders Conference — Australia's premier investment and philanthropy event, which was held in Adelaide for the first time. A/Prof Tim Sargeant, who leads SAHMRI's Lysosomal Health in Ageing research group, was a standout presenter at the event with his TEDx-style presentation about "eating yourself".

This year, we were pleased to welcome Ms Karen Hayes AM DSJ to the SAHMRI Board. Karen brings a wealth of experience in governance, strategic leadership and fundraising, as well as a profound dedication to women's health and education. Her voice has already strengthened our Board, and we are grateful for her commitment and care.

Karen was previously a founding member of our Public Engagement

and Philanthropy (PEP) Committee and remains as a SAHMRI Board representative.

Alongside its provision of broad advice and direction, the PEP Committee has championed our Discovery Circle collective giving program which brings together donors with a shared passion for research, who commit to investing in early-stage projects with great promise. The Circle's inaugural funding round supported Dr Elyse Page to progress the development of new treatments for childhood leukaemia.

While 2024 brought much to celebrate, our Board remains ever mindful of the broader environment in which we operate. Independent research institutes across the country are navigating complex funding challenges, and SAHMRI is no exception.

We continue to work closely with our government partners, member universities and philanthropic community to ensure that our research remains well supported, and that the people behind it can thrive.

To the entire SAHMRI community — our researchers, support teams, collaborators, partners, donors and volunteers — I say a very warm thank you. Your talent, your tenacity, and your belief in something bigger than yourselves are what make our institute so extraordinary.

I look forward to continuing this important work with all of you in the year ahead.

**The Hon. Hieu Van Le AC**  
Chair, SAHMRI Board



# Letter from the Executive Director

# Professor

# Maria Makrides

This was my first full year as Executive Director. Leading SAHMRI from this position has deepened my appreciation of just how remarkable our institute is.

I've been here since the very beginning and have always known the calibre of our people, the quality of our science and the strength of our partnerships. What has struck me most over these past 12 months is the way we continue to grow – not only in profile, but in purpose and in our capacity to support each other.

Our first decade laid the foundations. Now, we turn our attention more to how we evolve to best fit the landscape and challenges ahead. As we adapt, our focus does not waiver from what matters most – research that is excellent, relevant and ready to improve lives; not in the abstract but in tangible, practical ways that matter to individuals, families, communities and future generations.

SAHMRI has always attracted people who are motivated by impact. This can be clearly seen among our research highlights in 2024, as can the breadth of our research from lab benches through the many stages of clinical trials to data science and influencing policy and guidelines that improve health.

Our Heart and Vascular Health program, led by Prof Peter Psaltis, published a world-first study identifying an entirely new cell type, opening exciting new pathways for blood supply regeneration and the healing of vascular damage.

Prof Stuart Brierley's Visceral Pain Group joined global collaborators, including two Nobel Laureates to unpack how the gut communicates with the brain in chronic pain with findings that could rewrite treatment models for conditions like irritable bowel syndrome and endometriosis.

Building on decades of work, Prof Tim Hughes led the global Phase III clinical trial that validated a new frontline treatment for chronic myeloid leukaemia that brings increased efficacy with fewer side effects.

Similarly, our Women and Kids research team progressed its long-term program of Omega-3 as a preterm birth prevention strategy to the "Test and Treat" implementation phase, engaging more than 27,000 pregnant South Australians, of whom about 17% were found to be potential beneficiaries of the intervention.

The Registry of Senior Australians at SAHMRI received a formal commendation from the Inspector-General of Aged Care while continuing to contribute practical improvements by expanding the national mandatory quality indicator program with the addition of three new workforce indicators.

Our Health Policy Centre at SAHMRI is making significant contributions to vaping reform through compiling data to make the case for new legislation, then follow-up data that demonstrates the impact.

And on the commercialisation front we saw the sale of Be Well Co – the first "spin out" business from SAHMRI's research – to The Oranges Toolkit. This enables the proven, scientifically grounded wellbeing programs developed by Be Well Co to be made available to more Australians, while SAHMRI maintains its focus on research.

These successes don't come from working in isolation. Our foundational partnerships with the University of Adelaide, the University of South Australia, Flinders University and the State Government underpinned everything that SAHMRI has achieved to date, and continue to be our bedrock partnerships. But as we grow and evolve, so too do the breadth and purpose of new collaborations we are forging across organisations, sectors and geographical locations.

We can see more successes on the horizon. The launch in 2024 of the Centre for Research Excellence

in Human Milk Nutrition for Preterm Infants furthers SAHMRI's commitment to giving every child the best possible start to life. Grant successes such as the \$5m MRFF Indigenous Health Research Scheme funding awarded to A/Prof Yvonne Clark and the NHMRC Synergy Grant earned by Prof Brierley's team, in partnership with the University of Queensland, lay the foundation for ongoing discovery leading to health impact.

There were, of course, challenges presented during 2024. Progression of the Australian Bragg Centre for Proton Therapy and Research project is one such example. Although there are delays, we are indebted to our project partners, in particular the State and Federal Governments, who remain committed to identifying the best way forward. While that consultation is ongoing, our dedicated team of proton-therapy experts continue their essential work in preparing for this cancer fighting technology to arrive in Australia.

Everywhere I look at SAHMRI I see people working for the greater good. That might be a patient they'll never meet, a community that's too often ignored, or a question that deserves an answer. I'm proud to work alongside you all, I'm proud of what we've achieved together this year and I'm energised by what's to come.

Thank you to our Board, Executive, staff, partners, donors, volunteers and advocates for your belief, generosity and commitment to creating healthier futures for people everywhere.

**Professor Maria Makrides**  
Executive Director, SAHMRI

# Scientific Impact

## Discovery, Translation & Implementation

SAHMRI is committed to translational research – rapidly turning scientific discovery into better preventions, diagnoses and treatments that create healthier futures for people everywhere.



**408**  
research publications

**1st author on**  
**35%**  
publications

**Cited**  
**1.7x<sup>1</sup>**  
more often than global average within our fields of expertise

**Earned**  
**54**  
grants

**Research contributed to**  
**27**  
policy/ guideline updates

**Involved in more than**  
**50**  
clinical trials

**Involved in**  
**10**  
commercialisations

**Involved in**  
**32**  
industry collaborations

**Research collaborators in more than**  
**150**  
countries



SAHMRI's impacts throughout 2024 were many and varied, including the following examples:

### World-first discovery of new cell type

A team from SAHMRI's Vascular Research Centre, led by Professor Peter Psaltis, discovered a completely new type of stem cell with significant implications for the future of tissue repair. Published in *Nature Communications*, the study confirmed a century-old hypothesis about the existence of adventitial macrophage progenitor cells – dubbed 'EndoMac progenitors'. These cells possess the unique ability to transform into two specific cell types: endothelial cells that form blood vessels, and macrophages that are immune cells responsible for tissue repair and defence. Their discovery opens up all-new ways to tackle wound healing and support the body's ability to grow blood vessels.

### A safer, more effective frontline treatment for chronic myeloid leukaemia

An international clinical trial led by researchers within SAHMRI's Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia (CML) Group validated a next-generation CML treatment called asciminib as a viable frontline option.

Asciminib is a novel drug that was approved for patients with chronic-phase CML who have failed two or more previous types of therapy. This clinical trial results demonstrated that asciminib as frontline therapy for these patients leads to high rates of clinical response with a low rate of toxicity.

Parallel preclinical work from SAHMRI's Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (ALL) Group identified asciminib as a potential treatment option for high-risk subtypes of ALL. This also provided insights into the underlying mechanisms of action of this class of drugs, with implications for future treatment strategies in both CML and ALL.

### Patents for novel antibody therapies

The leader of SAHMRI's Blood Cancer Program, A/Prof Daniel Thomas, filed a number of patents relating to antibody therapy, a type of immunotherapy that uses antibodies to target and destroy specific cancer cells or to boost the immune system's ability to fight cancer.

One patent relates to antibody therapy for the treatment of Chronic Myelomonocytic Leukemia (CMML), a rare blood cancer that predominantly affects older adults, putting them at risk of developing acute leukaemia.

Another patent relates to antibody therapy for the treatment of Myelofibrosis, a rare type of blood cancer characterised by the abnormal buildup of scar tissue (fibrosis) in the bone marrow, which disrupts normal blood cell production.

### Walk Strong, Walk Tall

This Aboriginal Health Equity research project, under the broader National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Diabetes-Related Foot Complications program, engaged with more than 4000 community members at more than 50 events in 2024, spreading a positive strengths-based foot health message. Cultural awareness virtual reality training was delivered to 150 non-Aboriginal foot health care professionals, accredited vocational training in foot screening was provided to more than 100 clinicians and local podiatry services were returned to a regional Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation that had been without them for more than two years.



## A new frontier in lung health

SAHMRI's Preclinical Imaging and Research Laboratories (PIRL) partnered with 4DMedical and the University of Adelaide in The Australian Lung Health Initiative. PIRL's preclinical work is part of a research collaboration that is enhancing the diagnosis of lung cancer for billions of people globally, especially children.

PIRL is home to 4DMedical's revolutionary 4D scanner which uses X-Ray Velocimetry (XV), allowing young children to access an advanced level of detailed lung function measurement for the first time.

The development of XV is a world-first, providing a state-of-the-art, non-invasive way of understanding regional lung motion and airflow in real-time within the breathing lungs. This enables highly detailed maps of patterns of lung motion and pulmonary function, with functional deficits detected through local differences in movement.

## Leading role in landmark Preventive Health initiative

Researchers from SAHMRI's Health Policy Centre and Aboriginal Health Equity (AHE) theme were instrumental in helping establish Preventive Health SA – a dedicated program of prevention initiatives supporting the health and wellbeing of all South Australians.

Health Policy Centre Director Professor Caroline Miller led compilation of the detailed scientific report that laid the foundation for the establishment of Preventive Health SA and sat on the agency's Establishment Advisory Council alongside AHE Co-Leader A/Prof Odette Pearson.

The Health Policy Centre continues to produce scientific evidence for Preventive Health SA, while also working operationally with the agency on a day-to-day basis. Wardliparingga is partnering with the agency's Aboriginal portfolio on the implementation of the SA Government's public sector anti-racism strategy.

## Translating research to real world impact for preterm birth

SAHMRI is leading the implementation of an evidence-based omega-3 intervention to help prevent early preterm birth in South Australia. The Omega-3 Test-and-Treat Program – delivered in collaboration with SA Pathology – combines an early pregnancy omega-3 test with tailored supplementation advice based on individual results. To date, more than 27,000 pregnant women (around 60% of all pregnancies in the state) have participated. The program has identified more than 4,700 women (17%) with low omega-3 levels who might benefit from supplementation to reduce their risk of early preterm birth.

## Commercialising wellbeing research delivers solutions at scale

SAHMRI's commercial wellbeing entity Be Well Co merged with The Oranges Toolkit in 2024 to reshape the landscape of workplace health by integrating comprehensive mental health services with proven, scientifically grounded wellbeing programs.

Backed by rigorous scientific evidence, Be Well Co established itself as a trusted provider of mental health and wellbeing services, offering a range of person- and technology-driven solutions across different contexts, from workplaces to community and health services. The Oranges Toolkit is a subsidiary of Camp Quality, with profits reinvested into supporting children who are facing cancer. The organisation is committed to enhancing workplace environments through innovative training and comprehensive health solutions.

## Contributions to policy / guidelines

- Validation of asciminib as a frontline treatment for CML (PCM)
- Omega 3 for prematurity Test & Treat program (SWK)
- Legislation introduced to ban importation and sale of disposable vapes (Impact)
- 3 new workforce QIs for national aged care mandatory quality indicator program (Impact)
- Health Policy Centre contributions to overweight and obesity policy
- Health Policy Centre contributions to alcohol policy
- Health Policy Centre contributions to tobacco control policy
- Providing rationale for colchicine's repurposing as an anti-inflammatory drug in the secondary prevention of heart disease (LLH / Impact)
- Contributions to establishment of Preventative Health SA (Impact / AHE)
- New guidelines for treatment of AML with TP53 mutations (PCM)
- Rollout of Diabetic Foot Complications Training Program (AHE)
- Stuart Brierley is part of the Rome V Foundation, which provides recommendations that are applied to research and clinical practice globally for the diagnosis and treatment of gut disorders
- Major contributions to the new 'Care Around Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Clinical Practice Guideline' (SWK)
- Evidenced cited in a submission to the Public consultation for Improving Commercial Foods for Infants and Young Children managed by the Australian Government's Food Regulation Standing Committee (SWK)
- Evidence cited in a submission to the Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence (SWK)
- Aged Care Research Contributions to the Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner's Final Report to Government (Impact).
- Development and piloting of a quality monitoring programme for the Australian Government, Department of Health, Disability and Ageing 'Support at Home Program' (ROSA)
- Expansion of the 'National Quality Indicator Program for Residential Aged Care'

## Contributions to policy / guidelines

- Antibody therapy for CMML patent (PCM)
- Antibody therapy for Myelofibrosis patent (PCM)
- Cedric – Brain Organoid Therapeutics
- Visceral Pain – PCT with AusHealth and Uni Queensland for a novel treatment for IBS
- Visceral Pain – PCT with Netris Pharma for a novel treatment for Endometriosis.
- CathRX ablation catheter – 1st generation (PIRL)
- TorqView; cardiovascular
- Collaboration with DayONE Pharma that has achieved PBS approval for TOVORAFENIB (PCM)
- Collaboration with Novartis saw DABRAFENIB/ TRAMETINIB approved for paediatric type glioma

## Commercialisations

- Be Well Co sale (LLH)
- Antibody therapy for CMML patent (PCM)
- Antibody therapy for Myelofibrosis patent (PCM)
- Brain Organoid Therapeutics
- Visceral Pain – PCT with AusHealth and Uni Queensland for a novel treatment for IBS
- Visceral Pain – PCT with Netris Pharma for a novel treatment for Endometriosis.
- CathRX ablation catheter – 1st generation (PIRL)
- TorqView; cardiovascular
- Collaboration with DayONE Pharma that has achieved PBS approval for TOVORAFENIB (PCM)
- Collaboration with Novartis saw DABRAFENIB/ TRAMETINIB approved for paediatric type glioma

## Industry collaborations

- Collaboration with Torqview (PIRL)
- CML Group with Novartis – asciminib (PCM)
- Therapeutic spinal research (PIRL)
- 4D Medical lung research (PIRL)
- Visceral Pain Group – Chronic Pain associated with IBS: Ironwood, GSK/Nxera, Escient, AusHealth,
- Visceral Pain Group Inflammatory Bowel Disease: Thetis, Novapep
- Visceral Pain Group Endometriosis: Netris
- Australian Red Cross Lifeblood (SWK)
- SA Pathology (SWK)
- Leading recruitment site for Anatara Lifesciences clinical trial (CTP)
- Lead site for global clinical trial with Taran Therapeutics (PCM/CTP)
- Working with Alyra Biotech on a novel contraceptive device to reduce pain from an intrauterine device (CTP)
- CathRX ablation catheters – 2nd & 3rd generations
- GPN Vaccines; vaccine development
- Next Science; spinal disc infection therapy
- Medtronic; Development of Asia – Pacific Training Hub
- Next Science – spinal disc infection therapy (PIRL)
- Vital Organ Technologies – for transplant (PIRL)
- ECH Inc (ROSA)
- Silverchain (ROSA)
- Bolton Clarke (ROSA)
- Ageing Australia (ROSA)
- TElix pharmaceuticals (MITRU)
- Lantheus Pharmaceuticals (MITRU)
- GPN Vaccines (Lynn Group)
- Biom Pharmaceuticals (Lynn Group)
- BiomeBank (Lynn Group)
- Providence Therapeutics/Southern RNA (PCM)
- IX biopharma (Solid tumour)
- AB biotics (Solid tumour)
- Plantworx (Solid tumour)
- Danone (Solid tumour)



## Significant Awards

### **Karen Glover – Gladys Elphick perpetual Lifetime Achievement Award**

This prestigious honour recognises Karen's lifetime dedication to improving the lives of others and contribution to the Aboriginal community, through demonstrated leadership, community spirit and her work.

### **A/Prof Yvonne Clark – Sandra Eades Investigator Grant Award**

This NHMRC award is for emerging research leaders and is bestowed upon the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander researcher who has the top-ranked Investigator Grant application.

### **Prof Gill Caughey – Fellow of international society for pharmacoepidemiology**

Gill was one of just six people internationally to receive this Fellowship in 2024. It is awarded to those who've demonstrated exceptional leadership, made significant contributions to the advancement of the society and showcased outstanding scholarship in pharmacoepidemiology.

### **A/Prof Odette Pearson – Medical Journal of Australia Guest Editor**

Odette was invited to be one of a small group of researchers who guest edited MJA's first ever issue to exclusively feature Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research. The historic edition was created in partnership with the Lowitja Institute, with its official launch being held at SAHMRI ahead of NAIDOC Week.

### **Omega 3 Test and Treat program – inclusion in NHMRC's "10 of the Best" publication**

Inclusion in the NHMRC's 2024 edition of "10 of the Best" acknowledges the enduring program of work, led by Prof Maria Makrides and Prof Robert Gibson, into using omega 3 oils as an intervention against preterm birth. The research has progressed to the stage where it is delivering health impact through changing guidelines in an increasing number of international jurisdictions.

### **Registry of Senior Australians (ROSA) – Commendation from Inspector General of Aged Care**

The commendation was included in the Inspector General's response to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. It recognised ROSA as "Australia's exemplar data system, driving real change for Australia's aged care system with robust analytics and research translation".

# Aboriginal Health Equity

## A nation-leading Indigenous health research unit

Our Wardliparingga Aboriginal Health Equity theme is focused on understanding, monitoring and reducing inequity in health and wellbeing among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Our research priorities are informed by community needs and aspirations, focussed on tackling the leading causes of morbidity and mortality experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. This includes chronic diseases, social and cultural determinants of health and wellbeing and healthy ageing and aged care. Combined with Indigenous-led methodologies, our

team is skilled in western methods drawn from population health, health services research and implementation science. Partnering with Aboriginal communities in research, research translation and increasing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researcher workforce is at the heart of our work.

Wardliparingga is a word of the Kaurna people, traditional owners of the Adelaide plains. It means 'house river place' and is also the term for the Milky Way reflected in the Karrawirra Pari (River Torrens) which runs alongside SAHMRI.

## SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

### Walking Together in Aged Care

This co-designed training program strengthens the capacity of a culturally safe aged care workforce to meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In 2024 our research team undertook detailed evaluation of the program which showed high acceptability and applicability. Evaluation also highlighted key learnings and other considerations for broader implementation.

### Proactive Anti-racism Training for Healthcare (PATH)

The PATH Program draws on psychological understandings of racism and behavioural change, to provide a framework for non-Indigenous healthcare workers and students to address personal beliefs and values underpinning race-related thoughts, feelings and actions. The aim is to equip professionals with the tools required to develop and maintain healthy relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The pilot study in 2024 saw 41 staff and students at the Royal Adelaide Hospital participate in the online program while 42 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients or visitors to the hospital responded to the 'Yarn-up' survey to monitor both positive experiences and experiences of racism.

### Key contributions to first ever dedicated Indigenous health journal

AHE Co-Leader A/Prof Odette Pearson was a guest editor for the Medical Journal of Australia's first ever issue to exclusively feature Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research.

The seminal collaboration with the Lowitja Institute was officially launched at SAHMRI ahead of NAIDOC Week, and featured a study led by A/Prof Pearson in collaboration with the Registry of Senior Australians at SAHMRI. The journal issue also highlighted the SAHMRI-based Australia & New Zealand Dialysis and Transplant (ANZDATA) Registry.



# Lifelong Health



## Targeting the biggest health challenges across our lifespan

As SAHMRI's largest and most diverse theme, Lifelong Health addresses chronic diseases through a multifaceted approach. We operate multiple discovery-to-impact programs aimed at overcoming the enormous health challenges posed by chronic diseases that affect us as we age, including heart and vascular diseases, neurodegenerative conditions, chronic pain and diabetes and metabolic conditions.

Chronic diseases are often considered individually, but this does not represent the 'real world' situation, as they often coexist with shared causes and risk factors. Lifelong Health instead aims to utilise its unique collection of research interests to form innovative collaborations to tackle chronic health conditions in unique ways. Through this integrated approach, we can make real impacts on the complex puzzle of chronic diseases.

## SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

### Repurposing an ancient drug to prevent heart disease

2024 saw the completion of the NHMRC-funded COCOMO-ACS clinical trial and publication of the primary results. This multicentre study, which saw the Lifelong Health team collaborating with nine Australian hospitals, investigated the ability of the ancient anti-gout drug colchicine to stabilise inflamed, fatty atherosclerotic plaques in the arteries of the heart following heart attack.

The team found that using colchicine for at least 16 months after a heart attack favourably changed the make-up of residual plaques, making them less likely to become unstable – indicating that colchicine can be an anti-inflammatory drug used in the prevention of heart disease.

### Making brain cancer treatment more effective

The Laboratory for Human Neurophysiology and Genetics at SAHMRI discovered that cerebral spinal fluid makes glioblastoma tumour cells more adaptable and resistant to common treatments like chemotherapy and radiation. This is due to a protein called NUPR1 that helps the cancer cells survive in this tough environment by blocking a type of cell death.

Using the team's patented BrainPhys technology to grow replica human brain cells in a dish, the team tested an antipsychotic drug called trifluoperazine, which is known to block NUPR1, and found it did not damage the healthy cells. This suggests that adding trifluoperazine to current treatment plans might help people with glioblastoma live longer.

### Repurposing an ancient drug to prevent heart disease

Hundreds of Australia's leading investors put aside stocks, options, bonds and currencies as A/Prof Tim Sargeant, the head of SAHMRI's Lysosomal Health in Ageing Group, discussed how "eating yourself" is the key to healthy ageing. His TEDx talk-style presentation was one of the highlights of the Sohn Hearts & Minds investment conference, which was held in Adelaide for the first time in late November.

A/Prof Sargeant's laboratory explores how cells clear and reuse their contents through autophagy – the cell's recycling centre. The work spans fundamental biology, biomarker development and clinical studies with the aim of translating discoveries into strategies that improve health across the lifespan.



# Precision Cancer Medicine



## The right treatment for the right person at the right time

The Precision Cancer Medicine Theme investigates why people respond differently to diseases and therapies, to deliver the most effective and targeted treatment options.

Our cancer researchers are dedicated to uncovering the drivers of individual patient responses to disease and treatment, enabling more accurate outcome prediction, tailored therapy selection, and the development of personalised, targeted interventions.

Theme members are strategically embedded within Adelaide's biomedical precinct, fostering robust

collaborative relationships across the co-located Royal Adelaide Hospital and the nearby Women's and Children's Hospital—critical partners in enabling translational research.

These local partnerships are complemented by extensive national and international collaborations with leading academic institutions, clinical networks, and researchers. This integrated approach with access to world-class research infrastructure and technologies, positioning

Precision Cancer Medicine Theme at the forefront of precision cancer medicine innovation.

## SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

### Advancing treatment for acute myeloid leukaemia

Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML) with mutations of the TP53 gene are found in about 5–10% of new AML cases, more commonly in elderly patients and those with therapy-related AML. These mutations are associated with a very poor prognosis and resistance to standard treatments, as TP53 is a tumour suppressor gene that serves to reduce cancer development.

The Myelodysplastic Syndromes Group, with global collaborators, published a paper in the prestigious Blood Cancer Journal which led to the development of guidelines for the clinical treatment of this form of AML.

### Genomic analysis of SA Paediatric Brain Tumour Biobank

This initiative aims to uncover the genetic drivers of treatment response and long-term survivorship in children with brain cancer. The project has commenced with the re-analysis of archived tumour samples, many of which were originally diagnosed using limited genomic testing. These samples are now being re-classified and subtyped using advanced genomic techniques. The updated data will be integrated back into the biobank, ensuring that researchers have access to well-characterised, subtype-specific specimens.

This enhanced resource is available for ethically approved research projects across Australia and internationally, accelerating translational discoveries and driving improvements in outcomes for children affected by brain cancer.

### New study gets to the heart of Long COVID

SAHMRI's Computational and Systems Biology Group led a national study that provided a significant step forward towards improving management of long COVID by shedding new light on the ongoing health damage the disease causes.

The study, published in *Nature Microbiology*, found inflammatory markers in the blood of long COVID patients 18–24 months after infection which could explain why many experience ongoing cardiovascular issues.

The discovery of varied immune responses depending on the symptoms being experienced by the person reinforced the need for personalised treatment of long COVID, which in reality isn't a single condition but a range of conditions, each with its own mechanisms.



# SAHMRI Women and Kids



## Giving our kids the best start to life

At SAHMRI Women and Kids, our vision is that all women, children and families have access to high quality health and social care that empowers them to achieve their fullest potential.

Our research recognises that interventions, both before and during pregnancy, can alter the health trajectory of parents across life and influence the lifelong health of the child.

We undertake clinical trials, implementation and surveillance

studies during the important life stages of pregnancy, infancy and adolescence focussed on improving maternal and neonatal care practices, improving nutrition, reducing health inequity and addressing wellbeing and social health issues. Our goals include reducing prematurity, stillbirth and other adverse pregnancy outcomes, reducing the complications of prematurity and supporting healthy development and family wellbeing.

## SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

### A new era for human milk nutrition

SAHMRI is playing a central role in the Centre of Research Excellence (CRE) in Human Milk Nutrition which was launched in May, 2024.

The CRE, led by SAHMRI Women and Kids Theme Leader Professor Alice Rumbold, is a national collaborative research program bringing together leading multidisciplinary researchers, health care providers and Australia's national human milk bank to develop and translate strategies to improve breastfeeding and use of donor human milk in babies born too soon.

### "Corka Bubs" creating stronger families, stronger communities

SAHMRI's Aboriginal Communities and Families Health Research Alliance (ACRA) completed its Corka Bubs study to determine the feasibility and acceptability of a care package for pregnant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women experiencing stress or problems with use of alcohol or cannabis during pregnancy.

The care package was a suite of additional services – embedded within antenatal care – designed to empower Aboriginal women and their support people by helping to reduce harms associated with common social health issues.

The findings of this study are being collated into a policy brief to be released early next year.

### National grant success to drive ongoing research impact

The Aboriginal Communities and Families Health Research Alliance (ACRA) was highly successful in earning competitive grant funding in 2024, securing \$10.7m for projects to be delivered across the next five years.

The Perinatal Trial Methodology program was successful in four grants totalling \$5 million in 2024. These will support new research into omega-3 requirements in preterm infants, probiotics for enhancing vaccine responses in antibiotic-treated infants, recurrent miscarriage and statistical methods for infant nutrition trials.

Supporting Neurodevelopment researchers also had a successful year in 2024 with Associate Professor Jacqueline Gould earning an NHMRC Investigator grant and a Women's and Children's Hospital Research Foundation Bloom grant, while early career researcher Dr Emily Shepherd was awarded a grant from the Research Foundation of the Cerebral Palsy Alliance.



# Impact

## Rapidly translating research discoveries into healthcare improvements

Translation of discovery into genuine impact for our community is SAHMRI's highest priority. The SAHMRI Impact platform supports clinical trials, registry science and health policy, drives industry engagement and commercialisation and facilitates community and consumer involvement in research.

SAHMRI Impact consists of research platforms and business units that deliver rapid, tangible benefits to health care, services and policy, including:

### Health Policy Centre      Registry Centre



Conducting research to inform public health policy and interventions.

The Centre applies a public health approach to prevent chronic diseases including cancer, heart disease and diabetes and has major ongoing programs of research specialising in tobacco control and e-cigarettes, alcohol consumption and food policy and obesity prevention.

Uniting 27 member registries to share operational expertise and increase the quality, efficiency and cost effectiveness of their work.

The Centre provides a platform to enhance the enormous value of registry data, supporting the use of other important data sources such as trials, surveys, biobank data, administrative data sets and information systems, through data linkage and research collaborations.

Providing expertise to SAHMRI research programs as well as offering commercial services to external groups needing clinical trial support.

The Platform plays a pivotal role in advancing essential clinical research across a broad spectrum of therapeutic areas including immunology, cardiovascular health, women's health, oncology, metabolism and gastrointestinal disorders.



### SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

#### Reducing vaping through targeted policy and evaluation

Through a decade of research, the Health Policy Centre at SAHMRI has provided critical evidence on the rising prevalence of vaping, particularly among young people, and has been instrumental in informing state and federal policy responses.

In 2024, the Centre's research underpinned new legislation that was enacted in SA and Australia to ban the sale and importation of disposable vapes. Federal Health Minister, the Hon Mark Butler, praised SAHMRI for supplying the data that highlighted concerning trends and underscored the need for stringent restrictions.

The Centre continues to monitor developments, providing ongoing evidence to support and refine public health strategies. Recent data indicate the legislative measures, underpinned by robust research, are effectively reducing vaping prevalence in South Australia.

#### Improving aged care quality and safety

The Registry of Senior Australians (ROSA) Research Centre conducted a project to expand the National Aged Care Mandatory Quality Indicator (QI) Program.

The team identified three new workforce QIs which are set to be implemented nationally in April 2025. These will continue the research centre's outstanding track record of providing evidence and recommendations that improve the monitoring and quality of services for older people living in aged care homes.

#### Contributing to pioneering precision medicine clinical trial

At the forefront of innovative research, SAHMRI's Clinical Trials Platform is collaborating with A/Prof Dan Thomas and his research team to deliver comprehensive project management across seven hospital sites nationwide.

This groundbreaking clinical trial employs a precision medicine approach to address the critical need for effective, targeted treatments for Chronic Myelomonocytic Leukemia (CMML), a rare blood cancer with limited treatment options.

Importantly, in 2024 the Clinical Trials Platform established a teletrial satellite site for this study, expanding access to these novel therapies for participants in rural and remote regions of Australia, from the Research Foundation of the Cerebral Palsy Alliance.

# Imaging at SAHMRI

## Providing the complete pipeline of imaging capabilities

SAHMRI is one of very few organisations within Australia that provides the full pipeline of imaging capabilities from small animal imaging to impactful and translational large animal imaging to pioneering human clinical research imaging.

Additionally, SAHMRI's on-site cyclotron, the only one in South Australia, produces radiopharmaceutical tracers for clinical and preclinical research, while SAHMRI also has world-class facilities for analysis of imaging data.

SAHMRI is the South Australian node of the National Imaging Facility – a comprehensive network of infrastructure and expertise dedicated to accelerating Australian research innovation. This gives researchers at SAHMRI access to national experts in developing new technologies, interpreting data and applying imaging to solve complex problems.

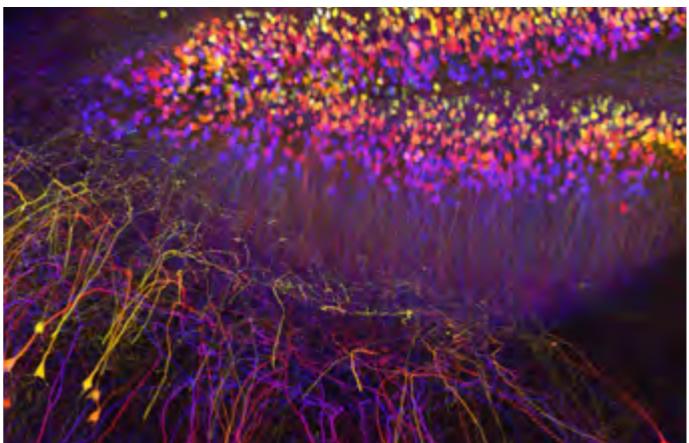


## MOLECULAR IMAGING AND THERAPY RESEARCH UNIT (MITRU)

MITRU is the home of South Australia's only cyclotron and is dedicated to the research, development and manufacture of radiopharmaceuticals.

The unit is licensed by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) as a manufacturer of radiopharmaceuticals which are supplied daily to hospitals and imaging centres all over Australia.

MITRU has research collaborations with universities, institutions and private companies and is increasingly supplying radiopharmaceuticals for research purposes including clinical trials.



## SMALL ANIMAL IMAGING

Within SAHMRI's specific pathogen-free PC2 Bioresources Facility researchers can utilise multiple imaging modalities in a single longitudinal study. The facility includes nuclear molecular imaging (PET/SPECT), optical imaging (bioluminescence, fluorescence and Cerenkov), microCT, MRI, body composition analysis in awake animals (EchomRI) plus image processing and analysis.



Clinical + Research Imaging Centre

## CLINICAL & RESEARCH IMAGING CENTRE (CRIC)

The CRIC at SAHMRI is a unique partnership with Jones Radiology that houses world-first technologies and expertise with close translational links to health and industry.

The facility boasts Australia's first photon counting CT machine and one of the first Cima-X 3T MRI scanners in the world, as well as PET imaging and MR-compatible eye-tracking.

CRIC represents a core component of SA's research and innovation capability, underpinning economic growth with a track record of facilitating success in competitive grant schemes and investment into SA from progressive companies in nanomanufacturing, photonics, advanced sensing and biomedical manufacturing.



Preclinical, Imaging & Research Laboratories

Home

## PRECLINICAL, IMAGING AND RESEARCH LABORATORIES (PIRL)

SAHMRI's PIRL site is 35-acre purpose-built large and small animal facility which co-locates surgical theatres and imaging equipment alongside quality indoor and outdoor animal holding facilities.

The National Association of Testing Authorities-recognised Good Laboratory Practice facility is home to the Large Animal Research and Imaging Facility (LARIF), which is Australia's only dedicated large-animal preclinical research imaging facility, making it a unique international destination for biomedical research, device testing and basic science research.

## SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

### Cutting edge imaging boosting cancer survival

SAHMRI's provision of a complete pipeline of imaging capabilities enabled the Adelaide-based biotech company Ferronova in a development that could improve survival outcomes by almost 20% for people who have had gastric or oesophageal cancer surgery.

The company has developed a novel nanoparticle dubbed FerroTrace with SAHMRI's imaging facilities and expertise playing a pivotal role at every stage of the project.

SAHMRI, as South Australia's National Imaging Facility (NIF) node, continues to be involved with this project as it progresses towards a Stage 2 clinical trial and commercialisation.

### Expertise to refine cutting-edge cardiac technology

PIRL provided local startup Cardiovasc.Tech with the rigorous testing environment necessary to ensure its TorqView device met the highest scientific and regulatory standards before reaching clinical application.

TorqView's real-time feedback system aims to improve clinical outcomes by enhancing the precision of pacemaker lead deployment, reducing risks, and contributing to advancements in cardiac research and practice.

Following vital preclinical safety and efficacy research at PIRL, was deployed for the first time to complete clinical procedures at Flinders Private Hospital and Flinders Medical Centre, marking a leap forward in cardiac care and medical technology.

# SAHMRI-Led Partnerships

## A hub for sharing knowledge, expertise and equipment

SAHMRI sits at the nexus of medical research in South Australia – facilitating collaborations with the public health sector, SA's three major universities and industry.

As such, SAHMRI leads several cross-institutional partnerships that provide equipment, services and expertise for diverse research teams across the state and beyond.

Partnerships like these exemplify the strength and utility of cooperation between SAHMRI and its foundational partners in the State Government, the University of Adelaide, the University of South Australia and Flinders University.



Health Translation South Australia (HTSA) exists to turn groundbreaking research into real-world impact, improving the health and lives of South Australians.

The centre is based at SAHMRI and has been accredited by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) since 2015. Other members of the partnership are the University of Adelaide, the University of South Australia, Flinders University, Torrens University Australia, the Commission on Excellence and Innovation in Health, SA Health (including the 10 Local Health Networks), Adelaide Primary Health Network, Country SA Primary Health Network, CSIRO and the Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia.

In November 2024, HTSA launched the inaugural Consumer and Community Involvement in Research (CCIR) Masterclass for researchers and consumers. This event was developed in direct response to requests from both groups for a more in-depth exploration of CCI, moving beyond theory into practical application.

Actively involving health consumers helps to ensure research reflects the needs and priorities of the people it aims to benefit. The event sold out rapidly and HTSA now has more than 150 people on its Community Interest Register. Due to overwhelming interest, HTSA will run another Masterclass in 2025.



SOUTH  
AUSTRALIAN  
GENOMICS  
CENTRE

The SAGC provides comprehensive, cost-effective and readily accessible genomics and bioinformatics services, and infrastructure of the highest possible standard, to support research excellence in human, agricultural, environmental and microbial genomics.

The central node of the SAGC has been based at SAHMRI since its establishment in July 2020. Partners include the University of South Australia, Flinders University and the University of Adelaide while affiliate partners include the Australian Genome Research Facility and the Australian Wine Research Institute.

The SAGC is South Australia's only genomics facility that is supported by the Australian Government's National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) and also benefits from funding from BioPlatforms Australia, the State Government and the James and Diana Ramsay Foundation.

Since its inception, the SAGC has been pioneering cutting-edge genomics technologies. This position at the vanguard of genomic sequencing and analysis was consolidated throughout 2024 thanks to a \$5.7m co-investment under the NCRIS program.

Among other initiative, the investment enables the SAGC to continue leading in the rapidly evolving field of single-cell genomics, offering advanced platforms such as scRNA-seq, scATAC-seq, CITE-seq and single cell multi-omics. These high-resolution tools support deep insights into tissue complexity, development, and disease at the cellular level.



# Key Partnerships

SAHMRI enjoys a network of partners and collaborators locally, nationally and internationally that empower our research and its ability to create healthier futures.

## KEY PARTNERSHIPS



**NACCHO**  
National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation



**Aboriginal Community Services**



**Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia Inc.**



**ANZCHOG**  
Australian & New Zealand Children's Haematology/Oncology Group



**Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care**



**ALLG**  
AUSTRALASIAN LEUKAEMIA & LYMPHOMA GROUP



**Australian Red Cross Lifeblood**



**Health Central Adelaide Local Health Network**



**Department of Health, Disability and Ageing**



**Jones Radiology**



**NATIONAL  
IMAGING  
FACILITY**



**Health Northern Adelaide Local Health Network**



**Women's & Children's Hospital**



**Adelaide Brain Cancer Therapy and Imaging Consortium**

**Prof David Baker (University of Washington)**  
2024 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry

**Prof David Julius (University of California)**  
2021 Nobel Laureate in Physiology/Medicine

# About SAHMRI

We believe in creating healthier futures for all Australians. We listen to the needs of our communities to deliver research that changes the way healthcare is delivered. Through research excellence, innovation and strategic partnerships, we turn discoveries into impact for our communities.

SAHMRI was born in December 2009 following the Review of Health and Medical Research in South Australia conducted by Professor John Shine and Mr Alan Young AM. The creation of SAHMRI was a powerful investment to increase South Australia's health and medical research capacity, thereby improving the health and quality of life for people throughout South Australia and beyond.

Our sole focus on research enables the agility to rapidly respond to State Government policy and health service needs, while simultaneously providing a culture of innovation and translation that attracts and retains star researchers from Australia and overseas.

SAHMRI is a company limited by guarantee of its six founding members – the University of Adelaide, the University of South Australia, Flinders University and three State Government Ministers (Health and Wellbeing; Industry, Innovation and Science; Treasurer). The relationships with these entities are not organisational, they are active collaborations. SAHMRI works with and alongside the universities, government departments and government agencies to deliver health improvements for all South Australians and people everywhere.

SAHMRI is headquartered in the Adelaide BioMed City precinct at the western end of North Terrace, but is also embedded within health care providers across the state including the Royal Adelaide Hospital, the Women's and Children's Hospital and the Flinders Medical Centre.

## SAHMRI Community



**50%**

of board directors and executive are women



**51%**

of staff are women



members of Board / Executive are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander



**10%** of staff

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

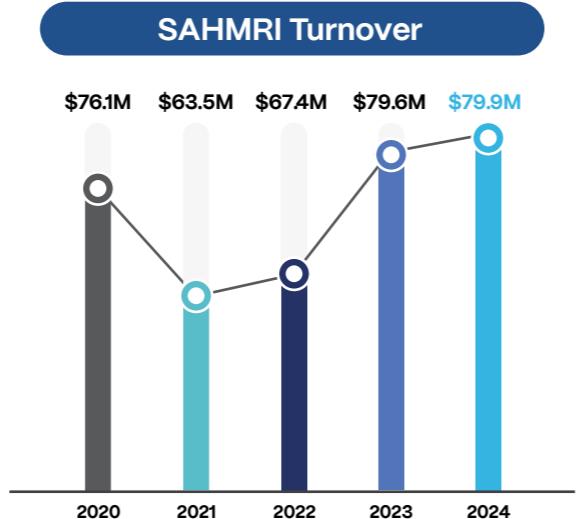
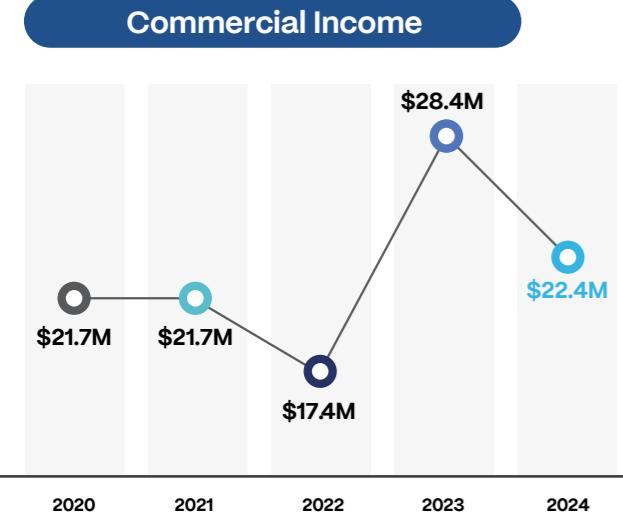
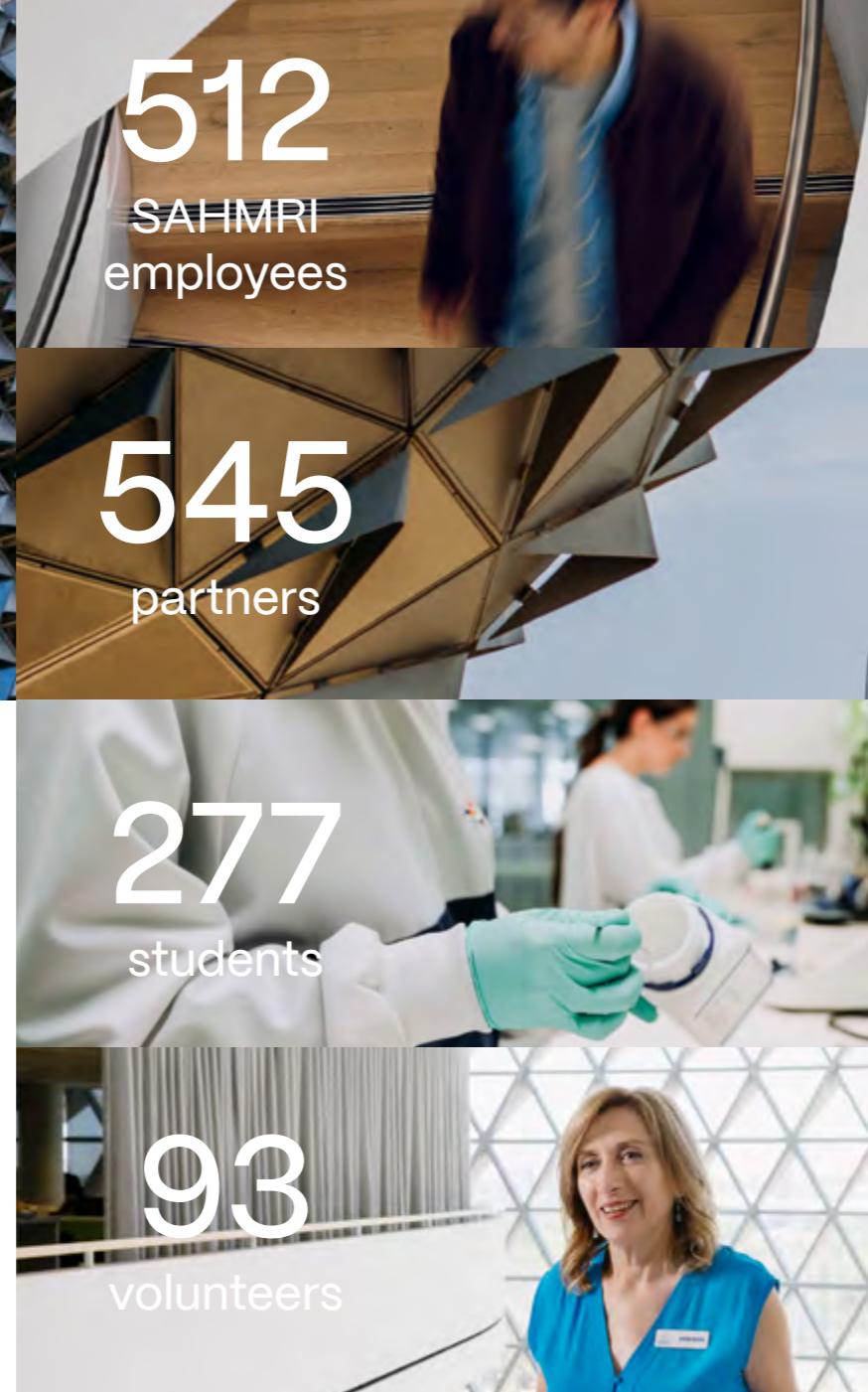
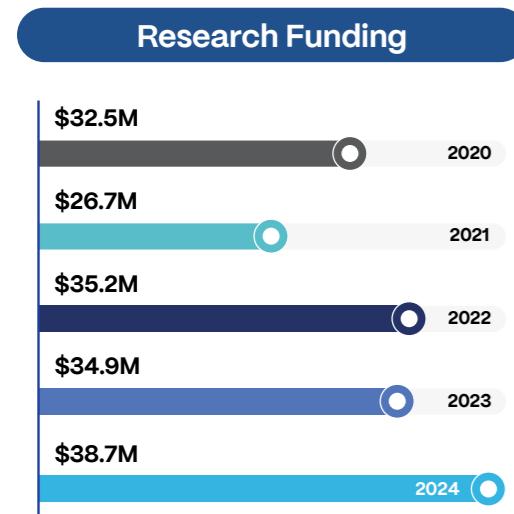


**47**

nationalities among staff

# Growth at a Glance

**1427**  
SAHMRI  
Community



# SAHMRI Board



**Hon Hieu Van Le AC**  
Appointed  
December 2021



**Prof Justin Beilby**  
Inaugural Board Director  
/ re-appointed March  
2020



**Edward Fry**  
Appointed  
December 2021



**Ross Haslam**  
Appointed  
July 2018



**Jennifer Richter AM**  
Appointed  
July 2018



**Kathryn House**  
AM DSJ  
Appointed  
August 2022



**Prof Kate Schroder**  
Appointed  
August 2022



**Dr Tony Sherbon**  
Appointed  
August 2022



**Karen Hayes**  
AM DSJ  
Appointed  
September 2024



**Jeff Ellison**  
AM  
Appointed  
January 2025

# Reconciliation Action Plan

## Committee Letter

SAHMRI's Reconciliation Action Plan Committee was officially in recess throughout 2024. We decided, after careful consideration, that in the wake of last year's unsuccessful referendum about enshrining an Indigenous Voice to Parliament within Australia's Constitution it was best to take time to reflect on what Reconciliation means to Australia and how SAHMRI can best play a meaningful role in strengthening honest relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australia.

Despite not officially meeting throughout 2024, SAHMRI delivered some significant Reconciliation innovations while progressing plans for the Stretch phase of our Reconciliation Action Plan.

In February, more than 100 guests were on hand for the unveiling of Wardlipari – an Indigenous STEMM mural that covers 88m<sup>2</sup> of the North Terrace-facing base of SAHMRI's headquarters. The mural was created by Ngarrindjeri and Kaurna artist Allan Sumner and is dedicated to the contribution that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have made to science across the past tens of thousands of years.

In early July, SAHMRI was honoured to host the launch of the first ever edition of The Medical Journal of Australia that exclusively features Aboriginal

and Torres Strait Islander research. The special edition was a collaboration with Lowitja Institute and featured Indigenous guest editors including the Co-Leader of SAHMRI's Aboriginal Health Equity Theme, A/Prof Odette Pearson.

At the centre of SAHMRI's NAIDOC Week celebrations for 2024 was the awarding of the annual Neville Fazulla Aboriginal Health Memorial Scholarship. The annual prize honours the lifetime of contributions Neville made to improving health systems' responses to the specialised needs of Indigenous people. The 2024 scholarship was awarded to Naomi Thorntwaite to support her PhD studies into the social and emotional wellbeing needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers and their support people.

Our RAP Committee will reconvene next year with renewed energy to deliver the commitments we set ourselves under the Stretch phase of our Reconciliation journey. This will focus on our commitment to be a visible leader advocating for Reconciliation across our research sector and our broader communities, including physical initiatives such as the realisation of our Indigenous language room naming project and installation of Indigenous art features across our facilities.



# Community Engagement

**1300**  
**BRiGHT**  
walk  
participants

**~3000**  
attended  
events at  
SAHMRI

**93**  
volunteers

**927**  
tour participants

**~3000**  
donors

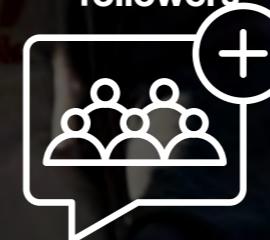
(individual, business, community groups, trusts and foundations)

**700+**  
visitors to  
Open Day

**3** legacy gifts  
in wills  
totalling  
more than  
**\$1m**

## Social Media

**31,939**  
followers

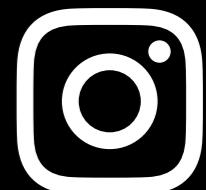


up 17% on 2023

**Largest**  
year-on-year increase on

**up 26%**

First full year of  
Instagram account



**987**  
posts



**854**  
shares



## Website



**281,391**  
visits

up 19% on 2023

**996,000**



impressions

## Media

**3,888**  
articles



up 6% on 2023

**2,400**  
online



**1,351**  
radio



**137**  
TV



**2,510**  
domestic



**1,378**  
international



### Potential reach

**9.4m**  
broadcast

**4.8b**  
online



# Philanthropy

The 2024 year was one of evolution for the Fundraising and Marketing team, reflected in the change of name to *Philanthropy and Strategic Engagement* to more clearly represent how the team engages with the community and our supporters.

Meaningful engagement with the many people, community groups, businesses and other organisations that support SAHMRI has been an increasingly important focus area for our institution of late, driven in no small part by Public Engagement and Philanthropy (PEP) Committee that we formed towards the end of 2023. The PEP committee comprises Board members Ms Kathryn House AM DSJ (Chair) and Ms Karen Hayes AM DSJ, magnificently supported by an array of experience, talented and connected members of the public who are passionate about championing SAHMRI's mission to create healthier futures.

The PEP committee has inspired several new initiatives including our Discovery Circle, which brings together a group of committed donors who are determined to make a powerful impact on improving the health and well-being of our community. The Circle allocated its inaugural \$100,000 grant to Dr Elyse Page, who will target earlier detection and less toxic treatment plans for people with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, in particular children.

Philanthropy, the first pillar of our new department title, is defined as "love of humanity" and embraces all types of giving – hosting, advocating, assisting, and contributing. SAHMRI gratefully acknowledges all contributions from the community that further our research, from generous financial support to the time spent on advisory boards, participating in clinical trials, sitting on consumer groups, through volunteering or through advocacy. We deeply appreciate all of these meaningful gifts.

By adopting strategic engagement as our second pillar, we are increasing our focus on engaging with all of our community and stakeholders. We relish hosting local and international visitors to our building for tours, events or research collaborations. For those who can't physically make it to SAHMRI, we share our vital work through our website, social media platforms, our monthly podcast and with the support of traditional media outlets.

This refined strategy builds on previously established relationships while elevating SAHMRI's stakeholders to a new level of familiarity. We seek to grow understanding of our research and funding priorities, and the societal improvements that SAHMRI's research is delivering across our health and medical areas of focus.

Another change you will see in 2025 is the evolution of the BRIGHT Walk. This year's walk saw more than 1,300 people participate, with the proceeds dedicated to accelerating the careers of some of SAHMRI's best and brightest rising research stars. Over the two years as a virtual event and three in-person editions, more than 7000 people have taken part in the walk, collectively raising \$1.5m from almost 15,000 donors.

The BRIGHT Walk is a powerful visual demonstration of support for SAHMRI, however the event's considerable logistical challenges have led us to seek other options to leverage the BRIGHT theme for fundraising from now on. Watch this space!

We warmly thank everyone who has been involved in the event over the years, from participants to the friends and family who supported them, our generous sponsors and partners and the army of volunteers who gave their time before, during and after the events.

The power of collective giving was also demonstrated through our strengthening relationships with community groups across Adelaide. We were fortunate to establish a four-year Honours scholarship in blood cancer research thanks to the enormous efforts of the Lions Club of Richmond, while the generosity of the Festival of Motorcycling SA provided SAHMRI with a new microplate reader.

Our objective to increase philanthropic support across all interests and profiles of the community continued in 2024 with our end of financial year and Christmas appeals. The first raised \$45,000 for the GIFT Trial, which investigates whether providing donor human milk is beneficial to preterm infants when their mother's milk is not available or is in short supply. The "Imagine" Christmas appeal surpassed \$40,000 and supported projects from each of SAHMRI's research themes.

We are also extremely grateful to all those who have committed to supporting SAHMRI in their Wills, providing a unique legacy by advancing medical research. In 2024 we received a record sum of more than \$1m from legacy gifts.

This year also saw us welcome the Hazel Jourdin to lead the Philanthropy and Strategic Engagement team. Hazel's international experience brings a new perspective and innovative ideas to build on the foundations laid by her predecessor, Dave Simms.

Dave retired in February, having driven developments such as SAHMRI's first ever large-scale marketing campaign and the transition of our BRIGHT Walk from an online fundraiser to a one-night, in-person event.

Philanthropy comes in so many forms. All are equally important, and we at SAHMRI are equally grateful for them all. Together, we are creating healthier futures.



# Thank You to SAHMRI's 2024 Supporters

## Platinum supporters (\$100,000+)

Susan and Geoff Blomfield  
Detmold Group  
Emeritus Professor John Hopwood AM and Barbara Hopwood  
Jamie and Louisa McClurg  
McMahon Services  
The Estate of Helen Uppington

## Diamond supporters (\$50,000+)

Grosset Gaia Foundation  
Richard Cavill Foundation  
Dr Stephen Scammell

## Emerald supporters (\$25,000+)

ECH  
Insurance Advisernet Foundation  
The Lin Huddleston Charitable Foundation  
Silverchain

## Sapphire supporters (\$10,000+)

Bolton Clarke  
Festival of Motorcycling SA  
EFM Hawthorn Health Club  
Foskett Foundation  
Haneco Lighting Australia  
Beverley James  
LK Law  
The Lions Club of the City of Adelaide  
Lions Club of Gawler, in memory of Garry Hoppo  
Lions Club of Richmond  
Dr Frank Seeley AM and Kathy Seeley  
Walford Anglican School for Girls  
John Watts  
Bill Williams

## Ruby supporters (\$5,000+)

AirTouch  
Janet Anderson  
Aaron Blabey  
Kirstie Blabey  
Boileau Business Solutions  
Paul and Paula Bonney  
Robert and Peggy Brookes  
Burton Foundation  
Wee Keat Chan

Alister and Sue Haigh  
Haigh's Chocolates  
Karen Hayes AM DSJ  
Graeme Hayes  
Kathryn House AM DSJ  
Nick House  
Andrew Khabbaz  
Maxxia  
Roger Lang  
Phillips Ormonde Fitzpatrick  
Jennifer Richter AM  
Shaun Rolevink  
Don Sarah AM  
Ian and Kathryn Sargent  
Dr Lea Thin Seow  
Urological Society of Australia and New Zealand  
Paul Wheelton AM GSJ and Angela Wheelton OAM DSJ  
Dr Evelyn Yap OAM  
Eric and Ivy Yeoh

## \$2,500+

API Wine and Cheese Club Inc.  
Astellas Pharma  
Professor Stuart Brierley and Michelle Brierley  
Kevin Chapley  
Jones Radiology  
Diané Ranck OAM  
Katie Sarah

## \$1,000+

Accenture  
Australian Communities Foundation  
Australian Gas Networks  
Andrew Barling  
Barrow & Bench Mitre 10  
Josephine Burke  
Brian Burt  
Lena Cavill  
Richard Chmielewski  
Jeanette Corney  
Ingrid Cother and Robert Anderson  
Andrew Davies  
Pamela Dean

Gordon Greet  
John and Jan Hosking  
Robert and Pat Hudson  
The Lions Club of Brighton  
Professor Maria Makrides  
Brett Miller  
Marjorie Molyneux  
Jane Oberdan  
Rowe Scientific  
Hilda Rowley  
San Remo Macaroni Company  
Ian Stevens  
Associate Professor Daniel Thomas  
Margaret Turner  
David and Beryl Underwood  
Andrew Vuong  
Daniel Vuong  
Professor Deborah White and Robert Harland  
Dr Agnes Yong  
Anonymous (1)

## Grant funding

Australian Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust  
Beat Cancer Project  
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation  
BrightFocus Foundation  
Cancer Australia  
Cancer Council NSW  
Cancer Council SA  
Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation  
Childhood Cancer Association  
Diabetes Australia  
Diabetes SA  
Flinders Foundation  
Heart Foundation  
The Hospital Research Foundation Group  
Ian Potter Foundation  
James & Diana Ramsay Foundation  
The Leukaemia Foundation of Australia  
Leukemia and Lymphoma Society  
Michael J Fox Foundation  
Movember  
My Room Children's Cancer Charity

Neurosurgical Research Foundation  
Perpetual Foundation  
Robert Connor Dawes Foundation  
South Australian Museum  
Tour De Cure  
Vascular Foundation  
Women's & Children's Hospital Foundation

**SAHMRI gratefully thanks the 2,645 donors who gave other amounts in 2024.**

**We acknowledge the 59 generous people who have remembered SAHMRI with a gift in their Will.**

**We also recognise the ongoing legacy of the 10 donors whose bequests have been received.**



# Lifetime Giving

We acknowledge and thank the supporters who have made significant contributions of \$25,000+ to SAHMRI.

Adelaide Appeals Committee  
Frank Agostino\*  
Robert and Marjory Ahrens\*  
Stefan and Leanne Ahrens\*  
Rick Allert AO and Barbara Allert  
Amgen Australia  
ANZ  
Asia in SA  
Astellas Pharma  
Australian Hotels Association  
Beach Energy  
Bell Potter  
Bellberry Limited  
Deepankur Bhatia\*  
Susan and Geoff Blomfield  
Boileau Business Solutions  
Bolton Clarke  
Burton Foundation\*  
Rob and Lisa Chapman\*  
City Circle Group  
CMV Foundation Inasmuch  
Cowell Clarke  
David & Nicole Crawford\*  
Meg Daniel  
Detmold Group\*  
Greg and Lynn Drew\*  
Colin Dunsford AM and the late Libby Dunsford\*  
ECH  
estara  
The Estate of Ruth Murchland  
The Estate of Loris Stoll  
The Estate of Helen Uppington  
Factors Group  
Fay Fuller Foundation  
Festival of Motorcycling SA  
Janet Forster and the late Ron Forster\*  
Foskett Foundation  
Dr Graham Fraenkel\*  
Sean Geoghegan and Elizabeth Hallam\*  
Hon. Tom Gray\*  
Greaton Development Pty Ltd  
Grosset Gaia Foundation\*  
The late David R Gunn\*  
Alister and Sue Haigh\*  
Jill Hammond, Amanda Buttery and Belinda Buttery\*  
Harvey Foundation  
Peter and Sandy Hayes  
Nick and Nikki Heywood-Smith\*  
Emeritus Professor John Hopwood AM and Barbara Hopwood\*

Hostplus  
Kathryn House AM and Nick House\*  
Hurley Family Foundation  
Independent Gaming Corporation  
Insurance Advisernet Foundation  
Jimfan Foundation  
The late Robert Kennedy\*  
The Lin Huddleston Charitable Foundation

The Lions Club of the City of Adelaide  
Lions Club of Richmond  
LK Law  
Louisa DaCosta Trust  
Hugh MacLachlan and Fiona MacLachlan OAM\*  
Jamie McClurg and Louisa McClurg

McMahon Services\*  
Maxxia  
Next Generation Private Ancillary Fund  
Nocelle Foods  
Loretta Reynolds\*  
Richard Cavill Foundation  
Shaun Rolevink\*  
Rotary Adelaide  
Sandy's Memorial Trust

Dr Stephen Scammell  
Dr Frank Seeley AM and Kathy Seeley\*  
Dr Lea Thin Seow\*  
Silverchain  
David and Kathryn Simmons\*  
Bruno and Bernie Simone

Jess, Tony and Bianca Simone  
Josh and Cathy Simons\*  
Raymond Spencer AM and Tina Spencer\*  
Anne and Terry Sullivan

Thyne Reid Foundation  
The Walker Family Foundation  
Dr Pamela Wall OAM and the late Dr Ian Wall AM\*  
Peter and Lisa Weeks\*

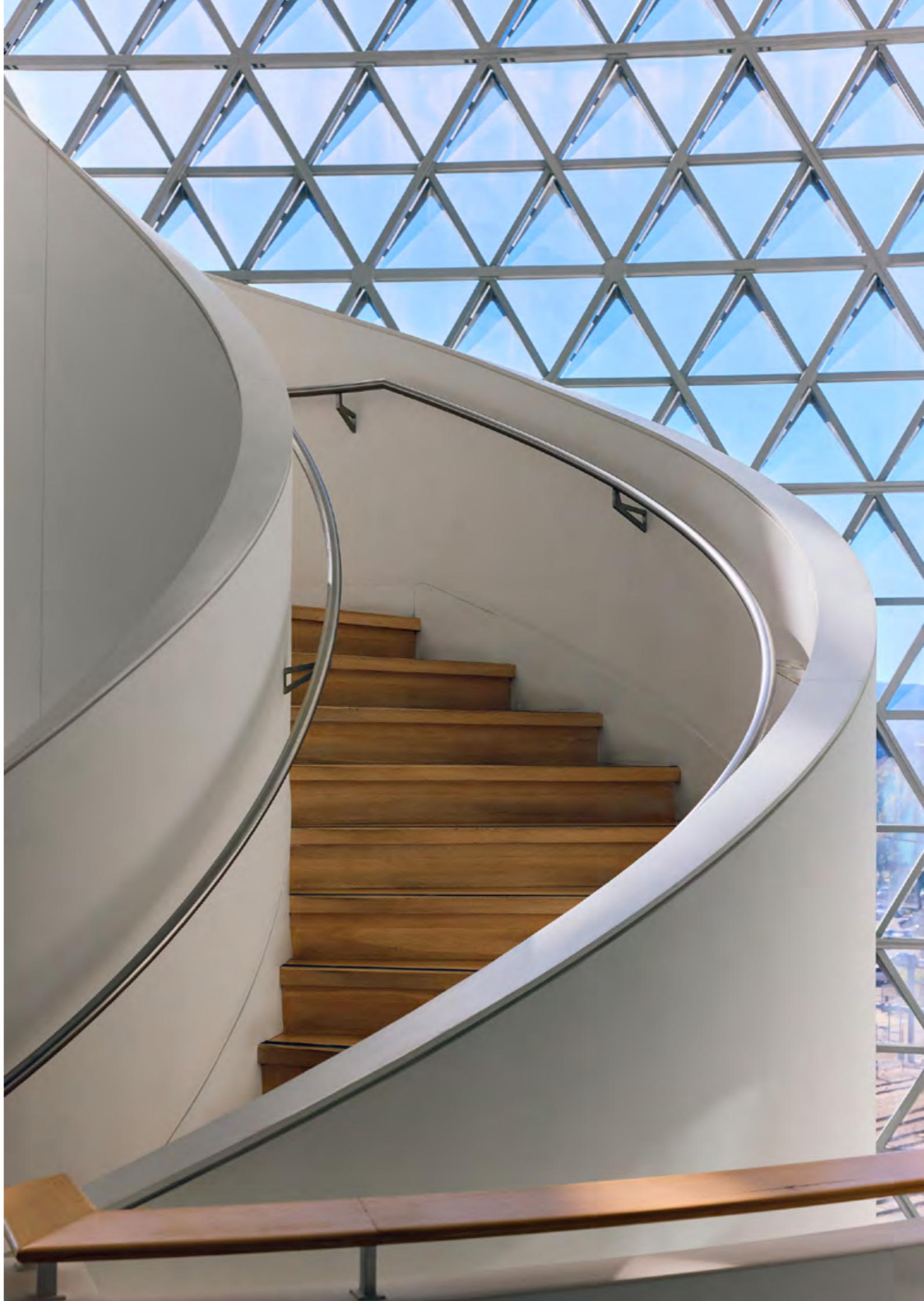
Professor Steve Wesselingh and Teresa Girke\*  
Westpac Group  
The Melissa White Family\*  
Bill Williams\*  
Leeann and David Willson\*

Penelope Wilson  
Alan Young AM and Susan Young\*  
Ken Young  
Professor Paul Zimmet AO\*  
Vivien Zimmet\*

\*Founding Ambassador

## Grant funding

Australian Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust  
Beat Cancer Project  
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation  
Breakthrough Mental Health Research Foundation  
BrightFocus Foundation  
Cancer Australia  
Cancer Council NSW  
Cancer Council SA  
Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation  
Childhood Cancer Association  
Dementia Australia Research Foundation Limited  
Diabetes Australia  
Diabetes SA  
Flinders Foundation  
Heart Foundation  
The Hospital Research Foundation Group  
The Ian Potter Foundation  
James & Diana Ramsay Foundation  
The Leukaemia Foundation of Australia  
Leukemia and Lymphoma Society  
Mason Foundation  
Michael J Fox Foundation  
Movember  
My Room Children's Cancer Charity  
National Heart Foundation of Australia  
Neurosurgical Research Foundation  
Perpetual Limited  
Ramaciotti Foundations  
Rebecca L Cooper Medical Research Foundation  
Robert Connor Dawes Foundation  
South Australian Museum  
Tour De Cure  
Vascular Foundation  
Women and Infants Research Foundation Limited  
Women's & Children's Hospital Foundation  
Wyatt Trust





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## Creating healthier futures

SAHMRI exists to help people lead healthier lives. South Australia's flagship not-for-profit health and medical research institute is driven by research excellence that delivers rapid improvements in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disease.

This is achieved through four health themes – Aboriginal Health Equity, Women and Kids, Precision Cancer Medicine and Lifelong Health.

Home to a leading Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research unit, the Wardliparingga Aboriginal health research team is focused on achieving equitable outcomes by responding to community priorities, reflecting our commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of Indigenous communities, which is vital for a healthier future for all.

Designed for collaboration, our landmark building is at the heart of South Australia's Biomedical ecosystem, uniting hospitals, universities and research entities in interdisciplinary partnerships.

Located in the agile, 20-minute city of Adelaide, SAHMRI is embedded in the state's creative, legal and government precincts, inspiring innovation and accelerating the speed to market of discoveries.

Cost effectiveness combined with Australia's R&D tax incentives make SAHMRI a preferred partner for international collaborations.

Our translational impact is profound and growing. We've influenced health policies such as laws on vaping, established a Centre of Excellence for Registries to house health-advancing data, discovered lifesaving therapies such as a treatment for Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia, and developed the evidence-based Omega-3 test and treat program to help prevent preterm births.

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