

# 2013 Annual Report





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## Mr Raymond Spencer Chair, SAHMRI Board

## **Chair's Report**

We are at a pivotal time in our state's history. I believe this decade has the potential to be viewed by future generations as the most transformative decade in the 21st Century.

For me, SAHMRI symbolises the transformed South Australia. It is a great demonstration of people working together to make a difference to the health and wellbeing of all women and men, children and grandparents across South Australia.

SAHMRI is already a magnet that has attracted the brightest and the best in their particular fields to South Australia and unbeknownst to most, retained highly talented research teams that were being recruited to the Eastern States and overseas.

I am very proud of the team that has been assembled. Our Executive Director, Professor Steve Wesselingh, brings his global leadership and research experience from Johns Hopkins, the Burnet Institute and Monash University. Steve's research credibility and collaborative style has been instrumental in inviting cooperation not just within South Australia, but also with people and organisations around the world.

The broader leadership team has also been chosen after global searches, joining us from places like Cleveland Clinic, St Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, The John Curtin School of Medical Research at ANU in Canberra, the University of Leeds, Baker IDI, Trinity College in Ireland, and our own Women's and Children's Hospital. These men and women are themselves emblematic of the kind of talent we need to attract and retain in South Australia across all fields if we are going to evolve our economy up the value chain, remain competitive in

the global market place and sustain the prosperity and lifestyle we have grown to cherish.

SAHMRI is a demonstration of innovation, bringing together creative and hardworking people from around the world to seek out solutions that can be practically translated to the benefit of all South Australians.

The new iconic building is a dramatic symbol of the vibrant Adelaide and creative South Australia. A building that on first glance would manifest the South Australian DNA of creativity, innovation, and industriousness. The building that opened in December 2013, six years after the budget was created will come in less than 0.5% over budget – without compromising any functionality. This is an amazing feat.

These are but a few of the many reasons why I am so honoured to be involved with SAHMRI. SAHMRI, for me, is a symbol of the new South Australia – a symbol of our potential for continued creativity, industriousness and innovation; and a symbol of the hope for our continuing to be one of the most liveable places in the world.

Rayellan

## Professor Steve Wesselingh Executive Director, SAHMRI



# **Executive Director's Report**

2013 was a significant year for SAHMRI. Not only did it mark the opening of our flagship health and medical research institute, but we also celebrated several important research achievements.

We were fortunate to be joined in late November for the opening of our new research facility by the Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon Tony Abbott MP, and the Premier of South Australia, the Hon Jay Weatherill MP. The Prime Minister said, "SAHMRI does not belong to Adelaide, or even South Australia. It belongs to humanity because all of humanity will benefit from the work that is done in this building". I think this really sums up our organisation; everyone will benefit in some way from the work conducted by our research teams.

We're also proud of our continued commitment to collaboration, in partnership with our founding members: the three major South Australian universities and the State Government. We have also worked very closely with our Research Partners, CSIRO and EMBL Australia and our Major Funder, Cancer Council SA, and will continue to develop and nurture these relationships.

This year we also progressed plans for a second SAHMRI building within the new South Australian Health and Biomedical Precinct. The development of the new Royal Adelaide Hospital, SAHMRI, the University of Adelaide's medical school and the University of South Australia's Centre for Cancer Biology, will create one of the largest health and biomedical precincts in Australia.

We are also been able to attract some incredible research talent back to South Australia to lead our research themes.

We are extremely fortunate to have Professor Maria Makrides

join us as Healthy Mothers, Babies and Children theme leader. Maria comes to SAHMRI with a wealth of research experience in the prevention and treatment of childhood diseases, with a particular focus in nutritional interventions to enable children born at term or prematurely to achieve optimal health, development and growth.

It is an honour to have Professor Julio Licinio join SAHMRI to head up our Mind and Brain theme, with over 20 years of medical research experience at institutions such as Yale, NIH, UCLA, the University of Miami and at the ANU, with key leadership positions in those institutions. Julio's translational and genomics research spans the lab and clinic examining obesity, depression, and their interface.

Moving forward, we are going to be investing a lot of time into growing our fundraising program, and working hard to build our endowment fund.

The upcoming years are very promising for SAHMRI, and really, the journey has just begun. SAHMRI is dedicated to producing excellence in health and medical research, fostering collaboration and accelerating the pace of translation of research into health for the benefit of the community.

SAHMRI's future is extremely bright, and I could not be more honoured to work with the team we have created.

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## About the Institute

## **Overview**

SAHMRI is one of the most significant developments in the field of health and medical research in Australia.

In fact, the Institute is already recognised nationally for its unique partnership model, its iconic research facility and for its success in recruiting outstanding researchers to South Australia from all over the world.

As a new entity, SAHMRI will significantly increase the nation's capacity for leading scientific research by:

- Building the largest team of outstanding researchers in Australia, who will work together in the search for better treatments and cures for some of the world's most challenging diseases
- Creating a world-class precinct of medical research and clinical application, with state of the art laboratories and equipment in a purpose-built, iconic, 25,000 square metre facility
- Actively fostering and nurturing a new generation of the finest research minds, and undertaking extensive and interactive community engagement and education programs.

## Establishment of SAHMRI

In 2008 the South Australian Government commissioned the *Review of Health and Medical Research in South Australia*, conducted by Professor John Shine AO and Mr Alan Young AM, which recommended the establishment of a dedicated, flagship research institute for South Australia.

In response to this recommendation, the South Australian Government committed to establish SAHMRI in 2008, and the Federal Government allocated \$200 million to build the research facility.

SAHMRI was incorporated as South Australia's first independent health and medical research institute in December 2009.

## Building Research Capacity

The development of SAHMRI allows South Australia to consolidate and enhance its position in the health and medical research sector, nationally and internationally.

SAHMRI will seek to build the capacity of all research activity in South Australia, with the goal of creating a 'culture of excellence' in health and medical research across the state.

The development of SAHMRI will also assist South Australia in maintaining and increasing its share of national research grant funding.

SAHMRI's strategic agenda is to continue to recruit and retain research stars for South Australia. To achieve this, the Institute is fostering South Australia's emerging talent as well as recruiting some of the world's leading health and medical scientists to Adelaide.

By continuing to recruit and retain talent, and bringing them together with the high calibre researchers already in South Australia, SAHMRI will enable the state to turn the trend around and to increase its share of national research grant funding.





## **Vision**

Our vision is to transform research into health.

## **Mission**

SAHMRI will:

- Be a vibrant, globally-recognised institute that fosters discovery and harnesses dynamic collaborations to deliver health outcomes and community impact
- Fundamentally improve the quality of life for all people, through innovative, world-class and ground-breaking health and medical research
- Provide a clear focal point for health and medical research in the State.

## **Our Culture**

To achieve our vision of transforming our research into positive health outcomes, SAHMRI has established the core policies that quide employee behaviour and the way in which we engage with our stakeholders. Our Institute's values are an integral part of the way SAHMRI conducts its operations.

## We Value:

## We Are:

- Excellence
- Imagination
- Courage
- Integrity
- Teamwork
- Bold and driven
- · Persistent and focused
- Collaborative and enabling
- Respectful, inclusive and compassionate
- Fast, friendly, flexible and fun

SAHMRI strives to provide an employment climate and culture in which every employee has the opportunity to apply and develop their abilities so as to achieve their potential.

Our commitment of achieving a high performing culture and its alignment with our strategic plan is measured through regular employee surveys and the continuous development of communication strategies and solutions to further develop common goals and shared values.

# Highlights for 2012-2013

## **Key Appointments**



## **Professor Julio Licinio:**Mind and Brain Theme Leader

Professor Licinio's current research interests include chronic stress, depression, obesity and their interface. Professor Licinio is also the founding and current editor of three scientific journals, published by the Nature Publishing Group.

Most recently, prior to SAHMRI, Professor Licinio was Professor and Director at the John Curtin School of Medical Research at the Australian National University (ANU) and head of the Department of Translational Medicine from 2009 to 2013.



# **Professor Maria Makrides:**Healthy Mothers, Babies and Children Theme Leader

Professor Makrides and her team will be based at the Women's and Children's Hospital and she will also continue her appointment as the Director of the Women's and Children's Health Research Institute (WCHRI).

This collaboration will add value to the statewide research venture in maternal and child health, coordinated with the University of Adelaide and SA Health.

Professor Makrides comes to SAHMRI with a wealth of research experience in the prevention and treatment of childhood diseases, with a particular focus in nutritional interventions to enable children born at term or prematurely to achieve optimal health, development and growth.



## **Professor Charles Mullighan:** Cancer Theme

Originally from Adelaide, Professor Mullighan is a world-leading researcher in the field of leukaemia and genomics and will be a joint appointment between SAHMRI and St Jude Children's Research Hospital in the United States.

The Cancer theme will have a strong focus on haematology and Professor Mullighan is now working on developing the cancer theme, planning research facilities and identifying equipment needs.

Professor Mullighan's joint appointment brings a huge advantage to SAHMRI, through his activities both in Adelaide and in the United States.

The Melissa White Laboratory Group joined SAHMRI as the first cancer research group on 1 July 2013.

# Highlights for 2012-2013

## **SAHMRI Reaches 100 Employees**

In April 2013, SAHMRI reached 100 employees. This marked a significant milestone for our organisation and was celebrated across all of the SAHMRI sites. In November 2013, SAHMRI had 155 staff members, and by December 2013, this number had grown to 300 staff.



## Grand Opening of New Imaging and Surgical Facilities and the Official Launch of SAHMRI Preclinical, Imaging and Research Laboratories (PIRL)

On 22 May 2013, SAHMRI staff, guests, university partners and key representatives from the National Imaging Facility (NIF) and Australian Phenomics Network (APN) gathered for the grand opening of our new state-of-the-art animal housing and the official launch of SAHMRI Preclinical, Imaging and Research Laboratories (PIRL).

PIRL supports animal-based research at SAHMRI. Experienced staff work in a range of disciplines from animal production to high-level contract research conducted according to principles of Good Laboratory Practice.

In addition to the formal presentation and update on SAHMRI's research activities, attendees were given tours of the new facility.



L to R: Professor Graham Galloway, Director of Operations, National Imaging Facility, Dr Tim Kuchel, Professor Steve Wesselingh, South
Australian Parliamentary Secretary, The Hon Leesa Vlahos MP.

## Highlights for 2012-2013

## Sylvia and Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation Senior Medical Research Fellowship



In November 2012, SAHMRI's Aboriginal Research Unit Director, Professor Alex Brown, was awarded one of two nationally-competitive 2013 Sylvia and Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation Senior Medical Fellowships.

Each Fellow receives \$1,225,000 (\$245,000 per annum for five years) to undertake leading-edge research in their areas of expertise, making it the most prestigious medical research award in Australia.

The research to be undertaken through the Fellowship will build on a unique program of research which explores the links between the 'heart and mind' and how this contributes to the health status 'gap', with the aim of improving the health of Aboriginal people.

## **New Research Groups Join SAHMRI**

## Lysosomal Diseases Research Unit (LDRU)

The **Lysosomal Diseases Research Unit (LDRU)** was established at the Adelaide Children's Hospital in the mid-1970s to improve the diagnosis of lysosomal storage disorders and to develop treatments. To achieve its aims, the Unit has fostered a highly interactive and multidisciplinary approach to its research, which has led to first-ever treatments for two lysosomal storage disorders (MPS VI and MPS II)

Lysosomal storage disorders continue to be a focus of the Unit's research and are being utilised as model systems (both cellular and animal) to explore the contribution of a dysfunctioning endosomal/lysosomal network to the onset of more common health problems, such as neurodegeneration, stroke and heart disease.

The Unit currently employs staff with a range of expertise, including mass spectrometry, neuropathology, histology, animal models, molecular genetics, cell biology, protein and organic chemistry.

## Melissa White Memorial Laboratory

The **Melissa White Memorial Laboratory** is a translational and basic research facility, which is primarily involved in research into haematological malignancy – chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML) and acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL). It was established in 1993 by Professor Timothy Hughes and has been jointly run by Professor Deborah White (Scientific Head) and Professor Hughes (Clinical Head) since 2007.

Work in CML has a specific emphasis on the development of biomarkers to predict patient responses to the recently developed tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs) including imatinib, nilotinib and dasatinib. This research will provide insight into how therapy can be improved, by furthering the understanding of leukaemic cell responses to TKIs. In ALL, the team is focused on characterising the underlying biology and determining therapeutic responsiveness of a subgroup of paediatric and adult ALL patients with very high-risk disease.

## **SAHMRI Hosts First Family Day Tour**

On Saturday, 20 July, SAHMRI held a 'Family Day' on the site of our new flagship facility for SAHMRI staff, employees of Hindmarsh (responsible for the building) and project contractors. Family members, partners and friends of SAHMRI were given exclusive tours of the iconic research facility, which at the time was under construction.

More than 250 attendees took part in the afternoon event and were able to take a closer look at the exciting progress on site.



## Mind and Brain Research Theme Launch



L to R: Professor Julio Licinio, Hon Jay Weatherill MP, Premier of South Australia, Hon Kate Ellis MP, Professor Steve Wesselingh.

SAHMRI formally launched the Institute's Mind and Brain Research Theme and introduced the research and business community to the Theme Leader, Professor Julio Licinio.

The 200-strong audience was addressed by SAHMRI's Executive Director, Professor Steve Wesselingh, Premier of South Australia, Hon Jay Weatherill MP, the Federal Member for Adelaide, the Hon Kate Ellis MP and Professor Julio Licinio.

## SAHMRI Awarded Australian Cancer Research Foundation Grant



We were excited to announce that the Australian Cancer Research Foundation (ACRF) awarded \$1.8 million to SAHMRI to develop the ACRF Innovative Cancer Imaging and Therapeutics Facility within the SAHMRI facility on North Terrace, Adelaide.

This facility will be housed within our new building and will play a key role in the rapid translation of basic biomedical research into novel cancer therapies. This state-of-the-art facility will house advanced technologies not available elsewhere in the state, providing researchers with the tools they need to speed up the development of new treatments for cancer.

SAHMRI would like to extend a very special thank you to the ACRF for this exciting award.

## Strategic Partnership Agreement with SA Health



L - R: SAHMRI Board Chair, Mr Raymond Spencer with South Australian Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Jack Snelling MP

In recognition of the strong synergies and mutual benefit, SA Health and SAHMRI recognised each other as Strategic Partners and confirmed this partnership on Thursday, 28 November 2013. SAHMRI and SA Health seek to foster collaboration of benefit to both parties.

As Strategic Partners, SAHMRI will contribute, through research, to SA Health's achievement of health care and health outcome goals and SA Health will contribute to the vision and research activities of SAHMRI.

## **GE Healthcare Agreement**



L - R: Mr David Swan, Chief Executive, SA Health; Professor Steve Wesselingh, Executive Director, SAHMRI; and Mr Michael Ackland, Chief Executive Officer and Director, GE Healthcare.

South Australian healthcare providers and patients will benefit from improved access to treatment, better education, and advanced research as part of a world-leading five year partnership announced on 28 November 2013 between SAHMRI, GE Healthcare and SA Health.

The agreement will facilitate the building of a world-class training and education program for nuclear medicine and biomedical engineering. It will act as the launch platform for further research collaborations focusing on oncology, neurological, indigenous health and integrated care. Furthermore, it will accelerate the development and adoption of new technologies.

This tripartite agreement is a key step in developing a collaborative approach to help transform medical research and technology into tangible and sustainable outcomes that will help address current and future healthcare challenges for clinicians and patients.



## SAHMRI Officially Opened by the Prime Minister and SA Premier

On Friday, 29 November 2013, the SAHMRI facility on North Terrace was officially opened by the Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon Tony Abbott MP and the Premier of South Australia, the Hon Jay Weatherill MP.

The 1,000-plus guests in attendance included representatives from the research and business communities, SAHMRI's Founding Ambassadors, Aboriginal Elders and State and Federal Members of Parliament.

The ceremony commenced with an Aboriginal dance performance and a traditional Welcome to Country by Kaurna Elder, Aunty Josie Agius, and Jack Buckskin, an emerging leader who has a strong commitment to keeping the Kaurna language and culture alive.

The Prime Minister said, "In the end, (SAHMRI) doesn't even belong to Adelaide or South Australia. It belongs to humanity because all of humanity will benefit from the work that is done in this building."

The Premier of South Australia said that the new SAHMRI facility was a symbol of the state's growing ambitions.

The event wrapped up with a performance by Ellie Lovegrove, an accomplished South Australian singer who has gained significant national recognition over the last year, as both a singer and performer.



L - R: Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon Tony Abbott MP and the Premier of South Australia, the Hon Jay Weatherill MP unveil the SAHMRI plaque.



SAHMRI Executive Director, Professor Steve Wesselingh, and SAHMRI Board Deputy Chair, Mr Alan Young AM, guiding the Premier of South Australia, the Hon Jay Weatherill MP; the Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon. Jack Snelling M.P.; the Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon Tony Abbott MP; and the Hon Peter Dutton MP, Federal Minister for Health around the SAHMRI facility.



Some of the Grand Opening attendees.



The children holding different coloured balloons at the Grand Opening, representing SAHMRI's seven research themes.



L - R: SAHMRI Board Chair, Mr Raymond Spencer; Mary Buckskin, CEO of the Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia; Janice Rigney, Chairperson of the Aboriginal Elders Council of South Australia; the Hon Jay Weatherill MP and Professor Steve Wesselingh.

# SAHMRI North Terrace Flagship Facility

Work was completed on the construction of our new 25,000 square metre research facility on North Terrace in Adelaide's west end in December 2013.



Cyclotron



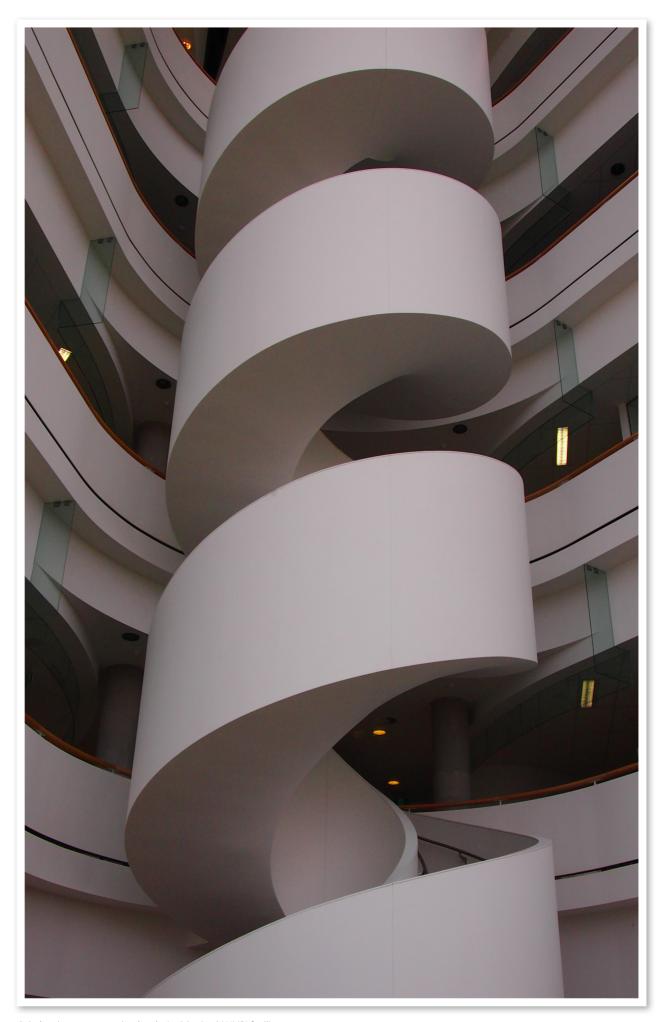


#### Features of the facility:

- Total Gross Floor Area of 25,000 square metres
- Flexible floor space and research modules
- Dedicated space for advanced technology facilities, including a cyclotron
- Space for bioimaging strategy and clinical imaging
- Cafés and retail stores
- Public interaction and education space.

### The design of the SAHMRI facility:

- The built form of SAHMRI acknowledges its sense of place within the green belt of the Adelaide Parklands, seamlessly interacting with its surroundings, including Adelaide's public transport, cycling and walking networks.
- The architecture is lifted, creating an open ground plane in an inegrated landscape, opening the building to the public, as well as users, allowing for greater activation and porosity through the site.
- Its forecourt, adjacent to the new Royal Adelaide Hospital, encourages exchange by staff, visitors and the general public.
- Thy key driver of the building design is to foster collaboration between researchers, achieved by the introduction of atria and bridges.
- The visual connection between floors and interconnecting spiral staircase will enhance collaboration between researchers.
- The building's unique triangulated dia-grid facade responds to its environment like an living organism, acting as an articulated sunshade that deals with sunlight, heat load, glare and wind deflection, while mainting views and daylight.
- The facade allows maximum daylight into the building, as well as borrowed light to the PC2 laboratory spaces and enhances external views, creating a healthier environment. Transparency also allows the outside views to the internal workings of the building promoting the importance of the activities within.



Spiral staircase connecting levels 4 - 8 in the SAHMRI facility



# South Australian Health and Biomedical Precinct

The SAHMRI facility will be part of the South Australian Health and Biomedical Precinct, one of the largest health precincts in the southern hemisphere, on a Greenfields site in the north west of Adelaide's central business district.

The Precinct will make a significant and direct contribution to the state and national economies. In addition to the stimulus provided during the construction phase, it is expected to provide employment for more than 8,000 staff and accommodate 6,000 students upon completion.

The Precinct will address current and future capacity constraints and surging demand in the healthcare system by improving the volume and quality of health care services, training unprecedented numbers of health care professionals and providing a focal point for research of international calibre into the most serious chronic illnesses.

## **Precinct Partners**

#### Existing

- The new Royal Adelaide Hospital (new RAH)
- South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI)

#### **Planned**

• SAHMRI 2, which will include the CSIRO Flagship Food and Nutrition Centre and a Proton Therapy Unit

#### **Pre-construction**

- The University of Adelaide Integrated Clinical School
- The University of South Australia's Centre for Cancer Biology and Interprofessional Health Clinic.

## SAHMRI for the Future: SAHMRI 2

SAHMRI and major partner, Flinders University, are planning to build a new Centre for Innovation, Transformation and Sustainability in HealthCare. The Centre will be housed in the North Terrace Health Biomedical Precinct. The new building proposed for housing the research centre will sit alongside the iconic SAHMRI Building and will complete the precinct by 2019. The joint proposal will develop one of the largest health and medical research precincts in Australia, co-located with the new Royal Adelaide Hospital and research and teaching housed in new buildings for the University of Adelaide and UniSA.

The Centre will further drive collaborative translational health and medical research that will significantly increase the nation's capacity for leading scientific research in health across the life-course. Major programs of research will include:

- Healthy start to life healthy mothers, babies and children
- Primary care research prevention and better management of chronic disease
- health care innovation personalised medicine and innovative models of care
- Mental health and wellbeing healthy ageing, dementia research and the links between depression and chronic disease
- Therapeutic innovation proton therapy unit, PET-MRI facility
- Health economics and health care financing sustainable health care systems
- Population health research clinical registries, cohort development and health status monitoring

The new facility will also integrate world-class health and medical research with advanced technology platforms, including a Proton Therapy Treatment Unit, a Clinical Imaging Facility and clinical research and data analysis facilities.



Key outcomes that will be achieved through the development of SAHMRI 2 include:

- An increase in the quality of life for all Australians
- Lowering the health care costs of the nation
- Increasing the performance capacity and productivity of individuals
- Enhancing the reputation of Australian health and medical researchers
- Increasing the recognition of Australia as a high-quality training environment for health and medical researchers.

The SAHMRI 2 facility will house approximately 700 people over 11 storeys of approximately 20,000 square metres of health and medical research space.



## Constitution

Under its Constitution, SAHMRI has been established to:

- Develop a centre of excellence in both Australia and internationally for the benefit of the community in undertaking, promoting and expanding research
- Facilitate the transfer and practical application of knowledge acquired from its research activities to improve the health and wellbeing of the community
- Undertake and facilitate health and medical research relating to human medicine and health
- Provide and maintain research facilities and services as SAHMRI sees fit, including participation in the planning, design and construction of the premises
- Develop, promote and create opportunities for the development and promotion of knowledge acquired from research activities
- Work collaboratively and facilitate collaboration among universities, other relevant research institutions and the government to achieve high-quality outcomes associated with research planning and execution and the acquisition and use of resources, staffing and funding
- Attract funding from within and outside Australia for the conduct of research relating to human medicine or health.

## **Founding Members**

SAHMRI was formally established as a company limited by guarantee under the Commonwealth Corporations Act 2001, on 21 December 2009.

The founding members of SAHMRI are:

- The South Australian Treasurer
- The South Australian Minister for Health
- The Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology (DFEEST)
- The University of Adelaide
- Flinders University
- The University of South Australia.

## **Strategic Partnerships**

The development of strategic partnerships is a key cornerstone of SAHMRI's operating strategy.

SAHMRI will actively engage with research groups and organisational entities outside the flagship research facility with the purpose of developing and fostering collaboration across organisational boundaries.

The Governance Committee has oversight of the establishment of these partnerships. SAHMRI has entered into strategic partnership agreements with the University of Adelaide, Flinders University, the University of South Australia and the Department of Health. In these agreements, the parties agree to collaborate with each other to advance a progressive research agenda in South Australia and to create an environment where world-class research can be conducted.

Currently, a strategic partnership is being developed with CSIRO and it is anticipated that additional strategic partnerships will be established with local, national and international groups and organisations in line with the Institute's research strategy.

## Meet the SAHMRI Executive Team



Back L - R: Michelle Gheorghiu, Amanda McIlroy, Professor Steve Nicholls, Paul Stephens, Professor Steve Wesselingh, Barry Porter, Aphrodite Tsakalos, Heather Croucher

Front L - R: Professor Maria Makrides, Kay Gerard, Professor Neil Dear, Professor Deb White, Dr Caroline Miller Missing from photo: Professor Alex Brown, Professor Julio Licinio and Professor Charles Mullighan

## **Professor Steve Wesselingh**

**Executive Director** 

Professor Steve Wesselingh was appointed as SAHMRI's inaugural Executive Director in December 2010 and assumed the role in full-time capacity on 4 October 2011. Professor Wesselingh is an internationally-recognised expert in viruses that affect the human brain. Prior to SAHMRI, Professor Wesselingh was the Dean of Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health Sciences at Monash University in Victoria. in 2013, Professor Wesselingh was appointed as SAHMRI's Infection and Immunity Theme Leader.

#### **Amanda McIlroy**

Chief Operating Officer

Amanda McIlroy was seconded from Ernst and Young to oversee the start-up of SAHMRI, with overall responsibility for the Institute's day-to-day management and operations, including finance, human resources, administrative operations and public relations. Amanda has more than 12 years' experience in the areas of internal audit, risk management, corporate governance and has extensive experience in the health sector. She also has qualifications in environmental management systems and occupational health and safety.

#### **Barry Porter**

Chief Financial Officer & Company Secretary

Barry Porter is responsible for the financial management, systems and reporting at SAHMRI, at both an operational and strategic level. He has over 25 years' experience in business administration, finance and IT in both the public and private sectors. Prior to joining SAHMRI he was the CFO and Deputy CEO of Mnet Group, an ASX-listed company he helped establish and has also worked as an Executive in the airline and transport industries, at the University of Adelaide and at the Auditor-General's Department. He has a Bachelor of Accounting (UniSA) an MBA (University of Adelaide) and is a FCPA.

### Michelle Gheorghiu

Director, Infrastructure and Capital Planning

Michelle Gheorghiu brings a genuine passion for health, medical research and project management to SAHMRI. With her extensive experience in the private and public health sector, she draws from her technical expertise, strategic business planning and operational background and finds creative solutions to a range of complex challenges. For the past twelve years, Michelle has led major infrastructure projects in South Australia.

## Governance

#### **Heather Croucher**

General Counsel

Heather Croucher is responsible for the management of legal risks affecting SAHMRI. Heather has over 25 years' legal experience, having previously been a partner with a large private law firm in South Australia, worked with the SA Crown Solicitor's Office and held in-house roles in the public and private sectors.

#### **Professor Neil Dear**

Director, Research Support Services

Professor Neil Dear was appointed as the inaugural Director, Research Support Services in March 2012. Returning to South Australia from the United Kingdom, Professor Dear is responsible for overseeing the establishment of and providing strategic leadership for SAHMRI's research and biomedical services in Adelaide. Professor Dear returns to Adelaide and joins SAHMRI after five years at the University of Leeds in the United Kingdom, where he was a PI focusing on genetics of disease, Director of Biomedical Services and Director of MBChB Student Admissions.

#### **Kay Gerard**

Manager, Development and Communications

Kay Gerard is responsible for the overall development, implementation and management of SAHMRI's communications and marketing activities and for the delivery of SAHMRI's fundraising agenda. Prior to joining SAHMRI, she worked internationally across governmental affairs, higher education and not-for-profit sectors.

#### **Dr Caroline Miller**

Executive Officer

In 2012, Dr Caroline Miller was appointed as SAHMRI's Executive Officer. Dr Miller also leads a program of research in population health, focused on tobacco control and obesity prevention. She is a Beat Cancer Project Principal Research Fellow. Caroline has qualifications in psychology, public health and economics. Prior to joining SAHMRI, Dr Miller was General Manager, Cancer Control at Cancer Council.

#### **Paul Stephens**

Chief Information Officer

In January 2013, Paul Stephens was appointed as SAHMRI's Chief Information Officer (CIO) and is responsible for the design and strategic direction of SAHMRI's information and communications technology (ICT) for the new building and beyond. Paul has worked in the IT industry for 20 years, including stints as a Programmer, Systems Administrator, IT Manager and CTO; 16 of those years have been in both the tertiary education and medical research sectors. Prior to joining SAHMRI, he was the CTO at the Burnet Institute, a Melbourne-based medical research institute, and before that, as Manager, Systems at the University of Melbourne.

#### **Aphrodite Tsakalos**

Human Resources Manager

Aphrodite Tsakalos was appointed to the role of Human Resources Manager in January 2012 and is responsible for the full range of human resource, industrial relations, work health and safety, and injury management functions. Prior to joining SAHMRI, Aphrodite worked for 20 years in senior human resources and industrial relations roles, in the healthcare, consultancy, manufacturing and distribution industries within the private sector.

### Professor Deborah White PhD FFSc(RCPA)

Director, Cancer Research

Deb White is a Member of the Centre for Cancer Biology, the Centre for Personalised Cancer Medicine and a Professor of both Medicine and Paediatrics at the University of Adelaide. In addition, she is a Founding Fellow of the Faculty of Science (Royal College of Pathologists of Australia) a member of the American, European and Australian Societies of Haematology and the International Children's Oncology Group (COG). Deb was the 2009 Hanson Centre Clinical Researcher of the Year and currently holds a Translational Grant from the Leukemia Lymphoma Society (LLS) of USA, as well as Grants from the NHMRC, the

Leukaemia Foundation Australia (LFA) and the Cancer Council SA (CCSA) to continue her work in CML, Ph+ and Ph-like ALL, drug transport and mechanisms of resistance. She has presented more than 100 papers at scientific meetings (both invited and peer reviewed) and has authored more than 40 scientific publications on CML in the last five years, as well as being an inventor on several patents. Deb is an invited reviewer for many international scientific journals, including Blood, Leukemia, Clinical Cancer Research, Experimental Hematology and Haematologica, an abstract reviewer for EHA and ASH and is an invited Project and Fellowship Grant Reviewer for several International and National funding bodies including the NHMRC, Cancer Australia and the Leukaemia Foundation of Australia.

#### **Professor Alex Brown**

Deputy Director and Program Leader, Aboriginal Research

Professor Alex Brown is the Program Leader, Aboriginal Research, South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute, based in Adelaide. Professor Brown is an Aboriginal doctor and researcher with extensive skills in Indigenous health research in rural and remote communities. He received his PhD in 2010, and in addition to his medical training, has an MPH, FCSANZ and is an honorary fellow of the RACP. He has established an extensive and unique research program focused on chronic disease in vulnerable communities, with a particular focus on outlining and overcoming health disparities. He leads projects encompassing epidemiology, psychosocial determinants of chronic disease, mixed methods health services research in Aboriginal primary care and hospital settings, and randomised controlled trials of pharmacological and non-pharmacological chronic disease interventions. He has significant connections across the health system, policy environment and key government and NGO sector, particularly in relation to chronic disease burden and prevention. He sits on a range of national committees, including the Heart Foundation, chairs the Cardiac Society Indigenous Cardiovascular Council and was a member of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Equality Council (2009-2012). Over the past five years, he has been principal investigator on over \$5 million of research and has extensive research collaborations with university, academic, primary care, Aboriginal community control services, international partners and Indigenous community partners.

#### **Professor Julio Licinio**

Deputy Director of Translational Medicine and Mind and Brain Theme Leader

Julio Licinio, M.D., FRANZCP, is Deputy Director for Translational Medicine and Head, Mind and Brain Theme at SAHMRI and Strategic Professor of Psychiatry, Flinders University in Adelaide, South Australia. He is also a Research Professor at the University of Southern California, in Los Angeles, Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at University of Adelaide and Visiting Professor of Psychiatry at University of Minho, in Braga, Portugal. He was previously Professor and Director, John Curtin School of Medical Research, the Australian National University (ANU), and head of the Department of Translational Medicine (2009-2013). Professor Licinio is originally from Brazil and lived for over 25 years in the United States, where he had clinical and research training in endocrinology and psychiatry at University of Chicago, Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Cornell. Professor Licinio is recognised internationally as a leader in translational research in depression and obesity. He has conducted medical research for over 20 years at Yale, NIH, UCLA, University of Miami and at the ANU, with key leadership positions in those institutions. He is also the current and founding Editor of three Nature Publishing Group journals - Molecular Psychiatry (Impact Factor: 14.897 number 1 worldwide), The Pharmacogenomics Journal (Impact Factor 5.1) and Translational Psychiatry. Professor Licinio's translational and genomics research spans the lab and clinic examining obesity, depression, and their interface.

#### **Professor Charles Mullighan**

St Jude Children's Research Hospital and SAHMRI

Charles Mullighan, MBBS(Hons), MSc, MD, FRACP, FRCPA, FFSci(RCPA) has recently been appointed as the SAHMRI Cancer Theme Leader and the Chair of Cancer Research at the University of Adelaide. Charles is Adelaide-born, earning his Bachelor and Doctor of Medicine degrees from the University of Adelaide and his Master of Science degree from the University of London. He trained in hematology and hematopathology in Adelaide. He trained as a postdoctoral fellow at St Jude from 2004-2008 in the laboratory of James Downing. He joined the faculty in 2008 and is currently Associate Member in the Department of Pathology, co-leader of the Hematologic Malignancies Program and Medical Director of the Tissue Resources Core Facility. His research uses genomic profiling and experimental modelling to investigate the genetic basis of acute leukemia, most notably high-risk acute lymphoblastic leukemia. This work has identified several new genetic alterations that contribute to the development of leukemia, and have entered the clinic as diagnostic tests and new therapeutic targets. He has published over 130 peer-reviewed articles, and his work has been regularly published in Nature, Nature Genetics, Nature Medicine, Science, N Engl J Med, PNAS, Cancer Cell and leading specialist journals. He has an active research interest in the genetic determinants of leukemogenesis and treatment outcome in adolescent, young adult and older adult acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Charles has earned several honours including being named a Pew Scholar in the Biomedical Sciences (2009), the Society for Pediatric Pathology Lotte Strauss Prize, being awarded the American Society for Hematology Merit Award (2007) and Joanne Levy Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement (2008), election to the American Society of Clinical Investigation (2012), the American Association for Cancer Research Team Science Award (2009) and the Meyenburg Prize for Cancer Research (2012).

## Governance

#### **Professor Steve Nicholls**

Deputy Director and SAHMRI Heart Foundation Heart Health Theme Leader

Professor Stephen Nicholls was appointed to lead SAHMRI's Heart Health Research Theme in May 2012. Professor Nicholls is the SAHMRI Deputy Director and Heart Foundation Heart Health Theme Leader, Professor of Cardiology at the University of Adelaide and Consultant Cardiologist, Royal Adelaide Hospital. His research interests span the translational spectrum from the factors influencing the biological activity of HDL, through to development and use of novel plaque imaging modalities and ultimately large-scale clinical trials of antiatherosclerotic therapies.

Professor Nicholls returned to Adelaide from the Cleveland Clinic in the United States in April 2012 to establish the translational cardiovascular research program at SAHMRI.

#### **Professor Maria Makrides**

Healthy Mothers, Babies and Children Theme Leader

Maria Makrides was appointed Theme Leader for Healthy Mothers, Babies and Children at the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) in August 2013. Maria has maintained her directorship of the Women's and Children's Health Research Institute (WCHRI) resulting in a significant research partnership in maternal and child health research. Maria and her team are internationally recognised for the conduct and translation of high quality nutritional intervention trials.

## The SAHMRI Board

SAHMRI's Board of Directors has been operational since January 2010 and is focused on providing strategic direction necessary to establish a world-class research institute in South Australia.

The Board is responsible for the overall corporate governance of the organisation and providing oversight of the organisation's strategic plan.

In 2013, the SAHMRI Board members are:

- Mr Raymond Spencer (Chair)
- Mr Alan Young AM, Baker Young Stockbrokers (Deputy Chair)
- Professor Michael Barber, Flinders University
- Professor Justin Beilby, University of Adelaide
- Professor John Hopwood, Head, Lysosomal Diseases Research Unit, SAHMRI
- Professor Steve Wesselingh, SAHMRI
- Mr David Swan, SA Health
- Professor Allan Evans, University of South Australia.

#### **Board Effectiveness Review**

A Board effectiveness review was conducted in 2013. It comprised a review of the SAHMRI Constitution, the Board's Skills and Composition Matrix, and the Staff Delegations of Authority, as well as discussions with each Board Member and the Chief Operating Officer.

The Review resulted in 20 recommendations that were presented to the Board in August. The Board has agreed to the recommendations and supports the Review to be conducted on an annual basis.



**Mr Raymond Spencer** 

Chair, SAHMRI Board

Mr Raymond Spencer was born in Adelaide and studied at the University of Adelaide.

Raymond has extensive business experience derived from living and working in the USA, India and Europe and brings more than thirty-five years of leadership in international business, management planning, technology, finance, organisational culture and mergers and acquisitions.

In addition to being Chair of SAHMRI, Raymond is Chairman of the South Australian Economic Development Board (EDB), Chairman of Capgemini's Financial Services Global Business Unit (FS GBU), Chairman of Signostics Limited, and a director of Rubicon Technology, Inc. (RBCN) a NASDAQ listed manufacturer of advanced electronic materials. He is an investor in, and director of, a number of private companies and is a member of the investment committee in three US-based venture funds.

Highly experienced in directing international projects, Raymond has worked in eighteen countries including the United States, Australia, India, UK, Hong Kong, Japan, and Singapore. He has also advised corporations and not-for-profit groups on organisational, cultural, and leadership initiatives.



Mr Alan Young AM
Deputy Chair, SAHMRI Board

Chair, Development and Marketing Committee

Joint Managing Director, Baker Young Stockbrokers

Mr Young is Co-Founder and Joint Managing Director of Baker Young Stockbrokers Limited. He is also the current Founder/Chair of Belvidere Winery, Chair of the Australian Central School of Art, Chair of Solstice Media Ltd, Co-Founder/Chair of Flinders Medical Centre Foundation, Founder/Chair of Flinders Bio Medical Enterprises Pty Ltd, Director of Signostics Inc, Director of Hub IT Pty Ltd, and Member of Business Development Advisory Panel of St Vincent de Paul (SA) Inc.

In 2009, Mr Young was awarded the Order of Australia as a Member in the General Division for service to the community, particularly through business advisory roles with health, medical research and education organisations.

In 2013, Mr Young was made a Companion of the University, Flinders University an award recognizing his contribution to the University through his commitment to medical research.

Mr Young's strengths lie in funding, establishing and developing new businesses and endeavours to trade in the long-term, and in business management advice.

## Governance







## Professor Justin Beilby, MD, MPH, FRACGP, DRCOG, DA

Executive Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, The University of Adelaide

Chair, SAHMRI Facility Committee

Justin Beilby, the current Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences graduated in 1981. He worked in general practice in urban and rural settings from 1986 until 1997. He then entered the University of Adelaide as a senior lecturer in general practice. He became the Professor and Head of the Department of General Practice in 2002 until 2005, when he moved to take up the role of Executive Dean.

As Executive Dean, he oversees all undergraduate training in medicine, nursing, dentistry, health sciences, psychology and public health at the University of Adelaide. He stills continues to consult in general practice today. He has been involved in research and evaluation with workforce planning, primary care financing, chronic illness and the Quality Use of Medicines for over twenty years, in both urban and rural settings. He has published widely in asthma, diabetes, chronic disease management, point of care testing and primary care financing.

## **Professor Allan Evans** Provost & Chief Academic Officer, University of South Australia

Allan graduated in 1982 with a
Bachelor of Pharmacy from the South
Australian Institute of Technology. In
1989, he obtained his PhD in clinical
pharmacology from the University of
Adelaide. He followed this with postdoctoral experience at the University of
Manchester. UK.

Since 1992, he has been an academic at UniSA, taking on various leadership positions and being promoted to Professor in Pharmaceutics in 2003. In 2004, Allan became Head of the School of Pharmacy and Medical Science, where he played an instrumental role in establishing the Sansom Institute (now the Division-based Sansom Institute for Health Research) and in supporting tremendous growth in the school's research activity and teaching profile. In 2009, he became Pro Vice Chancellor and Vice President: Division of Health Sciences.

Allan has a significant research career. He has more than 90 peer-reviewed publications with over 1,200 literature citations and has held NHMRC and/or ARC grants on an ongoing basis since 1994.

His research interests are broad, and include basic, clinical and commercial research into the better use of medicines as well as the development of new ways of using medicines to treat skin cancer and kidney disease.

## Professor John Hopwood AM FAA

Director, Lysosomal Diseases Research Unit, SAHMRI

Chair, SAHMRI Scientific Advisory Committee

The Lysosomal Diseases Research Unit is a large multidisciplinary group researching lysosomal storage disorders nationally and internationally.

It has become world-renowned for its research capabilities in this area and the translation of research findings into state-of-the-art diagnostic services and therapeutics. The Unit has remained at the international forefront of research into the diagnosis, treatment and biology of lysosomal diseases.

The Unit has generated several world firsts, particularly the isolation of the genes involved in some of these disorders and the development of first-ever FDA- approved treatments for two disorders, which in 2005 and 2006 were marketed world-wide. These outcomes have led to improved quality of life for patients and multi-million dollar royalty returns to South Australia. This represents one of the largest public sector commercialisation outcomes in South Australia and possibly Australia.

Professor Hopwood has mentored 23 PhD students and 35 Post-Doctoral scientists; has over 400 peer-reviewed scientific publications, over 30 international patents and over \$35 million in competitive research funding.





Mr David Swan is the Chief Executive of the South Australian Department for Health and Ageing.

Before taking up the position in March 2011, Mr Swan spent four years as the Executive Director, Operations within the Department for Health and Ageing.

Mr Swan has over 28 years experience as a chief executive in the public and private health care system in Australia, including two years as Chief Executive of the Southern Adelaide Health Service and over four years as Chief Executive of the Women's and Children's Hospital.

Holding a Bachelor of Health Science through the Charles Sturt University and a Graduate Diploma in Management at Monash Mount Eliza Business School, Mr Swan has also been National Executive Director of Calvary Healthcare Group, responsible for a range of public and private hospitals in four Australian states.

Mr Swan is an Associate Fellow of the Australian College of Health Service Executive and has also held Directors positions on the Women's Hospitals of Australasia, the Australian Private Hospitals Association and State President of the Private Hospitals Association of Tasmania.

Mr Swan is a Board Director for Health Workforce Australia, National E-Health Transition Authority (NEHTA) and SAHMRI.



**Professor Michael Barber** *Vice-Chancellor, Flinders University* 

Chair, SAHMRI Audit, Finance and Risk Committee

Professor Michael Barber is Vice-Chancellor of Flinders University. Prior to joining Flinders in January 2008, he spent 5 years at CSIRO, first as Executive Director, Science Planning and then as Group Executive, Information, Manufacturing and Minerals.

Professor Barber received his undergraduate training at UNSW in Applied Mathematics and completed his PhD in Theoretical Physics at Cornell University. He has held various appointments at UNSW, ANU and UWA.

In 1992, Professor Barber was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science for his work in statistical mechanics particularly the theory of phase transitions. In 2009 he was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering for his contributions to science policy and innovation. He has served on the Australian Research Council, the Council of the Australian Academy of Science and was the Secretary, Science Policy for the Academy of Science from 2001-5.



Professor Steve Wesselingh Executive Director, SAHMRI

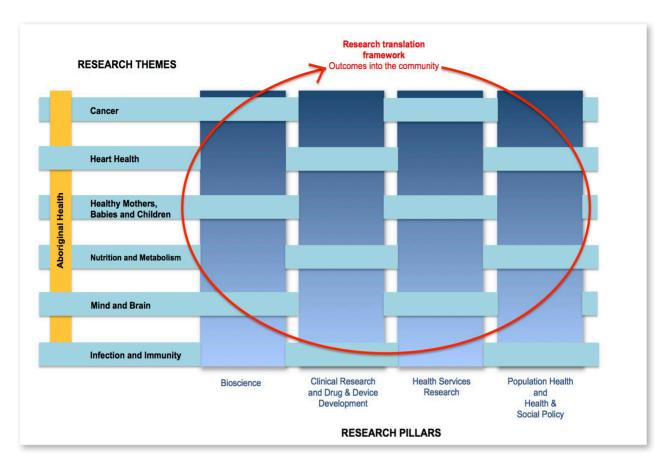
In October 2011, Professor Wesselingh assumed the role of inaugural Executive Director at SAHMRI.

Prior to SAHMRI, Professor Wesselingh was Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences at Monash University, from 2007-2011. Before taking up the Deanship, he was Director of the Burnet Institute an independent medical research institute specialises in infectious diseases, immunology and public health.

Professor Wesselingh undertook his undergraduate and doctoral training at Flinders University/Flinders Medical Centre in South Australia and his post-doctoral training at Johns Hopkins in the United States. In 2012, Professor Wesselingh joined a list of 566 people inducted into the prestigious Johns Hopkins Society of Scholars.

Professor Wesselingh is an Infectious Diseases Physician and researcher in Neurovirology, HIV and vaccine development.

Professor Wesselingh has consistently worked towards the integration of high quality medical research with health-care delivery, leading to improved health outcomes for Australia and the poorly resourced countries of the region.



## **Research Pillars**

As part of its commitment to translation and conducting research across the research spectrum, SAHMRI has created Pillar Committees based on the four pillars of health and medical research:

- Bioscience
- Clinical Research and Drug & Device Development
- Health Services Research
- Population Health and Health & Social Policy.

Each Pillar Committee comprises members of the health and medical research community with extensive experience who will engage with SAHMRI's research themes and promote cross-disciplinary research.

Each pillar intersects with each of SAHMRI's research themes and links with the other pillars in order to achieve translational health outcomes.

### **Bioscience Pillar Committee**

Chair: Professor Neil Dear

The purpose of this Committee is to enhance the development of high quality bioscience.

## Clinical Research and Drug & Device Development Pillar Committee

Chair: Professor Stephen Nicholls

The purpose of this Committee is to enhance the development of high quality clinical research and drug and device development capabilities.



## **Health Services Research Pillar Committee**

Chair: Professor Derek Chew

The purpose of this Committee is to enhance the development of high quality health services research for application, which improves health system policy and practice.

## Population Health and Health & Social Policy Pillar Committee

Chair: Professor David Roder

The purpose of this Committee is to promote:

- The development of high quality population health and health and social policy research of relevance to the health of the South Australian population
- Research translation into policy and practice
- The development of research data infrastructure in South Australia.

# Aboriginal Health



#### **Overview**

Staff: 20 staff, 16.7 FTE

Students: 2 PhD students

Grants won in 2013: \$5,571,247

Publications in 2013: 32

The Wardliparingga Aboriginal Research Unit, was established in January 2013. During 2013, the team grew to 20 staff. Consistent with its commitment to capacity building in Aboriginal research, there are seven Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander staff (including two post-doctoral research fellows and two trainees).

In 2013, Wardliparingga established the SAHMRI Aboriginal Health Research Network that met five times in 2013, with attendance of up to 90 people per meeting. The network aims to bring together the wide range of people and organisations conducting Aboriginal health research in South Australia to share ideas, build skills and grow capacity and collaborations.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Aboriginal Health Council of SA was signed, and further MoUs are in train with Nunkuwarrin Yunti and the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO).

A SAHMRI Aboriginal Research Council has been formed with national and local experts in Aboriginal health research providing guidance on the program of work being established by Wardliparingga, and to provide advice broadly to SAHMRI on research into Aboriginal health matters through all Themes.

## Wardliparingga research achievements for 2012-13

Wardliparingga was successful in all its submissions for funding to NHMRC for the 2013 round. In addition to the success in 2012 with the Viertel Fellowship for Professor Brown, this success has laid strong foundations for the Aboriginal health research team in SAHMRI for the next 5 years.

#### Viertel Senior Medical Research Fellowship 2013 - 2018

Professor Brown was awarded the Viertel Senior Medical Research Fellowship from the Sylvia and Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation in late 2012. This funding provides \$1.225 million over five years to support the continuation of Professor Alex Brown's research into cardiovascular disease and associated conditions, particularly depression, stress and worry.

The research to be undertaken through the Fellowship will build on a unique program of research which explores the links between the 'heart and mind' and how this contributes to the health status 'gap', with the aim of improving the health of Aboriginal people.

The research findings will guide a new intervention trial to be developed within Professor Brown's extensive Aboriginal primary care research network, therefore mitigating the negative impact of co-morbid chronic disease and depression in Aboriginal people.

## Centre for Research Excellence (CRE) in Evidence and Translation Exchange in Indigenous Chronic Disease (NHMRC) 2014-2019

The Centre of Research Excellence (known as CREATE) focuses on the application of translational research nationally to improve health outcomes in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with a chronic disease. The Centre is a collaborative enterprise between SAHMRI's Wardliparingga (Professor Alex Brown); the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) (Professor Ngiare Brown); the School of Translational Health Science, University of Adelaide (Professor Alan Pearson AM) and the School of Population Health, University of Adelaide (Professor Annette Braunack-Meyer). The funds of \$2.5 million cover five years of activity and work in most Australian jurisdictions.

The CRE focuses on the identification and assessment of the best available evidence regarding the treatment, management and prevention of chronic diseases in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, both in regards to primary health care and across the whole care continuum. The CRE will convert these findings into guidelines and other practical tools to be used in the real world setting within Aboriginal community controlled health organisations (ACCHOs) and other Aboriginal community healthcare services. The CRE will examine to what extent these tools improve practice and health outcomes. The guidelines will be revised after feedback, to maximise their applicability to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health care system.

The CRE aims to build capacity among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples within the field of translational science. This will be achieved through formal training, partnerships and mentoring of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clinicians and researchers throughout the duration of the CRE and at all levels of the program.

#### AC Omega 3 Trial (NHMRC) 2014-2016

A partnership between Wardliparingga, the Heart Health Theme of SAHMRI and the University of Adelaide, Discipline of Medicine, was awarded National Health and Medical Research Council funding for a three-year project with a budget of \$1.057 million to study the impact of omega 3 supplements in Aboriginal people.

The study is a multi-centre, double-blinded, placebo-controlled randomised trial of 1g/day n-3 PUFA supplementation in Aboriginal patients with established coronary artery disease to determine their effect on factors implicated in adverse cardiovascular events.

#### Cancer Data and Aboriginal Disparities Project - CANDAD (NHMRC) 2014-2016

A partnership between Wardliparingga, the Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia (AHCSA), the University of SA, the Cancer Council SA and SA Health was awarded NHMRC funding (Partnership Grant) for three years to develop a sophisticated cancer data system tracking clinical and service outcomes for Aboriginal people in South Australia. The Cancer Data and Aboriginal Disparities Project (CANDAD) attracted a grant of \$1.034 million from the NHMRC and a further \$750,000 from the SA Beat Cancer Fund.

Guided and governed by Aboriginal people themselves, the SA advanced cancer data system will be explicitly developed for Aboriginal people to better target and improve their cancer services, strengthen their advocacy, and indicate to them the effectiveness of initiatives to reduce disadvantage. The purposeful linkage of accurate and complete registry and administrative data alongside narratives of Aboriginal people with cancer will facilitate assessment of existing service quality, secular trends in cancer risk, burden and determinants, will highlight areas of immediate need and provide a robust system for performance monitoring and evaluation.





## The Centre of Excellence for Indigenous Primary Care Intervention Research in Chronic Disease (APHCRI) 2011-2014

The Centre for Excellence is funded by the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute. A significant part of the final stages of the project will be conducted by SAHMRI. This component of the project accounts for over \$600,000 over 18 months.

The "Wellbeing Model" under development through SAHMRI aims to improve the care received, and the health outcomes of Aboriginal people with chronic disease. International evidence and understanding, as well as understandings and evidence specific for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, will be used to identify which elements of care are important. The model of care will then be developed using this understanding.

## Telehealth Eye and Associated Medical Services network - TEAMSnet (Fred Hollows Foundation) 2012-2015

TEAMSnet aims to introduce a chronic disease program to provide low-cost and accessible eye and diabetes care to Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory and Central Australia. The project uses mobile devices (i.e. iPads and mobile phones) that are used by Aboriginal Health Workers to provide management of diabetes and eye care. SAHMRI is conducting a portion of the project (economic evaluation) worth \$80,000.

#### Master Classes - Research Capacity Building (APHCRI) 2014

The Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute have provided funding to WARU to support its work in developing and building capacity of the Aboriginal health sector in primary health care research capabilities. Funding of \$150,000 has been provided to deliver master classes nationally.

## Ongoing Project Work (commenced prior to 2013)

### Centre of Research Excellence to Reduce Inequality in Heart Disease

Lead agency: Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute

The objective of the CRE is to develop and apply practical and sustainable health care services across the continuum of heart health and disease to reduce inequalities in burden for vulnerable Australians. Wardliparingga has a Research Officer based in Adelaide working on CRE activities. Prof Brown is a Chief Investigator for this project.

#### South Australian Aboriginal Health Research Accord

Lead agency: Wardliparingga Aboriginal Health Research Unit

The South Australian Aboriginal Health Research Accord is being developed in response to a call from Aboriginal communities and Researchers within South Australia, to develop a shared vision of how successful research is to be taken by and with Aboriginal people in South Australia.

#### **Next Steps**

Lead agency: Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia (AHCSA)

The Next Steps project seeks to develop agreed priorities for research in Aboriginal health in South Australia through a mixed method qualitative study approach. Wardliparingga staff are co-investigators. Funding for the project has come from Wardliparingga. Prof Brown is a Chief Investigator for this project.

#### The Aboriginal Health Landscape in South Australia

Lead agency: Wardliparingga Aboriginal Health Research Unit

Information on the health of the population assists the community and health related services to plan, deliver, and monitor health outcomes of population over time. Meaningful and useful presentation of population data will allow Wardliparingga to identify what we know and what we don't know about the health of the Aboriginal population in South Australia and prepare reports for local communities and health services for their planning.

## Reducing In-Hospital Disparities in Cardiac Care Between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and Other Australians in South Australia

Lead agency: Heart Foundation (SA), in collaboration with the State wide Cardiology Clinical Network and SAHMRI

This project is undertaking a case note audit of approximately 500 admissions (half of which will be of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients) for acute coronary syndrome to tertiary hospitals in South Australia to investigate factors that reduce the likelihood of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients receiving investigation for their cardiac event.

#### Rising Spirits Project

Lead agency: Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia, with the University of South Australia and SAHMRI

The Rising Sprits project is designed to determine existing services and community needs for primary care based grief and loss services for Aboriginal people, and identify successful programs which are helping people deal with grief and loss in the community. Prof Brown is a Chief Investigator for this project.

#### **Environments and Remote Indigenous Cardio metabolic Health (ENRICH)**

Lead agency: University of South Australia, Menzies School of Health Research and SAHMRI.

ENRICH aims to address the impact of community environment in remote regions of Australia on the heart health of community members. Prof Brown is a Chief Investigator for this project.

#### **CAHPS Twekerte Marra Ka**

Lead agency: Baker IDI Central Australia

The Central Australian Heart Protection Study (CAHPS) tests the effectiveness of a nurse-led, family based education and assessment program for reducing the incidence of poor outcomes following a hospital admission for an acute cardiac event. Prof Brown is a Chief Investigator for this project.





## The Wardliparingga Team

## Professor Alex Brown PhD, MPH, MBBS, FCSANZ, FRACP (Hon) SAHMRI Deputy Director, and Program Leader, Aboriginal Research

Professor Brown has established an extensive and unique research program focused on chronic disease in vulnerable communities, with a particular focus on documenting and overcoming health disparities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia. He leads projects encompassing epidemiology, psychosocial determinants of chronic disease, mixed methods health services research in Aboriginal primary care and hospital settings, and randomised controlled trials of pharmacological and non-pharmacological chronic disease interventions. He has significant connections across the health system, policy environment and key government and NGO sector, particularly in relation to chronic disease burden and prevention. He sits on a range of national committees. He chairs the Cardiac Society Indigenous Cardiovascular Council and was a member of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Equality Council (2009-2012). He has extensive research collaborations with university, academic, primary care, Aboriginal community controlled services, international partners and Aboriginal community partners.

## Dr Paul Yerrell PhD, BSc (Chem), BSc (Psych) Position: Senior Research Fellow – Cancer Data and Disparities (CanDAD) Project

As a social psychologist, Dr Paul Yerrell has worked in healthcare education and research for over 25 years in universities in the United Kingdom, prior to moving to Australia in July 2009. He was the Director of the Thames Valley Primary Care Research Network and the School of Health and Social Care, Oxford Brookes University (OBU). He has been group lead for National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE, UK) Guideline Development Groups. Prior to joining SAHMRI, Paul worked as a Senior Research Fellow/Consultant at Baker IDI Heart & Diabetes Institute, Adelaide and at The University of South Australia (UniSA), School of Population Health

## Dr Carol Davy PhD, BMan.

## Position: Senior Post-doctoral Research Fellow - Centre for Excellence for Indigenous Primary Care Intervention Research in Chronic Disease

Dr Carol Davy has over 12 years' experience in using both qualitative and quantitative methods to better understand the health needs of particular populations. Carol's PhD completed in 2009 utilised a social psychology methodology to better understand the role that belief systems such as the biomedical model, Indigenous knowledge and religion played in informing and guiding the way that people think about health. Prior to completing her PhD, Carol worked closely with the Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research on a variety of projects, including a malaria prevention program. Carol was most recently at the University of Adelaide where she was an investigator on the Middle East Area of Operations Health Studies, and senior researcher responsible for the Middle East Area of Operations Prospective Study.

## Dr Rachel Reilly PhD, BA (Hons) Position: Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Chronic Disease and Psychosocial Determinants

Dr Rachel Reilly is a psychologist who has been conducting research in partnership with Aboriginal community-based researchers in Victoria since 2001, first as a post-graduate student and later as Research Officer and Research Fellow at the Onemda VicHealth Koori Health Unit, University of Melbourne. Her work has focused on identifying and understanding psychosocial determinants of Aboriginal wellbeing in the Goulburn-Murray region. As an investigator on the NHMRC-funded 'Goulburn-Murray health promotion Alliance', she is evaluating the implementation of health programs using methods which incorporate ecological theory and Aboriginal models of health and wellbeing. Rachel is working on the CanDAD Project.

## Odette Gibson PhD, BApp.HSc, Grad Cert (HEcon.), Grad Cert (ResMeth.) Position: Post-doctoral Research Fellow

Odette Gibson is of far north Queensland Eastern Yalangi and Torres Strait Islander heritage. Odette has recently completed a PhD in health economics and social policy. Her study identified the impact of primary health care resourcing (per capita funding and workforce) on the risk and cost of hospitalisation (all cause, diabetes-related and avoidable) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Far North Queensland with type 2 diabetes mellitus. Odette is an early career researcher with well-established community and organisational links in north Queensland. Odette has worked with the University of Queensland and Queensland Institute of Medical Research on a paediatric respiratory prevalence study. Odette spent five years as a health policy officer for Queensland Health, Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Health Service. This role included assisting the Health Council with community planning and prioritising funding sourced through the Health Framework Agreement. Odette's last two years in the Torres Strait were spent in primary health care service management. Her interests are in health policy and the funding and provision of health services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Odette continues her research focus on primary health care systems and hospitalisation at Wardliparingga.

## Dr David Johnson MPH, MBBS Position: Practitioner Research Fellow

Dr David Johnson is a general practitioner and active in delivery of primary health care services to a remote Aboriginal community. David has completed a Masters of Public Health and his Public Health Medicine Training Program. He is currently Medical Director, Spinifex Health Service, Tjuntjuntjara Aboriginal Community, where he oversees the development of their primary health service. David is focusing on research that can enhance Aboriginal primary care services.

#### **Kim Morey**

## Position: Manager, Knowledge Translation and Exchange Qualifications: MPH Candidate

Kim Morey is an Aboriginal woman with family connections of from Central Australia, of Anmatyerre / Eastern Arrente descent. Kim has extensive experience working within the Aboriginal Health and Housing portfolios within the South Australian Public Sector and an excellent knowledge of the health and wellbeing issues facing Aboriginal peoples both from a South Australian perspective and at a National level. Kim has been a delegate of the National Congress of Australia's First People and also volunteered on local Aboriginal Community based Boards of Management. Kim is currently a member of the Aboriginal Health Research Ethics Committee of the Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia. She is also currently undertaking her Masters of Public Health through the Institute of Koorie Education, Deakin University.

## Elaine Kite BPrHC, BA (AbAff) Position: Aboriginal Research Fellow

Elaine Kite originates from South Australia and is of Western Desert heritage; her cultural background being principally Kokatha. Elaine has worked extensively with Aboriginal communities in South Australia and Western Australia in community development, health and education. Prior to joining SAHMRI Elaine worked as a Facilitator/Health Educator on the evaluation of the Indigenous Chronic Disease Package, this was undertaken in collaboration with other researchers at Menzies School of Health Research. Elaine is undertaking her Masters in Public Health. Elaine will contribute to the development of the Kanyini Vascular Collaboration Chronic Care Model Study at Wardliparingga.

## Tania Marin MPH, BHSc Position: Research Officer

Tania Marin is an epidemiologist who has been working with Aboriginal health information for nearly five years. In this time, Tania's focus has been on the health of South Australian Aboriginal Peoples in her position as coordinator and data analyst for the South Australian Aboriginal Health Survey (SAAHS). During the scoping and data collection for this project, and others that have followed, she has begun to form relationships with people in the communities that make up the larger South Australian Aboriginal community.

Tania brings with her to SAHMRI experience in identifying social determinants of Aboriginal health and the complex issues surrounding Aboriginal health service delivery at the population level. Tania joins the Wardliparingga team to work on a range of projects.

## Rebekah O'Shea BSc Position: Research Officer

Rebekah O'Shea has extensive experience in research within the health and medical field. She started her career in Microbiology

research laboratories at the Women's and Children's Hospital, investigating shiga toxigenic Escherichia coli and assisting with development of a vaccine for streptococcal pneumonia. Rebekah went on to study cell cycle control pathways and mentor Honours students in the Biochemistry laboratories at the University of Adelaide, before expanding her health experience in the cardiovascular and other medical fields with Pharmaceutical Representative and Senior Scientific Affairs roles for AMRAD Pharmaceuticals/MSDA and Bayer Australia Ltd respectively. She has most recently worked at Baker IDI Heart & Diabetes Institute as a Research Associate where she assisted in development of essential service standards for cardiovascular care of Indigenous populations, explored self-management literature for potential application in patients with Rheumatic Heart Disease, as well as contributed to projects on value consideration of pharmacogenetic-guided therapy in oncology and cardiovascular fields. Rebekah is currently completing a Master of Public Health at the University of Adelaide. Rebekah is working on a suite of cardiovascular health projects at Wardliparingga.

## John Gray BSoc.Admin., BSc (Psych) (Hons) Position: Data Analyst

John Gray has worked in leadership positions in education social work in rural South Australia, the TAFE SA community services program, and in Child and Youth Health to provide policy advice, design and deliver staff development programs and manage service development projects related to youth health in South Australia. In 1997, John moved into SA Health initially taking responsibility for tobacco control policy and program development including project managing the introduction of smoke-free dining legislation and co-ordinating the 1st International Summer School in Inequalities and Addictions. Subsequently, he project managed the report "Inequality in South Australia - Key determinants of wellbeing, Volume 1: The Evidence". John joined the newly created Southern Adelaide Health Service in 2005 where he provided a population health analysis and reporting service for that Region including publication of "A Population Profile of Southern Adelaide" and involvement in several projects relating to improving Indigenous health and wellbeing. In addition, John acted as data manager for PANORAMA, part of the multidisciplinary research cluster at the Flinders University School of Medicine and for the external evaluation of the SA Health OPAL program. John has a Graduate Certificate in Spatial Information Systems. John is contributing his expertise to the full range of Wardliparingga projects with data management and analysis needs.

## Katharine Brown MHEcon&Pol, Grad Cert (HEcon.) BHSc (Public Health) Position: Research Officer

Katharine Brown completed a Master of Health Economics and Policy at the University of Adelaide in 2012. Prior to working at SAHMRI, Katharine was a project officer at the Heart Foundation (SA) working across a broad spectrum from the built environment to acute care, including investigating disparities in access to in-hospital treatment for Aboriginal patients. She was also the coordinator of the South Australian Cardiovascular Research Network, a collaboration of the Heart Foundation (SA), the South Australian government and SAHMRI, which seeks to foster a vibrant research community in the State. Katharine works in Wardliparingga across a range of research, centred on cardiovascular health and the continuum of care for Aboriginal people with cardiovascular disease.

#### The Administration Team

Kathy Mott and Karen Laverty supported the Wardliparingga Unit with business, finance, HR and administrative services throughout 2013. They are assisted by Aboriginal Administration Trainees, Anna Dowling, Vanessa Williams and Tyrone Agius.

#### Students

- Dr Peter Azzopardi
- Ms Monica Lawrence
- Ms Anne-Marie Eades

#### **Publications**

Professor Brown and the Wardliparingga team has collectively authored 32 publications in 2013, with 16 being primarily driven by the research program at SAHMRI.

#### 2012

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#### 2013

Aliprandi-Costa B, Ranasinghe I, Turnbull F, Brown A, Kritharides L, Patel A, Chew D, Walters D, Rankin J, Ilton M, Meredith I, Cass A, Brieger D. The Design and Rationale of the Australian Cooperative National Registry of Acute Coronary care, Guideline Adherence and Clinical Events (CONCORDANCE). Heart, Lung and Circulation. 2013 Jul;22(7):533-41.

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lyngkaran P, Thomas M, Sanders P, Hare DL, Majoni W, Nadarajan K, Ilton M, Brown A. Do We Need A Wider Therapeutic Paradigm For Heart Failure With Comorbidities? A Remote Australian Perspective. Health Care: Current Reviews [Internet]. 2013; 1:[106 p.]. doi: 10.4172/hccr.1000106

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# Cancer SAHMRI South Australian Health & CANCER RESEARCH

#### Overview/Leadership

The overarching goal of the Cancer Theme is to foster excellence to the full spectrum of cancer-related research, from fundamental genomic discovery, developmental biology, translational research and the development of innovative clinical trials. A core of the Cancer Theme is the study of hematologic malignancies, which are a leading cause of childhood cancer morbidity and mortality, and commonly lethal disorders in adults. The Cancer Theme has recruited Professors Deborah White and Timothy Hughes from SA Pathology who brought their research groups to SAHMRI in January 2014.

The White/Hughes group are world leaders in the biology and treatment of chronic myeloid leukemia, including the implementation of molecular monitoring of response to therapy and the identification of biologic determinants of treatment failure.

The research groups of Professors Andrew Zannettino and Stan Gronthos will also move to SAHMRI, bringing expertise in mesenchymal stem cell and myeloma biology. In addition the prostate research team of A/Professor Lisa Butler will move to the SAHMRI Cancer Theme in the coming months. Plans are also underway to relocate the South Australian tumor bank to SAHMRI, which will grow to enable optimal banking of tumor samples Australia wide.

The Cancer Theme is also establishing solid tumour "nodes" at FCIC and BHI and these collaborative links are now becoming well established with formalization of these associations imminent.

The Cancer Theme is now positioned as one of the leading research centers in basic and malignant hematopoiesis worldwide. Ongoing and future plans include growing basic research in solid tumors at SAHMRI and partner sites in Adelaide.

The Population Health Research Group, established in mid-2013 and led by Dr Caroline Miller, sits within the Cancer Theme and also works across the Heart Health Theme. Dr Miller is qualified in behavioural science, economics and population health and experienced in working at the interface of evidence and policy at a state and federal level.

The Group focuses on behavioural research and policy research to inform interventions aimed principally at whole populations and population sub groups. They achieve research translation by engaging with policy makers and non-government agencies and provide evidence based information to inform policies for improved health outcomes.

The Group brings together researchers with strengths in the areas of tobacco control and unhealthy weight and excessive alcohol consumption risks, all of which are critical for prevention of cancer and heart disease. They work on: the science and psychology behind social marketing campaigns; plain packaging and health warning labels on tobacco; community understanding of health recommendations and risk factors for disease; community support for public health policy measures; as well as monitoring rates of smoking, healthy weight, physical activity and alcohol consumption.

The Group also incorporates the Tobacco Control Research and Evaluation (TCRE) Program which is funded by the SA Government and administers the Central Coordination Unit of the South Australian Cancer Clinical Registry.

The Group also partners on multiple projects with Professor David Roder (Chair in Cancer Epidemiology, School of Population Health, University of South Australia and Beat Cancer Project, Cancer Research Chair).

#### **Beat Cancer Project**



The Beat Cancer Project was established to increase cancer research in South Australia by seed funding of research projects; maintaining and increasing capacity of the cancer research workforce; provision of infrastructure; and supporting the translation of research outcomes to health policy, clinical practice and other areas of health service delivery in South Australia.

Cancer Council SA and SA Health have invested \$20 million over a five-year period as core Funders. The Beat Cancer Project is a joint initiative with the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI), University of Adelaide, Flinders University and the University of South Australia, which are providing additional funding to increase the investment to over \$30 million. SAHMRI manages this investment on behalf of all parties.

Since inception in 2011, a substantial amount of funding, in excess of \$6 million, has been awarded with a substantial amount of additional funding leveraged from external sources including ongoing commitments for future years. Overall, the Beat Cancer Project has ensured a significant increase in the total pool of cancer research funding in South Australia.

#### **SA Comprehensive Cancer Consortium**

The purpose of the South Australian Comprehensive Cancer Consortium (SACCC) is to ensure cancer research is actively translated to policy and clinical practice for the benefit of improved patient outcomes and population health.

The SACCC Steering Committee, established in late 2012, brings together the required knowledge and experience to develop a comprehensive and integrated approach to cancer research, linked to policy and clinical practice. The Steering Committee is supported by a model that has been developed based on identified cancer research strengths currently present in South Australia. This model comprises tumour streams intersecting with pillars that identify the different areas within cancer research and services. The Steering Committee comprises nominated facilitators who lead each tumour stream or pillar.

Regular meetings of the SACCC Steering Committee have been held in 2013 and focused on:

- Identifying initiatives to make South Australia more competitive in attracting research funding
- Identifying key elements of required core cancer research infrastructure and promoting the establishment and maintenance of this infrastructure
- Providing state-wide leadership on major translational research programs focused on the consortium's areas of distinctive research strength.

#### Research Highlights/Awards

#### **Dale Watkins**

• SAHMRI Best Poster Prize, University of Adelaide Faculty of Health Sciences Postgraduate Research Conference, Adelaide, SA

#### Lisa Schafranek

- American Hematology Society Abstract Excellence Award, American Society of Hematology Annual Conference, New Orleans, USA
- Florey Medical Research Poster Presentation Prize (FHS conference), Faculty of Health SciencesPostgraduate Research Conference, National Wine Centre, Adelaide, SA
- Finalist/Runner-up Medical Staff Society Prize, Royal Adelaide Hospital Medical Staff Society, Adelaide, SA
- Faculty Finalist 3 minute thesis competition, School of Medicine, University of Adelaide, Adelaide, SA

#### Chung Kok

• Mary Overton Early Career Fellowship, RAH Research Foundation

#### **Grants**

The Cancer theme has enjoyed considerable grant success in 2013, with multiple NHMRC project grants, grants from the Leukemia Foundation of Australia, and a highly competitive Australian Cancer Research Foundation Infrastructure grant that will support sophisticated cellular and animal imaging for the Cancer theme and the facility.

The Population Health Research Group has also achieved considerable funding success in grant and commissioned research in 2013, for example the Tobacco Control Research and Evaluation Program (SA Government), Beat Cancer Project Principal Research Fellowship, Cancer Clinical Registry Central Coordination Unit and Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Data Scoping (Canteen), as well as collaborating on NHMRC Category 1 grant projects.

#### NHMRC (Level 1)

2015-2019

NHMRC Program Grant APP1071897 – "Aberrant Signaling in Leukaemia" – CIA Prof Angel Lopez, CIB Michael Parker, **CIC Timothy Hughes** 

#### 2014-2017

Project Grant: Determining the prerequisites for the achievement of treatment-free remission in chronic myeloid leukaemia to facilitate the development of new therapeutic approaches with curative intent. **CIA Timothy Hughes, CIB Deborah White,** \$1,400,000

#### 2013-2015

Project Grant: Screening and targeting newly discovered genetic lesions in poor risk adult and childhood ALL. **CIA Deborah White**, CIB Charles Mullighan, CIC Timothy Hughes, \$718,892.85

#### 2012-2014

Project Grant "Characterisation of a New Poor-Risk Sub-Category of Chronic Phase Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia" Funded 2012-2014 CIA Deborah White, CIB Tim Hughes, \$588,675

Project Grant "Rational development of a bioassay-based treatment algorithm for kinase inhibitor therapy in CML" Funded 2012-2014, CIA Timothy Hughes, **CIB Deborah White** \$509,880

#### Application in the current round

Project Grant: Optimising the chance of cure after allogeneic transplant for Childhood ALL

CIA: Peter Shaw, **CIB Deborah White**, CIC Tracey O'Brien, CID Rosemary Sutton, CIE Francoise Mechinaud, CIF Richard Se Abreu Laurenco. \$1,839,000 over 5 years.

#### ACRF (Level 1)

Innovative Cancer Imaging and Therapeutic Facility \$1,800,000

#### Beat Cancer

Advancing T-cell therapy for leukaemia and glioblastoma. CI Timothy Hughes Al **Deborah White,** Michael Brown, Agnes Yong, Angel Lopez \$750,000

Individualised Risk Assessment and Therapeutic Intervention for Colorectal Cancer in the South Australian. CI Guy Maddern Al Joanne Young, Tim Price, Peter Hewett, Jenny Hardingham, Dan Worthley, Charles Mullighan, **Deborah White** \$750,000

#### Leukaemia Foundation Australia (Level 2)

2013

Childhood Ph-like ALL: Improving Diagnostic Screening and Therapeutic Rationale

Prof Deborah White and Prof Charles Mullighan, \$100,000

#### Industry Funding (Level 3)

Only showing new for 2014 -

Correlative Science Proposal Associated with the ENESTswift clinical trial

Deborah White, Devendra Hiwase, Agnes Yong, Susan Branford.

Novartis Australia \$500,000

Correlative Science Proposal Associated with the ENESTop clinical trial Deborah White, Timothy Hughes, Francois Xavier-Mahon

Novartis Global \$270,000

Correlative Science Proposal Associated with the Pinnacle clinical trial

Deborah White, Susan Branford, Agnes Yong, David Yeung.

Novartis Australia \$675,000

#### Sue Heatley

2013 University of Adelaide, Discipline of Medicine, RIBG Equipment Grant \$30,000

Pl-A - Dr Sue Heatley, Pl-B - Prof Deborah White - Cancer Theme, SAHMRI

PI-C - Dr Patrick Hughes, PI-D - Dr Richard Young - Nerve Gut Research Laboratory, University of Adelaide

#### 2015 Channel 7 Children's Research Fund - \$75,000

Developing a robust screening tool to identify children with high risk "Ph-like" Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (ALL) that will lead to improved outcomes through the use of targeted therapies.

CI - Dr Sue Heatley, Als - Prof Deborah White, Prof Charles Mullighan - Cancer Theme, SAHMRI

Expression of interest submitted, invited to submit full grant application for consideration (151 EOI submitted, 35 were shortlisted for progression to second round).

#### Population Health Research Group

#### NHMRC (Category 1 funding)

Risks and benefits of breast cancer screening: BreastScreen WA cohort study of overdiagnosis and breast cancer mortality, NHMRC Project Grant 1061375, English D, Kavanagh A, Nickson C, **Roder D** (\$196,516)

Development and testing of an integrated cancer monitoring and surveillance system for Aboriginal People in South Australia CANDAD, NHMRC Partnership Grant 1072243 Brown A, **Roder D**, Mott K, Cargo M, Yerrell P (\$1,034,270)

#### Category 2 & 3 funding:

Tobacco Control Research and Evaluation (TCRE) Program. SA Government. 2013-2016. \$1,904,881.

Principal Research Fellowship. Beat Cancer Project. 2013 – 2016. \$1,680,000. Canteen – Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer. Commissioned Research. 2013. \$30,000.

Cancer Clinical Registry Central Coordination Unit. Commissioned Research/Service. 2013. \$320,000.

#### **Fellowships**

#### Chung H Kok

Royal Adelaide Hospital Mary Overton Early Career Research Fellowship (2014-2017; \$252,000). Project title: Understanding the impact of the histone gene cluster on molecular response in CML patients

#### **Publications**

#### Targetable kinase activating lesions in Ph-like acute lymphoblastic Leukemia

Kathryn G. Roberts, Yongjin Li, Debbie Payne-Turner, Richard C. Harvey, Yung-Li Yang, Deqing Pei, Kelly McCastlain, Li Ding, Charles Lu, Guangchun Song, Jing Ma, Jared Becksfort, Michael Rusch, Shann-Ching Chen, John Easton, Jinjun Cheng, Kristy Boggs, Natalia Santiago-Morales, Ilaria Iacobucci, Robert S Fulton, Ji Wen, Marcus Valentine, Cheng Cheng, Steven W. Paugh, Meenakshi Devidas, I-Ming Chen, Shalini Reshmi, Amy Smith, Erin Hedlund, Pankaj Gupta, Panduka Nagahawatte, Gang Wu, Xiang Chen, Donald Yergeau, Bhavin Vadodaria, Heather Mulder, Naomi J. Winick, Eric C. Larsen, William L. Carroll, Nyla A. Heerema, Andrew J. Carroll, Guy Grayson, Sarah K. Tasian, Andrew S. Moore, Frank Keller, Melissa Frei-Jones, James Whitlock Elizabeth A. Raetz, Deborah White, Timothy P. Hughes, Jaime M. Guidry Auvil, Malcolm A. Smith, Guido Marcucci, Clara D. Bloomfield, Krzysztof Mrózek, Jessica Kohlschmidt, Wendy Stock, Steven M. Kornblau, Marina Konopleva, Elisabeth Paietta, Ching-Hon Pui, Sima Jeha, Mary V. Relling, William E. Evans, Daniela S. Gerhard, Julie M. Gastier-Foster, Elaine Mardis, Richard K. Wilson, Mignon L. Loh, James R. Downing, Stephen P. Hunger, Cheryl Willman, Jinghui Zhang, and Charles G. Mullighan

#### Accepted for publication June 2014 New England Journal of Medicine

Schafranek L, Nievergall E, Powell JA, Hiwase DK, Leclercq T, **Hughes TP, White DL**. Sustained inhibition of STAT5, but not JAK2, is essential for TKI-induced cell death in chronic myeloid leukemia. Leukemia doi:10.1038/leu.2014.156; accepted article preview online May 12, 2014

**Timothy P Hughes** and **Deborah L White**. "Which TKI? An embarrassment of riches for CML patients..." ASH Education Book. American Society of Haematology. New Orleans 2013.1:168-175

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Kok CH, Watkins DB, Leclercq T, D'Andrea RJ, **Hughes TP, White DL**. Low GFI1 expression in white blood cells of CP-CML patients at diagnosis is strongly associated with subsequent blastic transformation. Leukemia. 2013 Jun;27(6):1427-1430.

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#### Population Health Research Group

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#### **Staff and Students**

Theme Leaders: Charles Mullighan, Deborah White, Tim Hughes

Executive Assistant: Janey Nicholson

Team Leaders: Tamara Leclercq, Sue Heatley, Verity Saunders

Post-doctoral Fellows: Chung Kok, Laura Eadie, Jackie Wang, Eva Nievergall, Lisa Schafranek, Dale Watkins

Clinical Fellow: Debbie Moulton

Research Assistants: Phuong Dang Jarrad Goyne, Amity Frede, Jennifer McLean

Research Administration: Stephanie Arbon, Bron Cambareri Students: Liu Lu, Ben Leow, Kartini Asari, Paul Mathew

#### Population Health Research Group

Director: Dr Caroline Miller

Senior Research Officer. Dr Kerry Ettridge

Research Officer: Ms Jo Dono

Business and Research Operations Manager. Ms Katrina Stamp

Manager Registries: Ms Kate Powell Student: Ms Jacqueline Bowden

#### School of Population Health, University of South Australia

Professor of Cancer Epidemilogy and Population Health: Prof David Roder

Project Officer: Mr Simeon Jones

Data Analyst: Mrs Kellie Fusco

Research Fellow: Dr Annika Steffen

Students: Mrs Elizabeth Buckley and Ms Kerri Beckmann

#### Invited presentations and/or session chairs

#### **Professor Deborah White**

- Invited Speaker: iCMLf meeting, Portugal, September 2013
- Walter and Eliza Hall Institute Translational Research Symposium, Victoria, Australia, 2013
- Invited Speaker for "Meet the Expert Sessions": Royal North Shore Hospital, NSW; Westmead Hospital, NSW; Millenium Research Institute, NSW; Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, NSW and Centenary Institute, NSW
- 2013 Haematology: New Frontiers in Therapeutic Options, Gold Coast, Australia, October 2013
- 11th Australasian Biospecimen Network (ABNA) Annual Meeting, Melbourne, Australia, December 2013
- CML Monitoring Advisory Board, Adelaide, Australia, December 2013

- South Australian Blood Club: Screening ALL Patients for Newly Identified Druggable Lesions: Towards a Paradigm Shift in the Treatment of High Risk ALL. Adelaide. February 2014.
- CCSA Defining a new subtype of ALL. Beat Cancer/Blue Sky Funding Invited presentation June 2014
- Invited Speaker: Parliamentary Friends of Women in Science, Maths and Engineering. Adelaide 2014 June 2014
- Melbourne Children's Oncology Group Screening ALL Patients for Newly Identified Druggable Lesions: Towards a Paradigm Shift in the Treatment of High Risk ALL. Adelaide. July 2014.
- Invited Speaker: Novartis GET weekend. Sydney 2014

#### Invited session chair

- Women in Science session NDLR 2014
- CML and Myeloproliferative neoplasm Session NDLR 2014, Sunshine Coast March 2014
- iCMLf Meeting Philadelphia September 2014.
- NHMRC GRP 3d Invited Chairperson

#### **Professor Timothy Hughes**

- Chair and Invited Speaker: ASH CML Education Talk, New Orleans, USA, December 2013
- ESH/iCMLf CML Meeting, Estoril, Portugal, September 2013
- Plenary speaker and Organiser: Society of Haematologic Oncology (SOHO) Meeting, Houston, USA, September 2013
- Haematology Society Annual Meeting, Gold Coast, Australia, October 2013
- Co-chair and Invited Speaker: CML Global Opinion Leader Meeting (GOLS), Helsinki, Finland, March 2014
- Invited Speaker: AP Summit, Japan, 2013
- Arabic Summit, Dubai, 2013

#### Dr Chung H Kok

#### Invited Speaker:

- Special Interest Group (Next-Generation Sequencing), Adelaide, 2014
- Genetic Solutions World Tour Australia, Melbourne, 2014
- Genetic Solutions World Tour Australia, Adelaide, 2014

#### Dr Caroline Miller

#### Invited Speaker:

- Symposium Chair. Australian and New Zealand Obesity Society Annual Scientific Meeting 2013; Melbourne, Australia; 17-19
- Oceania Tobacco Control Conference; Auckland, New Zealand; 23-25 October 2013.





## Healthy Mothers, Babies and Children

#### **Overview**

Professor Maria Makrides was appointed Theme Leader for Healthy Mothers, Babies and Children in August 2013

Professor Makrides brings a wealth of experience to SAHMRI and her appointment has been central to securing a strong partnership with the Women's and Children's Health Network, the Women's and Children's Health Research Institute and the University of Adelaide more broadly.

As a result of the Makrides appointment and the multi-institutional partnerships around the Healthy Mothers, Babies and Children Theme, the Theme will be headquartered at the Women's and Children's Hospital.

#### Leadership

Professor Makrides leads an internationally recognised multi-disciplinary research group with over 30 staff. They are highly skilled in conducting nutrition intervention trials involving mothers and babies aimed at improving the health outcomes of children.

#### **Grants**

Professor Makrides was awarded a competitive NHMRC Fellowship as a Principal Research Fellow commencing in January 2014.

#### **Publications**

Palmer DJ, Sullivan T, Gold MS, Prescott S, Heddle R, Gibson RA, Makrides M. Randomised controlled trial of fish oil supplementation in pregnancy on childhood allergies. Allergy 2013;68:1370-6

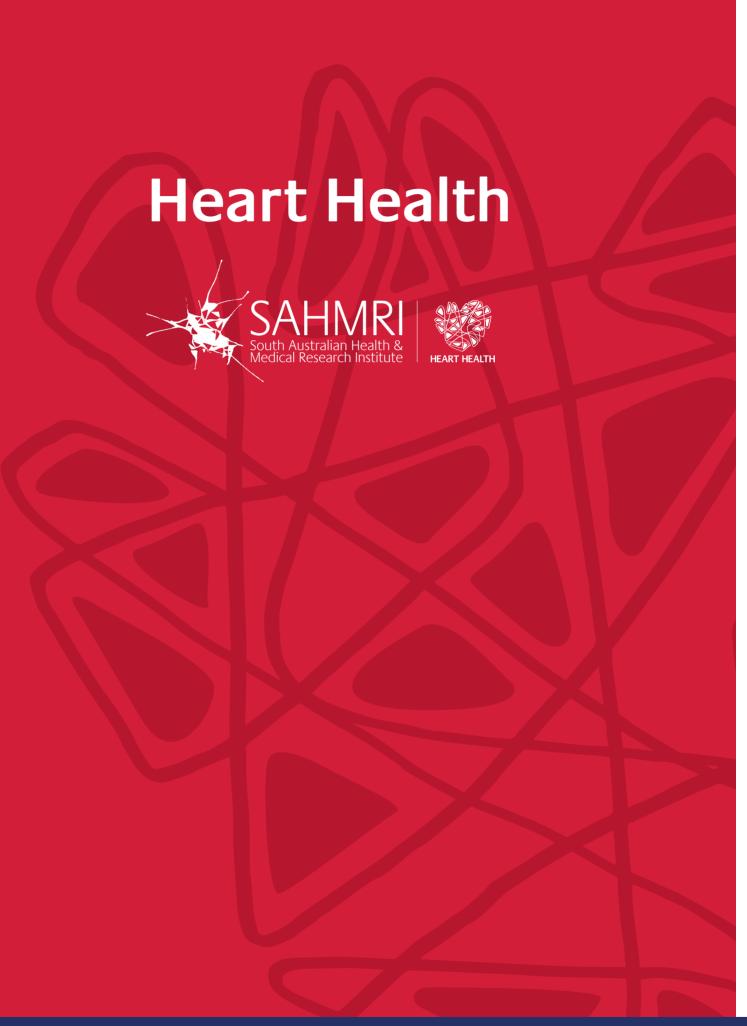
Zhou SJ, Anderson A, Gibson RA, Makrides M Zhou SJ, Anderson A, Gibson RA, Makrides M. Effect of iodine supplementation in pregnancy on child development and other clinical outcomes: A systematic review of randomized controlled trials. Am J Clin Nutr 2013;98:1241-54.

#### **Staff and Students**

Professor Makrides has six current PhD students enrolled through the University of Adelaide.







#### **Overview**

In May 2012, Professor Stephen Nicholls was appointed as the inaugural SAHMRI Heart Foundation Heart Health Theme Leader. In addition, he has appointments as Professor of Cardiology at the University of Adelaide and Consultant Cardiologist at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. Since his arrival, Professor Nicholls has developed the overall strategy for the Heart Health theme. This resulted from an extensive consultative process, in which he met with the major research groups in the cardiovascular arena in South Australia. He established an independent scientific advisory board, comprised of national research leaders in cardiovascular disease from outside of the state. The members include John Chalmers (George Institute), Philip Barter (University of NSW), Andrew Tonkin (Monash University), Nadia Rosenthal (Monash University) and Chris Semsarian (Centenary Institute).

The broad research agenda has been developed and focuses on three main areas including (i) vascular disease, (ii) heart structure and function and (iii) rhythm disorders. These areas have been selected on the basis of their health importance in the community and reflecting areas of research strength in South Australia. The theme has also incorporated the Stroke and Sleep Health researchers from within the state, given their primary connection with cardiovascular health. The theme has actively recruited a number of faculty from within the state, who are in the process of transitioning to SAHMRI. In addition, the theme is actively recruiting high quality people from interstate and overseas.

Within the Heart Health theme, a Cardiac Innovation Centre has been established to develop and maintain strategic relationships with government, academia and industry. The Cardiac Innovation Centre will include the activities of clinical trials, faculty education, health care delivery and cardiac technology. The Centre will allow a coordinated approach to activities to attract collaborative world-class research to SAHMRI. A research manager has been employed to oversee the Centre.

We have been successful in our bid to coordinate the 2014 International Society of Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy meeting here in Adelaide.

This meeting will bring together world renowned cardiologists and it is a great opportunity for Professor Nicholls to highlight SAHMRI and the Heart Health theme capabilities to a wide audience.

Professor Nicholls has rapidly grown his own research program at SAHMRI, following his move from the Cleveland Clinic. This has resulted in the establishment of the Vascular Research Centre at SAHMRI, of which Professor Nicholls serves as Director.

The centre has three major objectives:

- The bioscience research entity, which primarily studies the relationship between lipid and inflammatory pathways with vascular disease. We have a number of ongoing basic and translational studies that focus on mechanisms of vascular disease in obesity, inflammatory disease and stroke.
- The clinical imaging group has established an atherosclerosis imaging core laboratory. This already works as the global core lab for a multicentre intravascular ultrasound/near-infrared spectroscopy registry. We have been awarded operational and academic leadership of an intervention study of a novel anti-atherosclerotic agent. We are establishing our role with evolving imaging techniques, with major collaborations at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. In addition, we continue our strong ties with the Cleveland Clinic, with SAHMRI playing a leadership role in several multicentre trials of novel therapies.
- Thirdly, our strong clinical trial interest continues through development of significant links with the SAHMRI Cardiovascular Clinical Trial group at Flinders Medical Centre, which has now been fully integrated within SAHMRI as Adelaide Clinical Research.

The research activities of the theme have rapidly accelerated. In 2012, the theme was awarded the first project grant for SAHMRI by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) to study the relationship between obesity and the functional activities of high-density lipoproteins. We have also begun bioscience studies of novel antiatherosclerotic therapies, in association with industry. The bio-science group within the Vascular Research Centre will be responsible for these projects.

SAHMRI was awarded the operational responsibility of the Australasian Cardiac Outcomes Registry.

A number of collaborative efforts have been initiated, resulting in the submission of more than 10 grants in the 2013 NHMRC cycle by Heart Health faculty, and a further 12 grants will be submitted in the 2014 NHMRC project grant round.

We have a number of industry sponsored projects that will be commencing in 2014 within the bio-science and clinical imaging group of the Vascular Research Centre.

We have commenced a monthly series of Heart Health workshops to highlight research achievements, opportunities and collaboration. They have been well attended and very successful.

The Heart Rhythm Disorders group is led by Professor Prash Sanders. This is a large group (~35 people) who moved into the SAHMRI building in early in 2014. This group includes clinical fellows, PhD students and Clinical Trial Coordinators.

The Stroke Research Group is led by Professor Simon Koblar. It is made up of basic scientists, PhD students and Honours students. The Stroke group will be moving into the SAHMRI site in April 2014.

#### Leadership

- Professor Stephen Nicholls:
   Deputy Director, SAHMRI
   Heart Health Theme Leader
   Vascular Research Centre Group Leader
   Cardiac Innovation Centre, Clinical Trials Group Leader
- Professor Prash Sanders:
   Heart Rhythm Disorders Group Leader
- Professor Josep Selvanayagam:
   Cardiac Imaging Research Group Leader
- Professor Simon Koblar:
   Stroke Research Group Leader
- Professor Philip Aylward:
   Cardiac Innovation Centre, Medical Education
- Professor Derek Chew:
   Cardiovascular Data Management Group Leader
   Flinders Medical Centre Local Studies Group Leader
   Cardiac Innovation Centre, Health Care Delivery
- Professor Stephen Worthley:
   Cardiac Innovation Centre, Cardiac Technologies



#### **Research Highlights**

Professor Nicholls presented three late breaking clinical trial results at major international scientific meetings in 2013.

He has also been published in high impact journals, such as The New England Journal of Medicine and Journal of the American Medical Association.

Additionally, Professor Nicholls has been successful in receiving funding as part of an Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence – Centre for Nanosensing and BioPhotonics, where we will collaborate with national research leaders in physics and chemistry to develop novel sensing approaches to study factors involved in the development of heart disease.

Grants and awards have been received by the following staff:

- Dr Rishi Puri, Vascular Disease Fellowship Grant, 2014-2017
- Dr Dennis Wong, NHF Fellowship Grant, 2014-2015.
- Dr Anand Ganesan, NHMRC New Investigator Grant; 2014-2017.
- Dr Anand Ganesan, NHMRC Fellowship; 2014-2019
- Mr Darius Chapman, APHRS Chaired Poster Award Basic and Translational; 2013.
- Dr Sachin Nayyar, APHRS Chaired Poster Award Ablation; 2013.
- Dr Rajiv Mahajan, APHRS Best Abstract Award; 2013.
- Mr Darius Chapman, Adelaide Research and Innovation Prize; 2013.
- Dr Christopher Wong, CSANZ Travelling Scholarship; 2013.
- Dr Sachin Nayyar, Ralph Reader Young Investigator Award (Clinical Science Finalist), Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand; 2013.
- Dr Rajiv Mahajan, Ralph Reader Young Investigator Award (Basic Science First Prize), Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand: 2013
- Dr Rajiv Mahajan, Heart Rhythm Society Young Investigator Award (Basic Science First Prize); 2013.
- Ms Melissa Middeldorp, Affiliates Prize for the highest ranked international abstract by an allied professional at Heart Rhythm Society, Denver, Colorado, USA; May 2013.
- Dr. Han Lim, Parmley Prize, American College of Cardiology; 2013.
- Dr. Hany Abed, American College of Cardiology Young Investigator Award (First Prize), American College of Cardiology; 2013.
- Dr Darragh Twomey, Leo J. Mahar Electrophysiology Scholarship, University of Adelaide; 2013-2015.

- Prof Prash Sanders, NHMRC Achievement Award for the highest ranked NHMRC Practitioner Fellowship; University of Adelaide; 2013-2017.
- Dr. Hany Abed, Samuel A. Levine Young Investiator Award (First Prize), American Heart Association; 2012.
- Ms. Carlee Schulz, Asia-Pacific Heart Rhythm Society Young Investigator Award (Clinical: First Prize); 2012.
- Dr. Anand Ganesan, Asia-Pacific Heart Rhythm Society Young Investigator Award (Basic Science: First Prize); 2012.
- Dr. Sachin Nayyar, Best Abstract Award, Asia-Pacific Heart Rhythm Society; 2012.
- Dr Darragh Twomey, Australian Postgraduate Award, University of Adelaide; 2012-2015.
- Dr Rajeev Pathak, Australian Postgraduate Award, University of Adelaide; 2012-2015.
- Ms Aakriti Gupta, Douglas Hardy Research Prize; 2012.
- Dr. Anand Ganesan, SA Heart Research Award; 2012.
- Dr. Sachin Nayyar, Poster Prize, Cardic Society of Australia and New Zealand; 2012.
- Dr. Anand Ganesan, Michel Mirowski International Fellowship in Cardiac Pacing and Electrophysiology, Heart Rhythm Society; 2012-2013.
- Dr. Anand Ganesan, Heart Rhythm Society Young Investigator Award (Clinical First Prize); 2012.
- Dr Rajeev Pathak, Lions Postgraduate Medical Scholarship, University of Adelaide; 2012-2015.
- Dr Rajeev Pathak, Leo J. Mahar Electrophysiology Scholarship, University of Adelaide; 2012-2015.
- Dr. Anand Ganesan, SCMR Young Investigator Award (Finalist); 2012.
- Dr Hany Dimitri, PhD awarded, University of Adelaide, Adelaide; 2012.
- Dr Payman Moalee, PhD awarded, University of Adelaide, Adelaide; 2012.
- Dr. Han Lim, NHMRC Neil Hamilton Fairley Fellowship; 2012.

#### **Grants**

- National Health and Medical Research Council Project Grant 2013-2015. Obesity and protective properties of high-density lipoproteins (CIA: \$377,853.94)
- Australasian Cardiac Outcomes Registry. 2013-2017. (Co-Director: \$1,317,577)
- National Health and Medical Research Council Project Grant 2014-2016. AC-Omega 3 trial. (CIB: \$1,057,247)
- Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence 2014-2021 (Partner Investigator \$23,000,000).
- National Health and Medical Research Council Practitioner Fellowship 2013, Prof Prash Sanders (\$444,014).

#### **Publications**

**Nicholls SJ,** Cavender MA, Kastelein JJP, Schwartz G, Waters DD, Rosenson RS, Bash D and Hislop C. Inhibition of secretory phospholipase A2 in patients with acute coronary syndromes: rationale and design of the Vascular Inflammation Suppression to Treat Acute Coronary Syndrome for 16 Weeks (VISTA-16) trial. Cardiovasc Drug Ther. 2012. 26:71-5.

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**Nicholls SJ,** Gordon A, Johannson J, Ballantyne CM, Barter PJ, Brewer HB, Kastelein JJP, Wong NC, Borgman M and Nissen SE. ApoA-I induction as a potential cardioprotective strategy: rationale for the SUSTAIN and ASSURE studies. Cardiovasc Drug Ther. 2012. 26(2):181-7.

**Nicholls SJ** and Uno K. Peroxisome proliferator activated receptor (PPAR  $\alpha/\gamma$ ) agonists as a potential target to reduce cardiovascular risk in diabetes. Diab Vasc Dis Res. 2012. 9(2):89-94.

Kataoka Y, Uno K, Puri R and Nicholls SJ. Current imaging modalities for atherosclerosis. Exp Rev Card Ther. 2012. 10(4):457-71.

Nicholls SJ. AIM-HIGH: To believe or not to believe? J Amer Coll Card. 2012. 79(1):38-43.

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Karlson BW, Barter PJ, Palmer MK, Lundman P and **Nicholls SJ.** Comparison of effects of different statins and doses on lipid levels in patients with diabetes: results from VOYAGER. Nutr Metab Cardiovasc Dis. 2012. 22(9):697-703.

Puri R, Kataoka Y, Uno K and **Nicholls SJ**. The distinctive nature of atherosclerotic vascular disease in diabetes – pathophysiological and morphological insights. Curr Diab Rep. 2012;12(3):280-5.

Otocka-Kmiecik A, Mikhailidis DP, **Nicholls SJ**, Davidson M, Rysz J and Banach M. Dysfunctional HDL – a novel important diagnostic and therapeutic target in cardiovascular disease? Prog Lipid Res. 2012. 51(4):314-24.

Zamani P, Ganz P, Libby P, Sutradhar SC, Rifai N, **Nicholls SJ**, Nissen SE and Kinlay S. Relationship of antihypertensive treatment to plasma markers of vascular inflammation and remodeling in the Comparison of Amlodipine versus Enalapril to Limit Occurrences of Thrombosis study. Am Heart J. 2012;163(4):735-40.

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Davidson M, Rosenson RS, Maki KC, **Nicholls SJ**, Ballantyne CM, Setze C, Carlson DM and Stolzenbach J. Study design, rationale, and baseline characteristics: evaluation of fenofibric acid on carotid intima-media thickness in patients with type IIb dyslipidemia with residual risk in addition to atorvastatin therapy (FIRST) trial. Cardiovasc Drugs Ther. 2012. 26(4):349-58.

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Baumert M, Javorka M, Seeck A, Faber R, **Sanders P**, Voss A. Multiscale entropy and detrended fluctuation analysis of QT interval and heart rate variability during normal pregnancy. Computers in Biology and Medicine 2012; 42: 347-52.

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Lee G, Sanders P, Kalman JM. Catheter ablation of atrial arrhythmias. Lancet 2012; 380: 1509-1519.

Nayyar S, Abed H, Roberts-Thomson KC, **Sanders P**. Coronary sinus isolation – no myth but reality. Pacing and Clinical Electrophysiology 2012; 35: e322-e324.

Kalman JM, Kumar S, **Sanders P**. Markers of collogen synthesis, atrial fibrosis and the mechanisms underlying atrial fibrillation. Journal of the American College of Cardiology 2012; 60: 1807-1808.

Thomas SP, Sanders P. Catheter ablation for atrial fibrillation. Heart, Lung and Circulation 2012; 21: 395-401.

Denniss AR, Davis LM, **Sanders P.** Advances in implantable cardiac electronic devices and cardiac electrophysiology. Heart, Lung and Circulation 2012; 21: 309-310.

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#### **Community Engagement**

Professor Nicholls has participated in media opportunities on factors promoting prevention of heart disease.

#### **Staff and Students**

#### **Prof Stephen Nicholls - Vascular Research Centre**

- Rishi Puri, MD, PhD, Clinical Research Fellow, Cleveland Clinic; 2011-present
- MyNgan Duong, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, SAHMRI; 2012-present
- Jordan Andrews, BS, Research Fellow, SAHMRI; 2012-present
- Yu Kataoka, MD. PhD, Clinical Research Fellow, SAHMRI; 2012-present
- Jessica Fendler, BS, Research Assistant, SAHMRI; 2013-present
- Tracy Nguyen, BS(Hons), Research Assistant, SAHMRI; 2013-present
- Nisha Rao, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, SAHMRI; 2013-present
- Anthony Pisaniello, PhD student, SAHMRI; 2014-present
- Dennis Wong, MD, Research Fellow, SAHMRI; 2014-2015
- Dawn Thean, Laboratory intern; 2014- present

#### Prof Prash Sanders - Heart Rhythm Disorders Group:

Clinical Fellows

- Dr Darragh Twomey, MBBS; Newcastle upon Tyne, UK; 2012-current
- Dr Rajeev Pathak, MBBS, FRACP; Canberra, Australian Capital Territory; 2012-current.
- Dr Anand Ganesan, MBBS, PhD, FRACP; Sydney, New South Wales; 2011-current.
- Dr Rajiv Mahajan, MD; Delhi, India; 2010-current.
- Dr Sachin Nayyar, MD; Delhi, India; 2010-2013.
- Dr Jakob Lüker, MD; Hamburg, Germany; 2012.
- Dr Hany S. Abed, MBBS, BPharm, FRACP; Newcastle, New South Wales; 2009-2012.
- Dr Han S. Lim, MBBS, FRACP; Melbourne, Victoria; 2008-2012.
- Dr Muayad Alasady, MBChB, FRACP; Canberra, Australian Capital Territory; 2008-2012.

#### **PhD Students**

- Dr Jason Varzaly, MBBS.
- Dr Darragh Twomey, MBBS, MRCP. (UK)
- Mr Darius Chapman, BSc.
- Dr Rajeev Pathak, MBBS, FRACP.
- Dr Christopher Wong, MBBS.
- Mr Wei Wen Lim, BSc. (Singapore)
- Mr. Shivshankar Thanigaimani, BSc (India)
- Dr. Rajiv Mahjan, MD, DM. (India)
- Dr Sachin Nayyar, MD, DM. (India)
- Ms Melissa Neo, BSc (Honours). (Singapore)
- Ms Geetanjali Rangnekar, BSc (Honours). (India)
- Ms Carlee Schultz, BSc (Honours).
- Dr. Muayad Alasady, MBChB.
- Mr. Aaron Farquharson, RN, BNurs, Grad Dip Cardiac Nurse, MNSc.



# Infection and Immunity



SAHMRI's Executive Director, Professor Steve Wesselingh has recently been appointed as SAHMRI's Infection and Immunity Theme Leader.

The Theme also includes two new group leaders, Dr. Geraint Rogers, Director of Microbiome Research and Associate Professor David Lynn, EMBL Australia Group Leader.

David's group will investigate the complex web of molecular and cellular interactions that regulate our immune response using advanced experimental and computational approaches.

Geraint's focus will be on the interaction of our microbiome, the community of microorganisms that share our bodies, with the immune system.

All the groups in the Theme collaborate extensively with each other, with other SAHMRI teams, nationally and internationally. The Infection and Immunity Theme is co-located at SAHMRI and at the School of Medicine in Flinders University.

# Mind & Brain



#### **Overview**

The Mind and Brain theme has had a remarkable first 12 months. From its commencement in April 2013 with just three staff, the theme has been rapidly expanding and now includes seven full time staff, two international PhD students and six adjunct research fellows from four different institutions. With this expansion a significant number of projects have been launched. The theme now has seven projects in underway and in development across both clinical and laboratory research areas. New collaborative relationships have been formed with a multitude of institutions both domestically and internationally. This has contributed to the submission of nine project grants (six of which are with NHMRC), one fellowship, three infrastructure grants and one partnership grant being submitted in the last 12 month period. In the past year Mind and Brain has successfully attained a second NHMRC project grant, which takes total NHMRC funding for the theme to more than \$1.1 million until 2016. In the past year Mind & Brain have hosted a number of workshops and symposia engaging academics, researchers, clinicians, nurses and the general public in important discussions on mental health issues. From these events and collaborations, Mind and Brain has now formed an advisory panel to discuss approaches to mental health issues in the South Australia and the nation.

In the next 12 months our aim as a team is to utilise the momentum built to date to launch a War on Mental Illness, as a national and international campaign.

#### **International Profile**

The Mind and Brain Theme is the international headquarters of three Nature Publishing Group journals, Molecular Psychiatry, number 1 psychiatric journal worldwide (Impact Factor: 14.897), the Pharmacogenomics Journal (IF = 5.1) and Translational Psychiatry.

Signed contract for Oxford University Press' new key Textbook: MAJOR DEPRESSION (Edited by Licinio and Wong).

Brought to South Australia a new partnership, the German-Australian Institute of Translational Medicine (GAITM), which is serving as a foundation for a larger bi-institutional partnership being created between the University of Dresden, Germany, Flinders University and SAHMRI.

#### **Research Overview**

Novel research findings:

- Several new genetic markers of depression and antidepressant response identified:
  - Diagnostic tests
  - New treatment targets (patent to be filed)
- Leptin, a fat cell hormone, regulates endocrine function and cognition
  - (ongoing work with rare disease patients in Turkey lives we have saved).
- Psychotropic drugs continue to have metabolic effects (weight gain), long after they are discontinued: potential paradigm shift. Our new work is dissecting the mind brain metabolism interface.

#### **Lab-based Projects**

Project 1: Stress, antidepressants and diet

NHMRC grant GNT1070935

New PhD student hired: Antonio Inserra

Ethics submitted.

Project 2: Inflammatory mediators, metabolism and brain/behaviour

NHMRC grant application

Research Fellow hired: Martin Lewis

Ethics submitted.

Project 3: Molecular mechanisms by which stress affects disease susceptibility

New PhD student hired: Sha Liu

Ethics submitted.

Project 4: Genetic variants and environmental factors in depression

NHMRC grant: GNT1051931

Ethics submitted.

Clinical research projects

Project 5: AUGREO: An Australian – German Registry for Early-Onset Obesity

Ongoing project at ANU

Transferring to new SAHMRI bldg

Project 6: A novel treatment approach to obesity

Identified new treatment targets that are being considered for patenting

Pilot project being developed

Human ethics application in progress

Project 7: Depression and obesity: shared biology and its impact on the outcomes of online treatments

Genetically guided treatment of depression

Pilot project being developed

Human ethics application in progress

#### **Staff and Students**

The Mind and Brain team is rapidly expanding. In the past year, the following staff have joined the Mind and Brain theme.

#### Staff with activities based in the SAHMRI building:

Name	Position	Joined
Prof Julio Licinio	Theme Leader	2013 April
Prof Ma-Li Wong	Head, Pharmacogenomics Research Program	2013 April
Carole Johnson	Executive Assistant	2013 April
Leonie Baker	Research Manager	2013 October
Dr Martin Lewis	Research Fellow	2014 January
Rhys Fogarty	Research Assistant	2014 April
Dr Chenglong Yu	Research Fellow- Bioinformatics	2014 March
Dr Sha Liu	PhD Student	2014 January
Antonio Inserra	PhD Student	2014 January
Stephen Bacchi	Medical student	2013 November

#### Staff appointed to the theme and based at other institutions:

Name	Position	Joined
A/Prof Rainer Haberberger - Flinders University	Senior Research Fellow	2014 March
Prof Jan-Ake Gustafsson - University Houston	Honorary Fellow	2014 March
Prof Malcolm Battersby - Flinders University	Principal Research Fellow	2014 March
Prof Justine Smith - Flinders University	Principal Research Fellow	2014 March
Dr. Claudio Mastronardi - ANU	Research Fellow	2014 March
Prof. Bernhard Baune - University of Adelaide	Principal Research Fellow	2014 March

#### **Honours and Awards**

- Professor Julio Licinio was an invited guest of the French government in celebration of 50 years of the INSERM, (France's national institute of health and medical research), with keynote lecture given by President François Hollande, Paris, France
- Dr Sha Liu PhD Student: received the Statewide Super Scholarship 2014
- Professor Julio Licinio received the Australasian Society for Psychiatric Research (ASPR) Roche Oration award December 2013
- Professor Julio Licinio Appointed Visiting Professor of Psychiatry at University of Minho, Braga, Portugal competitively funded by the government of Portugal 2013
- Professor Julio Licinio Appointed Visiting Professor of Psychiatry Université de Paris Descartes, competitively funded by the government of France 2013
- Professor Julio Licinio Member, National Health and Medical Research Council CEO Roundtable on Priorities in Genomics -2014
- Stephen Bacchi University of Adelaide Medical Student: received the RANZCP student research scholarship 2013
- Professor Ma-Li Wong Appointed Visiting Professor of Psychiatry at University of Minho, Braga, Portugal, competitively funded by the government of Portugal 2013
- Professor Ma-Li Wong- Appointed Member of Evaluation Subcommittee (ESC), Medical Services Advisory Committee, Department of Health and Ageing, Australian Government 2013

#### Grants

Grant applications in progress:

- Diabetes Australia General Grant CIA Julio Licinio: Depression and obesity: shared biology and its impact on the outcomes of online treatments. Submission in May 2014
- Flinders University Establishment Grants CIA Julio Licinio: Depression and obesity: shared biology and its impact on the outcomes of online treatments. Submission in April 2014
- Flinders University Establishment Grants CIA Mali Wong: Novel treatment approach to obesity. Submission in April 2014.

#### 2014 NHMRC Project Grants submitted:

- NHMRC Project Grant APP1078695. Title: A randomised trial of the Flinders Program to prevent cardiovascular disease and manage chronic conditions in people with severe mental illness.
  - CIC Professor Julio Licinio
- NHMRC Project Grant APP1082049. Title: A novel treatment approach to obesity
  - CIA Professor Julio Licinio
  - CIB Professor Ma-Li Wong
- NHMRC Project Grant APP1083621
  - Title: Depression and obesity: shared biology and its impact on the outcomes of online treatments.
  - CIA Professor Julio Licinio
  - CIB Professor Ma-Li Wong
- NHMRC Project Grant APP1086683
  - Title: Tackling heterogeneity in the etiology of major depressive disorder
- CID Professor Julio Licinio

#### 2014 NHMRC Partnership Grants submitted:

• NHMRC Partnership Project APP1077192

Title: Improving outcomes for people with comorbid mental and physical health conditions in rural Australia CIB Professor Julio Licinio

#### 2014 NHMRC Fellowships submitted:

• Senior Research Fellowship APP1078441

Title: Accelerating personalised treatment approaches in major depression

CIA Professor Julio Licinio

#### Other Grants:

• Movember Australian Mental Health Initiative Grant. Title: Depression and obesity in men: a prospective, web-based, gene-environment cohort study and resource.

CIA Professor Julio Licinio

CID Professor Ma-Li Wong

#### 2013: Received Grants:

• NHMRC Project Grant GNT1051931

Title: Genetic variants and environmental factors in depression

CIA Professor Mali Wong

Al Professor Julio Licinio

Duration: 1/01/13-17/07/16

• NHMRC Project Grants GNT1070935

Title: Stress, antidepressants and diet

CIA Professor Mali Wong

CIB Professor Julio Licinio

Duration: 1/01/14-31/12/16

#### **Publications:**

April 2013 - April 2014:

Note: Lead researchers for theme joined SAHMRI in April 2013. Additional research staff joined in January 2014.

- Spock CL, Tom LK, Canadas K, Sue GR, Sawh-Martinez R, Maier CL, Pober JS, Galan A, Schultz B, Waner M, Narayan D, Licinio J, Wong ML. Infantile Hemangiomas Exhibit Neural Crest and Pericyte Markers. Ann Plast Surg. 2014 Mar 28
- Ellis KM, O Carroll DC, Lewis MD, Rychkov GY, Koblar SA. Neurogenic potential of dental pulp stem cells isolated from murine incisors. Stem Cell Res Ther. 2014 Feb 27;5(1):30. [Epub ahead of print]
- Thomas PQ, Dottori M, Leong WK, Koblar SA, Lewis MD. A reduction in Npas4 expression results in delayed neural differentiation of mouse embryonic stem cells TS Klaric, 2014 Stem Cell Research & Therapy (In press)
- Licinio J, Wong ML. Launching the 'war on mental illness'. Mol Psychiatry. 2014 Jan;19(1):1-5.
- Graessler J, Bornstein TD, Goel D, Bhalla VP, Lohmann T, Wolf T, Koch M, Qin Y, Licinio J, Wong ML, Chavakis T, Xu A,
   Shevchenko A, Schuhmann K, Schwarz PE, Schulte KM, Patel A, Bornstein SR. Lipidomic profiling before and after Roux-en-Y gastric bypass in obese patients with diabetes. Pharmacogenomics J. 2013 Dec 24 PMID: 24365785
- Sosa-Macías M, Lazalde-Ramos BP, Galaviz-Hernández C, Rangel-Villalobos H, Salazar-Flores J, Martínez-Sevilla VM, Martínez-Fierro ML, Dorado P, Wong ML, Licinio J, LLerena A. Influence of admixture components on CYP2C9\*2 allele frequency in eight indigenous populations from Northwest Mexico. Pharmacogenomics J. 2013 Dec;13(6):567-72. PMID: 23358499
- Graessler J, Qin Y, Zhong H, Zhang J, Licinio J, Wong ML, Xu A, Chavakis T, Bornstein AB, Ehrhart-Bornstein M, Lamounier-Zepter V, Lohmann T, Wolf T, Bornstein SR. Metagenomic sequencing of the human gut microbiome before and after bariatric surgery in obese patients with type 2 diabetes: correlation with inflammatory and metabolic parameters. Pharmacogenomics J. 2013 Dec;13(6):514-22. PMID: 23032991
- Graessler J, Qin Y, Zhong H, Zhang J, Licinio J, Wong ML, Xu A, Chavakis T, Bornstein AB, Ehrhart-Bornstein M, Lamounier-Zepter V, Lohmann T, Wolf T, Bornstein SR. Metagenomic sequencing of the human gut microbiome before and after bariatric surgery in obese patients with type 2 diabetes: correlation with inflammatory and metabolic parameters Pharmacogenomics J. 2013 Dec;13(6):514-22. PMID: 23032991
- Hoang D, Broer N, Roman SA, Yao X, Abitbol N, Li F, Sosa JA, Sue GR, Dewan AT, Wong ML, Licinio J, Simpson C, Li AY, Pizzoferrato N, Narayan D. Leptin Signaling and Hyperparathyroidism: Clinical and Genetic Associations. J Am Coll Surg. 2013 Nov 27. PMID: 24468228
- Licinio J, Wong ML. Research infrastructure: US shutdown should spur other nations. Nature. 2013 Nov 14;503 (7475):198.
   PMID: 24226877
- Licinio J, Wong ML. A novel conceptual framework for psychiatry: vertically and horizontally integrated approaches to redundancy and pleiotropism that co-exist with a classification of symptom clusters based on DSM-5. Mol Psychiatry. 2013 Aug;18(8):846-8. PMID: 23896674
- Paz-Filho G, Mastronardi CA, Parker BJ, Khan A, Inserra A, Matthaei KI, Ehrhart-Bornstein M, Bornstein S, Wong ML, Licinio J. Molecular pathways involved in the improvement of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. J Mol Endocrinol. 2013 Jun 29;51(1):167-79. PMID: 23718963

#### **Community Engagement**

#### **New Initiatives 2014**

Inaugural meeting of the SAHMRI Mind and Brain Advisory Board
 Board Members: Bernhard Baune, Malcolm Battersby, Paul Worley, Steve Wesselingh, Jenny Tonks, Sharon Lawn,
 Shudong Wang, Justin Beilby, Ian Hickie, Rainer Haberberger, Maria Makrides, and David Meldrum
 March 2014
 SAHMRI

#### Workshops/Symposiums 2014

- Pain Adelaide "What can we learn from Translational Psychiatry?"
   31 March 2014
   Prof Julio Licinio: Speaker
- Australasian Neuroscience Society: Pharmacogenomics of depression: Translating genomic science into personalized therapeutics
   January 2014

Prof Julio Licinio: Speaker

Australian Neuroscience Society: Does the neuronal transcription factor NPAS4 Play a role in clinical depression?
 30 January 2014

Dr Martin Lewis: Speaker

NPAS4 is up-regulated in the corticolimbic system of the rodent brain following foacl cerebral ischaemia Presentation co- authored by: Dr Martin Lewis (Additional authors: Leong, W., Lewis, M. and Koblar, and presenter Thomas Klaric

• ANS Satellite Symposium: Brain, Body & Mind: Treating the parts or managing the whole? 1 Feb 2014

Prof Julio Licnio: Opening Lecture

 Adelaide University Medical School Seminar: Pharmacogenomic approaches to stress and obesity 7 Feb 2014

Prof Julio Licinio: Speaker

• Wellbeing Session: Towards a State of Wellbeing

14 Feb 2014

Prof Julio Licnio: Opening Lecture

#### Workshops/Symposiums 2013

 SAHMRI Mind & Brain Mini Symposium 25 November
 Science Exchange, Adelaide
 Professor Julio Licinio: Host and Speaker

1st SAHMRI Mind & Brain Workshop for SA Stakeholders
 3 September 2013
 SAHMRI, Adelaide
 Professor Julio Licinio: Chair

2nd SAHMRI Mind & Brain Workshop for SA Stakeholders
 3 November 2013
 SAHMRI, Adelaide

Professor Julio Licinio: Chair



#### Invited Lectures 2013: Professor Julio Licinio

- Presidential Lecture at the European Congress of Psychiatry Nice, France, 2013
- Eliahu Youdim Memorial Lecture at National Institute for Psychobiology Jerusalem, Israel, 2013
- Kester Brown (opening) Lecture at the Australian Society of Anaesthesiology Annual Meeting Canberra, 2013
- Opening Plenary Lecture at the Bio21 Cluster and Museum Victoria Conference Mind Readers - Biological Markers for Mental Health, 2013
- Second National Symposium on Translational Psychiatry and launch of the Mind & Brain Theme: "The paradox of psychiatry in 2013." Aug 8, 2013

SAHMRI, Adelaide

Professor Julio Licinio: Keynote lecture

- Plenary Lecture at the Taishan Academic Forum on Mental Disorders Yantai, China 2013
- Opening Plenary Lecture at the Bio21 Cluster and Museum Victoria Conference
- Mind Readers Biological Markers for Mental Health, 201Bio21 Cluster and Museum Victoria Conference: Mind Readers, Biological Markers for Mental Health: "Translational Psychiatry: Tempora mutantor, nos et mutamur in illis." Nov 11, 2013

Melbourne, Australia

Professor Julio Licinio: Keynote lecture.

#### Invited Lectures 2013: Professor Ma-Li Wong

- Lecture at the Discipline of Clinical Pharmacology, School of Medical Sciences, University of Adelaide, 2013
- Lecture at the Taishan Academic Forum on Mental Disorders Yantai, China 2013
- Lecture at the Dept of Psychiatry Continuing Development meeting, Flinders University, 2013.

#### International Chairing - 2013: Professor Julio Licinio

• American Psychiatric Association 2013 Meeting: "Beneficial effects of novel antagonists of GHRH in different models of Alzheimer's disease"

May 19, 2013 San Francisco, California, USA Professor Julio Licinio: Chair

 American Psychiatric Association 2013 Meeting: "ERB and LXRB in CNS" May 19, 2013
 San Francisco, California, USA Professor Julio Licinio: Chair.



# Nutrition and Metabolism

SAHMRI is now conducting a world-wide search for a Nutrition and Metabolism Theme Leader. This theme is based on a significant South Australian strength.

SAHMRI will have a dedicated nutrition module in the new facility and will work in collaboration with the CSIRO Nutrition Division/ Preventative Health Flagship, the University of Adelaide, Flinders University and will also have a strong link to Waite agriculture and plant research.

SAHMRI is also building a 'nutrition clinic of the future' in collaboration with CSIRO in one of SAHMRI's ground floor pods.

#### Research

#### EMBL Australia

The European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) is a flagship organisation for basic research in molecular biology throughout Europe and is recognised for excellence in this field. Australia has a formal affiliation with EMBL, building on Australia's scientific strengths in cell biology, clinical research, stem cells and regenerative medicine, chemical biology and genetic epidemiology.

In partnership with the state's three major universities, a South Australian node of EMBL Australia has been established at SAHMRI that will focus on medical bioinformatics. A comprehensive interview program took place in April, which resulted in two candidates being appointed:

- Dr David Lynn, Group Leader in Computational and Systems Biology, at the Animal and Bioscience Department, Teagasc, Ireland.
- Dr Ville-Petteri Mäkinen, a postdoctoral scholar, at the Department of Integrative Biology and Physiology, University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, USA.
- Dr Lynn and Dr Mäkinen commenced with SAHMRI in early 2014.

#### **Health Ethics** Research Panel

The SAHMRI Health Ethics Research Panel, chaired by Professor Annette Braunack-Mayer (Head, School of Population Health. Adelaide University). has been established to:

- Foster ethics research;
- Explore possibilities for collaborations; and
- Facilitate ethical discussions that could have significant impact on research activities and outcomes at SAHMRI.

The Panel facilitated its first workshop on the topic of obesity in December 2013. It will assist in researchers collaborating on future research projects in this area.

The Panel will continue to meet regularly in 2014 and progress areas of joint interest to expand the health ethics research being undertaken in South Australia.

#### **Funding Successes**

The SAHMRI Research Office has assisted with the submission of grant funding applications to the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), the Australian Research Council (ARC), the Viertel Charitable Foundation, and the Australian Cancer Research Foundation (ACRF).

SAHMRI was awarded \$2.8 million for three Project Grants from the NHMRC and a SAHMRI staff scientist was a CI on a \$500,000 Discovery Project award from the ARC.

SAHMRI was successfully awarded \$1.8 to develop the ACRF Innovative Cancer Imaging and Therapeutics Facility.

The Health Services Charitable Gift Board has donated \$1.5 million in infrastructure funding to be used to support bioimaging and philanthropic funding has provided another \$500,000 for this endeavour.

Professor Brown, SAHMRI's Aboriginal Health Theme Leader, was awarded the prestigious Viertel Charitable Foundation Senior Medical Research Fellowship valued at \$1.2 million.

Collectively, SAHMRI researchers were senior or co-authors on 66 journal articles published in 2013.

#### Research

## Academic Health Science System

An Academic Health Science System (AHSS) is a partnership between one or more universities and healthcare providers. The vision is to align the strategic orientation and produce excellence in the three sectors of research, clinical services, and education and training, to produce excellence.

SA Health and SAHMRI have been working in partnership to establish an AHSS in South Australia, involving the state's universities, Local Health Networks and Medicare Locals to better integrate education, research and clinical service delivery for the benefit of South Australians. A Letter of Intent has been signed by the interested parties and work is progressing to establish South Australia's AHSS.

## Animal Ethics Committee

SAHMRI established its Animal Ethics Committee in 2013.

The primary responsibility of the AEC is to ensure that the care and use of animals is conducted to the highest possible welfare standards and is in compliance with the Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals in Scientific Research, 8th edition and the South Australian Animal Welfare Act 1985.

The AEC will apply a set of principles which govern the ethical conduct of people whose work involves the use of animals for scientific purposes.

The role of the AEC is to ensure that the use of animals is justified; provide for the welfare of those animals and incorporate the principles of Replacement, Reduction and Refinement.

The Committee held its first meeting in December 2013, and will meet on a six-weekly basis in 2014.

The AEC will have primary responsibility for reviewing applications for research occurring at PIRL Gilles Plains and within the North Torrace Facility

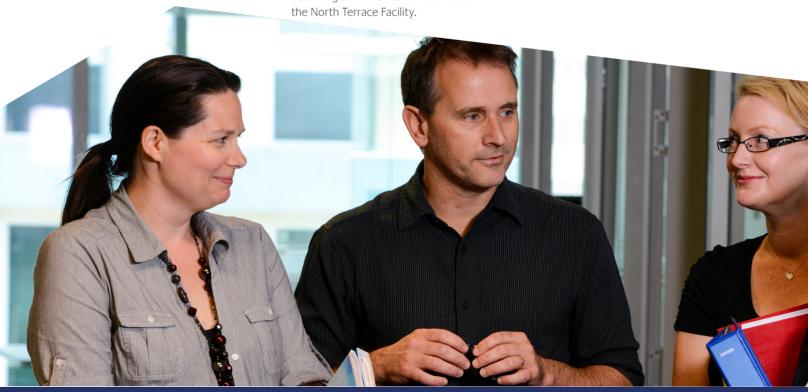
## SAHMRI Biosafety Committee

SAHMRI's Biosafety Committee primary objective is the protection of personnel, the general public, and the environment.

To meet this goal, the Biosafety Committee imposes requirements for safe laboratory and biological safety practices; reviews and approves policies, procedures, training, programs and facilities pursuant to the safe use of biological agents, other biological materials, and toxins.

Our Biosafety Committee is also responsible for reviewing and approving research and teaching activities conducted by researchers, staff, students, and/or visiting scientists on SAHMRI property, and/or under the control of SAHMRI, that involve the use of biohazardous materials including regulated animal and plant pathogens, biological toxins, and recombinant DNA molecules.

The Biosafety Committee met once in October 2013, and will continue to meet every two months throughout 2014.



# Consumer and Community Engagement in SAHMRI

SAHMRI's vision is to transform research into health for all South Australians. Consumer and community engagement is a fundamental part of achieving that vision. The blend of biomedical, clinical, health services and population research provides the South Australian community with the full spectrum of research outcomes to use in the treatment of people with medical conditions, for improving the quality of health care and for maintaining the health of the community. As a new research organisation, SAHMRI recognised the opportunity and significance of starting its journey in South Australia in partnership with the community, with those people who are the end users of the research outputs its researchers are likely to produce.

In early 2013, SAHMRI entered into a partnership with the Health Consumers Alliance of South Australia to develop an evidence-based framework for integrating consumer and community engagement into all areas of research within the Institute. The result of assessing the available international literature and models, and consulting throughout the Institute and with community organisations, has produced a comprehensive framework and strong principles to underpin and guide SAHMRI's consumer and community engagement approach.

The framework will be implemented in 2014. Training and support for all research units will be provided. Consumers and interested community members will be invited to contribute

across the range of research endeavours of SAHMRI. The options include being a research trial participant, contributing to planning and priority-setting, being a member of an advisory group, reviewing information, and assisting with interpreting results from a consumer perspective. The goal is to create partnerships between researchers and consumers and the community to ensure research remains relevant and SAHMRI is accountable to its broader constituency. There is also a commitment to monitor the implementation of the framework across SAHMRI, with a view to building the evidence base about the impacts and effects of consumer and community engagement in health and medical research.



### **Work Health and Safety**



Over the past year, there have been significant developments and exciting milestones achieved with regards to the development and implementation of SAHMRI's Work Health and Safety (WHS) Management System and compliance with the WHS legislative changes introduced in January 2013.

Through SAHMRI's commitment to providing a safe and healthy workplace for our employees and all other persons whose health or safety could be at risk through our work, we have:

- Established measurable safety performance objectives and targets that are reviewed to continuously improve WHS performance
- Applied a risk management approach to identifying and assessing hazards and implemented appropriate hazard control measures
- Established WHS plans, policies, procedures and programs necessary to support our WHS Management System and legislative compliance
- Implemented training programs for our team leaders and employees on all health and safety matters relevant to their work
- Implemented effective consultation on health and safety matters
- Delivered effective injury management strategies to ensure timely, safe and sustainable return to work
- Supported the implementation of numerous health and wellbeing initiatives
- Employed dedicated WHS resources to enable full implementation of our WHS Management System and provided role clarity and accountability for team leaders and employees to enact their roles and responsibilities with regards to health and safety.

# Founding Ambassador Program



Mr Jeffrey Grosset from the Grosset Gaia Fund (the Fund) generously donated \$25,000 to the Healthy Mothers, Babies and Children theme led by Professor Maria Makrides.



Mr Frank Agostino generously donated \$25,000 to the Mind and Brain theme, led by Professor Julio Licinio.

SAHMRI launched the Institute's Founding Ambassador Program on Tuesday, 23 October 2012 at a reception at Government House. The purpose of the Ambassador Program is to raise both the profile of and financial support for SAHMRI. SAHMRI is seeking to recruit 40 Founding Ambassadors by the end of 2014.

In order to become one of SAHMRI's Founding Ambassadors, donors must give a generous amount of \$25,000, which can be paid to the Institute over a period of one to five years.

#### The Role of Founding Ambassadors

A SAHMRI Founding Ambassador is a member of the community who has the profile, capacity and capability to support SAHMRI and to increase awareness for the cause.

Ambassadors are interested in enhancing the health and wellbeing of the community through a variety of activities, mainly by informing other people about the importance of SAHMRI.

#### The role of a Founding Ambassador is as follows:

- Making a monetary donation to SAHMRI
- Building and strengthening both community awareness of and support for the Institute
- Showing enthusiasm, commitment, confidence and ability to identify with the organisation and a passion for the work conducted by SAHMRI
- Spreading SAHMRI's message by speaking to friends, colleagues and family members
- Encouraging people to learn more about SAHMRI by visiting SAHMRI's website, signing up for the e-Newsletter and following the organisation via social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
- Encouraging people to donate to SAHMRI as a matched gift of what the Ambassador donated
- Acting as role models to young people and offering them the chance to find out as much as possible about jobs and professions at SAHMRI.

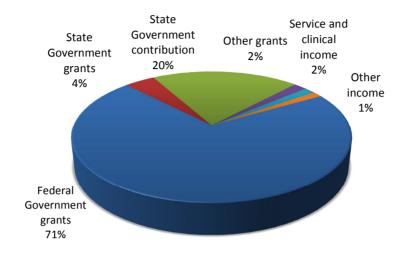
#### SAHMRI would like to thank the following Founding Ambassadors for 2012-2013:

- Mr Alan Young AM
- Mr Jeffrey Grosset Grosset Gaia Fund
- Professor John and Barbara Hopwood
- Mr Alister Haigh
- CMV Foundation
- Detmold Group
- Hon Tom Gray
- Mr Frank Agostino

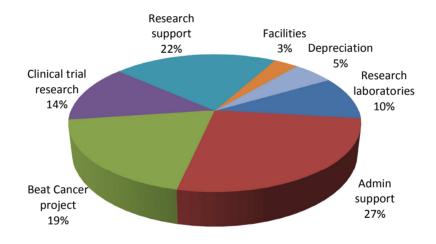
- Nick and Nikki Heywood-Smith
- Bellberry
- Ricoh
- StatewideSuper

# Financial Performance - Financial Year 2013

#### Income



#### **Expenditure**



#### The Year in Brief

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Income and Expenditure		
Income for research	10,943,284	4,169,492
Income for administration	4,686,361	4,288,322
Capital grants	184,959,197	0
Contributed leases	13,904,408	0
Other income	2,782,180	461,614
Total income	217,275,430	8,919,428
Total expenditure	18,411,532	9,030,198
Operating surplus/ (deficit)	198,863,898	(110,770)
Balance Sheet		
Current assets	37,175,638	64,217,950
Non-current assets	194,979,923	387,334
Total assets	232,155,561	64,605,284
Total liabilities	29,167,054	61,183,925
Net assets	202,988,507	3,421,359





SAHMRI
Transforming research into health

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