



RAH
RESEARCH
FUND



Royal Adelaide Hospital Research Fund

Annual Report 2014-15

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In 2014/15 \$6,999,664 supported vital medical research, equipment, staff and patient amenities, volunteer services and specialty programs at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and research partners – The Hanson Institute, SA Pathology and the Centre for Cancer Biology



\$4,745,595 of grants supported researchers at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and research partners

\$536,553 spent on providing new research and hospital equipment



Message from Dr Peter Satterthwaite

Executive Director Medical Services,
Central Adelaide Local Health Network

The 2014/15 year has been a year of growth for the RAH Research Fund. I'm constantly amazed by the work of the many researchers involved with the Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH), funded by its generous donor support base. The funds raised by these donors go towards priority research areas to ensure we contribute as best we can to a progressive and healthy South Australian community.

The countdown is well underway for a significant milestone for the RAH Research Fund with the impending move to the new Royal Adelaide Hospital site. We will be prominent and visible in the Reception area to help raise vital funds for world leading medical research undertaken at this incredible new facility, ensuring Adelaide expands its research capabilities and remains a national and international healthcare leader.

On behalf of the Central Adelaide Local Health Network, we are proud that during the 2014/15 financial year, the RAH Research Fund supported researchers at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and its research partners via \$4,745,595 of grant funding in a variety of areas such as chronic myeloid leukaemia, type 2 diabetes and chronic pain and disability. In addition, \$536,553 was spent on purchasing new equipment to provide the researchers with the most advanced technology to conduct their research and deliver patient-based outcomes.

Current researchers from the RAH and our affiliates have made some exciting breakthroughs and we are working hard to ensure this local innovation in medical research continues to be world class.

I can't thank the donors of the RAH Research Fund enough, not only for their donations to vital research being undertaken at the RAH, but for supporting the RAH Research Fund each year by being its most valuable advocates. In the 2014/15 financial year an extraordinary \$9,791,599 was generated in fundraising income including donations and bequests, more than doubling the 2013/14 year. This pool of funds will make a significant contribution to the future wellbeing of South Australians through funding medical research, hospital equipment, staff and patient amenities.

Increasing these funds is crucial to support new research projects and continuing successful local research into lifesaving treatments. Ultimately it is about making sure that when you or one of your family need treatments, particularly at hospitals in Adelaide, they are getting the most advanced technology, science and patient care available!

Once again, thank you for all your support this year and we look forward to an exciting launch into the new RAH with you in 2016!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Satterthwaite', written in a cursive style.

Peter Satterthwaite

The RAH Research Fund

The Royal Adelaide Hospital Research Fund believes everyone deserves access to the best possible treatment and patient care. We strive to make this possible by raising funds for medical equipment, lifesaving medical and clinical research and enhanced patient services.

Almost everyone has been touched by the impact of illness or injury either personal or for loved ones – whether it is heart disease, stroke, diabetes, cancer, dementia or other medical complications.

With the support of our donors and corporate sponsors, we can make a positive impact by funding research into the diseases that affect the people in our local community.

The RAH Research Fund works with its supporters, corporate partners and the community at large to raise funds for vital medical research. Most of the funds raised are through the generosity of everyday South Australians who support the RAH Research Fund with donations by participating in fundraising events or by leaving a gift to the Research Fund in their Will.

The RAH Research Fund invests your donations in medical research, which enables our doctors, nurses and researchers to find faster diagnoses, better treatments and ultimately, cures for illnesses. The RAH Research Fund also funds state-of-the-art hospital equipment that enables researchers to make their discoveries and be at the cutting edge of global medical research.

Vision and Values

The Central Adelaide Local Health Network (CALHN), of which the RAH Research Fund is a member, strives to be recognised for its high quality healthcare services and excellence in research and education.

CALHN cares for people in the local area and supports all South Australians through its services which include the Royal Adelaide Hospital and the RAH Research Fund.

Your support enables the RAH Research Fund to advance outstanding medical research that is translated into practical treatments and potential cures for all members of our community. Your support enhances the high quality care provided by doctors, nurses and allied health workers at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

Together, with donations from you, our medical researchers working alongside our doctors and nurses can make major breakthroughs with real outcomes for now and the future.

Mission

To deliver outstanding compassionate care, education and research, to be loved locally and renowned globally.

The RAH Research Fund supports this mission by sourcing donations to fund research to find cures and save lives, and contribute to the excellence of care offered by the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

The Royal Adelaide Hospital

Established in 1840, the Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH) is a 550 bed hospital and teaching arm of the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia.

The RAH treats adult emergency and elective patients in a wide range of specialist areas and offers major trauma service and an intrastate, interstate and overseas retrieval service.

In the 2014/15 financial year the RAH discharged 80,538 patients of which 42,980 were same day admissions. 72,070 patients visited the RAH emergency department and 352,362 visited speciality outpatient clinics.

The RAH has a strong record of medical research and also participates in a significant number of basic research programs in collaboration with SA Pathology, the Hanson Institute, the Centre for Cancer Biology and the University of Adelaide.

Projects include research into:

- Molecular biology
- Cancer
- Bone and joints
- Allergies
- Infectious diseases
- Heart disease



The new RAH is scheduled to open in 2016, providing world class healthcare facilities for South Australians. It will harness the latest in architectural design to create a healing environment for patients and their families, provide an efficient and positive working environment for staff and minimise its environmental footprint. The RAH Research Fund is excited about the move to the new Hospital to enable its researchers to have access to the most advanced facilities.

A Thank You

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our very generous community of donors who continue to support medical research through the RAH Research Fund.

In the 2014/15 financial year our donations continued to grow, raising \$9,791,599, more than doubling that of 2013/14. This is an amazing achievement and would not be possible without the ongoing support of our donor base, community fundraisers and volunteers.

Without your contributions and passion, we would not be able to help the RAH and its researchers in their mission to find cures.

A special thanks goes to the following major contributors for the 2014/15 financial year:

Robert Kenrick
Rob & Joan Thompson
Stephen M Ingman
Vu Hoan
Lorraine Kernick
Beth R Smith
Paul Baishont
Theo Visser
A & E Wegener
John Hails
Raymond J Taylor
Henry Blythe
Tina S Dillon
John Jenkins
Joan Lea

Nicolaas Scholten
Jennifer Sims
Peter Thomson
John Hookham
Kathleen Holliday
Heinz Buske
Peter & Marj Gibbins
V W Lindner
Jon Hogan-Doran
RJ & MA Spencer
Ian & Pamela Wall
Alvin Platten
Arthur J Browne
I Augstkalns
Jitendrakumar Patel



Amount Raised in 2014/15

While State and Federal Government funding provides essential health services and some research funding, it cannot pay for everything. The RAH Research Fund's role is to help fill this gap – to provide extra funding that will help current and future patients receive the finest healthcare possible.

The RAH Research Fund's results for the 2014/15 financial year are:

- Received from donations (including memorial gifts and bequests) – \$9,791,599
- These funds were donated by 6,116 generous individuals and 231 supportive organisations.

Bequests

37 generous individuals made the decision to leave a bequest to the RAH Research Fund in their Will this year.

They were in the estates of:

Rex A Doepke	Maisie Emily Addis
Alan Victor Hutton	Marjorie Berryl Lines
Alex Christoford	Muriel Hilda Pearce
Allin Charles Hodson	Prescott Sinclair
Archibald S K Whitman	Roy George Pinfold
Audrey May Hickey	Terence Cornthwaite Wollaston
Betty Joy Guy	Thomas James Ashton
Christine Lee	Vassilios Sarafis
Dulcie Ruth Uthmeyer	Veda Esme Sporn
Elizabeth Snowie Dunn	Victor McCombie Elliott
Gaetono Castiglione	William John Manley
Glen Williams	Robert Clive Halloran
Herbert Schlank	Marion S Manley
James Ivan Shackelford	Dorothy Pickstone
Joan Marie Williams	Jeffrey W Raymond
Kevin Rynehart	Evelyn Douglas Robinson
Leonard Jack Balchin	Jean Munro Sharman
Leslie Thompson	Veronica Williams

Donations from these bequests totalled \$6,302,554.

We thank our bequestors and their families for their thoughtfulness and generosity.

Memorial gifts were gratefully received by the RAH Research Fund this year in memory of the following people:

Emma Ambrusco	Margaret Collins	Cathryn Mary Gifford
Milan Ardalich	Alexander (Alex) Copeland	John Ambrose Gleeson
Reta Isabel Assender	Carmelo Corbo	Beverley Goldring
Raimonda Augello	Rosa Crea	Graeme Storr Goldsmith
Colin Bailey	Donald (Don) Crick	Joyce Doreen Grant
Gerri Lou Bailey	Salvatore Cutri	Robin Maxwell Gratton
Philip Roger Baldwin	Antonio D'Antonio	Jeffrey George Halsey
Geoffrey Bamford	Trevor John Datson	Barbara Harris
Grammatiki (Kita) Baslis	Giuseppe De Gregorio	Gerard (Gerry) Haughey
Peter Wyndham Baum	Nicola JP De Ionno	Betty Eileen Henderson
George Bell	Frederik Johan de Zeeuw	Richard Dale (Dick) Henderson
Valerie Bickley	Robert (Bob) Quentin Deeble	Benjamin James Hourigan
Livia Bigolin	Josh Deegan	Lloyd & Dianne Hourigan
Carmen Bisi	Margaret Denton	Michael Hourigan
Beryl Joy (Joy) Boase	Jacqueline Dickmann	Carol Housden
Ian Arthur Borgas	Dimitrios (Jim) Dimas	Christopher Hubbard
Allan William Boulton	Marguerite (Peg) Dixon	Glennis Hughes
Joanna Boundris	Terence D'Lima	Cosimo Iasiello
Giovanni (John) Brini	Brian Kevin Dobie	Judith Margaret Ingram
Hector Buckland Brooks	Vivienne Matthew Dodd	James Joseph Jancu
Geoffrey Brown	Dawn Dollman	Neil William Johnson
Janette Claire Bryan	Dominic Donato	Margaret Johnson (nee Laing)
Graeme Gerard Burchell	Doreen Edwards	Maria Kalyvas
Morris Cant	Jane Evans	Diamando Katis
Mary Caroline Carter	Maria Fantarella	Panagiotis Katsikas
Basil Roy (Roy) Carter	Claire Ferdinany	Robin (Bob) Kennedy
Despina Cassiotis	Betty Filmer	Jane Kent
Mario Catalano	David Fitzsimmons	Richard John Kimber
Joan Isabella Chinner	Kenneth Thomas Fowler	Brian Knowles
Geoffrey Ronald Cibich	Audrey Evelyn Frahn	Christina Kokkinakis
Donald (Don) John Clark	Hayden Lee Francis	Carol Kopania
Bruce Fraser Clough	Anne-Marie Garreffa	Xenophon Lambrou
Ian Douglas Collett	Nicoulla Georgiou	Adam Lane
Brian Collins	Paraskevas Giagtzis	

Lorna Langlois	Michael Noel O'Connor	Terry Seymour
Maria Antonia Leonardis	Daniel (Paddy) O'Rourke	Betty Evelyn Sharp
Desmond Lilley	Frank Palkovics	Madalena Silvestri
Marion Lomman	Giuseppe Pannunzio	Assunta Simeone
Vera Lowe	Ioakin Papadimitroulis	Neil Simms
Yvonne Maria Lucas	Giuseppe Pascale	Colin David Slee
Valma Joy Macauley	Howard James (Jim) Paterson	Barbara Ann Soutl
Evelien Machin	Gail Peckson	Zivana Stefanovic
Joan Macnamara	Jillian Vi Penberthy	Gerald Burdon Storer
Gwen Maddigan	Pipán (first name unknown)	Florence Jean Shepherd
Des Madigan	Anastasia Ploubidis	Tanner
Michael (Guko) Malavazos	Bianca Polverino	Salvatore Tenaglia
William (Bill) Herbert Manfield	Giovanni Porsiello	Christopher P Treadwell
Dennis Manning	Evdokia Pouras	Panagiotis (Peter) Tsiorvas
Horrie & Brian Martin	Dimitrios Pourdis	Neil Ronald Turner
Newton Matthews	Irmgard 'Gardy' Prass	Donna Underhill
Antonietta (Iris) Mazzaro	Julie Preen	Pellegrina Varricchio
Joyce Merchant	Luba Pugatschew	John Visvikis
Lettie Millard	Evelyn (Eve) Violet Phillips	Helen Mary Walker
Carol Monaghan	Vivien To Anh Quach	Christine Wells
Shirley Monk	Peter Francis Quinn	Constance Joan White
William (Bill) Morris	Alido Rech	Peter Geoffrey White
Enid Dawn Morris	Incoronata Ricciardelli	Anthony (Tony) John White
Joyce Morton	Francesco Rugnetta	Melville Frank Williams
Douglas Keith Moulds	Jamie John Rule	Williams (first name unknown)
Judith Mount	Eda Renaate Salu	Heather Wilson
Vonnie Murphy	Giuseppe Sboro	Elizabeth Dawn Wilson
Aida Najar	Mervyn (Merv) James	Nigel William (Charlie) Winter
Sharyn Neindorf	Schapel	Ian Murray Wood
Giuseppe Niutta	Jeanette Alison Schilg	Angelo Zappiello
Norman (first name unknown)	Damien Andrew Sellar	Antionietta Zappiello
David Oakeshott	Julie Marie Semple	

We extend a warm thank you to those who donated in memory of a loved one. These donations raised \$128,919.60 for the RAH Research Fund.

Commemorative donations of \$3,213 were received from the following families and their friends:

- R Dickens
- Athena Efthimiou
- Fred Engelsma
- Cheryl Fleming
- Nicolle Hancock
- Malcolm & Kim Jennings
- G Lehmann
- Mark Nelson
- Jill Parkes
- Joanna Shepherd

The RAH Research Fund would also like to acknowledge contributions made by its life members. Thank you:

- Robert Gerard AO
- Fay Gerard
- Maureen Goodwin
- Gordon Pickard AM

The RAH Research Fund Newsagency

The RAH Research Fund Newsagency donates profits back to the hospital via the RAH Research Fund. In the 2014/15 financial year, the donation totalled \$63,158.

Over the past 24 years the Newsagency has donated over \$1.4 million to the RAH Research Fund.

While the RAH Newsagency provides traditional services such as papers, magazines, gifts and stationary, it also offers a range of other services such as SA Lotteries, Adelaide Metro recharging, some Australia Post Services, Dry Cleaning, Movie Tickets, Gift Cards and TV Vouchers for public hospital patients.





In 2014/15 your support funded:

Total Research Grants	\$4,745,595.09
Research Equipment	\$536,553.11
Other Equipment	\$415,323.70
Special Programs	\$605,895.61
Volunteers	\$190,814.80
Patient & Staff Amenities	\$154,164.44
Contribution to Library	\$219,060.00
Heritage Office Support	\$132,256.97
	\$6,999,663.72

RAH Research Fund fundraising results for the last seven financial years:

	2014/2015	2013/2014	2012/2013	2011/2012	2010/2011	2009/2010	2008/2009
Total Fundraising Income (GST Inc)	\$9,791,598	\$4,509,344	\$3,294,806	\$4,375,387	\$4,184,675	\$9,707,160	\$4,049,868
Income from donations	\$3,287,405	\$2,696,456	\$2,413,683	\$2,784,740	\$3,230,026	\$2,704,623	\$2,778,874
Income from bequests	\$6,302,553	\$1,494,948	\$524,467	\$1,173,600	\$818,481	\$6,813,436	\$1,085,142
Income from sponsorship	\$42,460	\$30,410	\$37,160	\$93,400	\$32,960	\$44,154	\$18,400
Income from merchandise & other sources *	\$159,179	\$247,530	\$205,095	\$323,647	\$103,207	\$84,947	\$167,452
Total Fundraising expenditure	\$723,712	\$765,782	\$720,276	\$764,754	\$841,924	\$726,501	\$895,188
Percentage exp against income	7%	17%	22%	17%	20%	7%	22%

*Newsagency, Trading Table, Entertainment Books, Rental, Multiscreen

A photograph of two young women with long hair, wearing sunglasses and white t-shirts, laughing joyfully outdoors. The woman on the left has her arm around the woman on the right. The background is a bright, slightly blurred outdoor setting.

How your donations have been spent

Health Services Charitable Gifts Board

The Health Services Charitable Gifts Board (HSCGB) was formed on July 1st, 2011, with the commencement of the Health Services Charitable Gifts Act, 2011, (HSCGB Act).

The Health Services Charitable Gifts Board replaced the former Commissioners of Charitable Funds.

In South Australia the Health Services Charitable Gifts Act 2011 provides for the administration of gifts to public health entities and repeals the Public Charities Funds Act 1935.

All donations made to the RAH Research Fund are vested with the HSCBG (in accordance with the HSCGB Act 2011) on behalf of the RAH, the Hanson Centre for Cancer Research.

When donations are made to the RAH Research Fund, we issue a tax deductible receipt to the donor (if the donation is \$2 or above). If it is made clear that the donation is intended to be used for a particular area of research, or if there is a particular purpose tied to the donation, then this is recorded and adhered to.

There is a rigorous process in place that must be followed in order for researchers to gain access to the funds held by the HSCGB. Researchers apply to access funds and must provide full details of how the funds are to be used. There are also strict criteria that must be met before any funds are released for research.

Research Grants

In the 2014/15 year, the RAH Research Fund funded research grants totalling \$4,745,595. By supporting research via funding, clinicians and researchers are able to develop their research to the point where they can apply for larger national grants to enable the delivery of better patient outcomes. A criteria of this funding is that all research must be undertaken within the RAH campus, which includes the Hanson Institute, SA Pathology and the Centre for Cancer Biology.

Grants awarded to researchers in 2014/15 include:

\$50,000 to Wendy Parker for her project titled: *Investigating the clinical significance of BCR-ABL1 compound mutants in tyrosine kinase inhibitor resistant patients with chronic myeloid leukaemia.*

\$50,000 to Devendra Hiwase for his project titled: *Comprehensive mutational screening to differentiate between hypoplastic MDS and aplastic anaemia.*

\$31,030 to Emma Karran for her project titled: *Can a novel psycho-education intervention reduce chronic pain and disability? A randomised controlled trial of early targeted management of patients attending spinal outpatient clinics. Phase 2: Development & Testing.*

\$116,000 to Theresa Hickey for her project titled: *Selective activation of the androgen receptor as a novel therapeutic strategy for breast cancer.*

\$84,000 to Tongzhi Wu for his project titled: *The gut-incretin axis in the regulation of postprandial glycaemia in type 2 diabetes.*

\$84,000 to Dave Yip for his project titled: *Blockage of Bc family of cytokines signalling in regulation of mast cells activation.*

\$5,000 to Lucia Gagliardi for her project titled: *ARMC5 mutation are common in familial bilateral macronodular adrenal hyperplasia.*

\$5,000 to Alexander Lewis for his project titled: *Sphingosine Kinase as a therapeutic target in Acute Myeloid Leukaemia.*

\$5,000 to Ryan Quarrington for his project titled: *Improving neck injury criteria and tolerance characteristics through a better understanding of traumatic facet dislocation in the cervical spine.*

\$35,000 to Manodhi Saranapala for her project titled: *Obesity, Stress and Depression.*

\$2,000 to Melissa Bennett for her project titled: *The mechanisms controlling oncogenic signalling by sphingosine kinase I.*

\$2,000 to Anna Zheng for her project titled: *The Immune phenotype in normal pregnancy and Pre-eclampsia.*

Your donations also support clinical trials, which contribute to advances in medical research. With approval from an ethics committee, clinical trials are used by researchers to investigate and evaluate new treatments or techniques to combat diseases. New treatments and drugs cannot be used until they undergo a strict testing regime via clinical trials.

Special Program Funding

In addition to research grants, the RAH Research Fund also supports specialist programs at the Royal Adelaide Hospital to enhance patient services and improve the overall health of the community.

In the 2014/15 financial year, the following specialists programs were supported:

- Clinical Cancer Registry, \$50,000
- Preventing Alcohol Related Trauma in Youth (P.A.R.T.Y), \$48,215
- SAHMRI Cardio Specialist Salary, \$250,000
- Clinical Practice Improvement Nursing Initiatives, \$21,867
- Nimmo Professor/Visitor, \$11,287
- Spiritual Care Program – RAH & Hampstead, \$12,500
- Radiopharmaceutical Lab, \$212,028

Equipment Funding

Your donated funds have been able to support the purchase of the following equipment in the 2014/15 financial year:

Research Equipment:

Research Group	Equipment	Cost	Field
Immunology and Haematology	Analyser	\$32,000	Cancer
Gastroenterology	Microtome	\$25,503	Cancer
Haematology	JA25.50 rotor	\$6,600	Cancer
Genetics and Molecular Pathology	Cytospin	\$17,995	Cancer
Immunology	Evos XL Imaging Station	\$19,152	Cancer
Genetics/Molecular Pathology/ Immunology	Evos FL Imaging Station	\$29,192	Cancer
Lung Research	Transbot Turbo System	\$3,500	Cancer
ETL and Haematology	Elispot reader	\$13,985	Cancer
Immunology	Vortex Mixer and accessories	\$6,074	Cancer
Haematology	GelDocIT TS2 System	\$15,400	Cancer
Haematology	Thermal cycler	\$8,995	Cancer
Haematology	CKX41 microscope	\$6,263	Cancer
Genetics and Molecular Pathology	Stereo Microscope	\$4,177	Cancer
Immunology	LN2 Dewars (two items on back order)	\$1,306	Cancer
Gastroenterology	DAKO PT Link	\$9,500	Cancer
Ophthalmology RAH	UV cabinet and PCR machine	\$26,259	Cancer
Genetics and Molecular Pathology	Benchtop centrifuge	\$3,900	Cancer
SA Pathology Research	Alternate sheath tanks for cell sorters	\$5,114	Cancer
SA Pathology Research	5 rotors	\$67,300	Cancer
SA Pathology Research	Bundle Centrifuge	\$17,500	Cancer
SA Pathology Research	Immunospot S6 fluorecore analyser	\$56,102	Cancer
SA Pathology Research	Wide Mouth Dewar	\$1,959	Cancer
SA Pathology Research	VWR Flake Icemaker x 2	\$7,800	Cancer
SA Pathology Research	Underbench Bar Freezer	\$895	Cancer
SA Pathology Research	Real Time PCR	\$30,000	Cancer
SA Pathology Research	Ultracentrifuge	\$57,600	Cancer
SA Pathology Research	Inverted Microscope System	\$19,791	Cancer
SA Pathology Research	Spectrophotometer	\$11,082	Cancer
SA Pathology Research	Bio-Rad C1000 Thermo Cycler	\$8,750	Cancer
SA Pathology Research	FastPrep	\$8,500	Cancer
SA Pathology Research	Rack Storage	\$2,160	Cancer
SA Pathology Research	BAS IP	\$8,749	Cancer
SA Pathology Research	Hybaid Maxi oven	\$3,450	Cancer

Other Equipment:

Area of Clinical Practice	Equipment	Cost	Field
Gastroenterology	Manoscan Manometric Recording System	\$40,000	Research
Hepatology	Fibroscan XL Probe	\$32,000	Clinical
Prostate Cancer Research	Refrigerator, Nanozoomer upgrade, Biorad Chemidoc	\$18,249	Research
Intensive Care	Criticool Equipment	\$19,200	Clinical
Cardiovascular Svcs	Acuson SC2000 Mainframe	\$209,400	Clinical
Ward P4BU	Electric Cloud Chair, Ceiling Hoist, Therakair Mattress, Vsign Monitor, Minstral Lifter, Pulse Oximeter,	\$66,735	Clinical
RAH Physio Centenary Fdn	Motomed Letto, powerbreathe device	\$14,819	Clinical
ENT Research Fund	Simulation and Training Device	\$10,000	Clinical
Medical Post Grad	Computer	\$4,921	Clinical

Events

The RAH Research Fund hosts a number of events during the year and offers support to others who host their own events and donate their profits to medical research undertaken at the RAH.

Special events are an important way to raise money as well as a fantastic way to meet our community of donors.

Faith Hope Charity Ball

After being diagnosed with breast cancer in 2004, Mary Tarzia decided to help others diagnosed with breast cancer.

The Faith Hope Charity Ball formed in 2004 when Mary organised a small gathering of family and friends in her own backyard. Since then, the event has grown into a major annual celebration that raises vital funds for breast cancer research.

The 2014 Ball raised over \$100,000 with \$95,000 going to the RAH Research Fund in the 2014/15 year to aid breast cancer initiatives at the RAH and fundraising partner, the Hanson Institute.

We extend a very warm thank you to Mary for her passion and efforts. We look forward to working with her again in the future.

RAH Research Fund Golf Day

The 2014 RAH Research Fund Golf Day raised over \$30,000 for the RAH Research Fund with \$21,000 of this going towards vital medical research in the 2014/15 financial year. The annual event, which enables participants from a wide range of organisations to join in and raise money for a cause was held on the 17th of October.

Movie Events

The RAH Research Fund hosted two movie events in the 2014/15 year to raise money for general research at the RAH. Special screenings of Jersey Boys and Woman in Gold were held in July 2014 and May 2015, raising \$14,343 with \$5,000 of this going towards general research in the 2014/15 year.





Community Fundraising

Community fundraising is a vital source of income for the RAH Research Fund and a rewarding way for members of the public to show their support.

A special thanks goes to the many individuals, groups and corporations who generously raised funds for the RAH Research fund in 2014/15 by holding community fundraising events. Collectively a total of \$200,022 was raised for the RAH Research Fund in the last financial year. We are so thankful for all the support and commitment to providing the best possible treatment and care for the South Australian community now and in the future.

Sadly, in March 2015, we lost one of our passionate supporters, **Gerri Lou Bailey**. In the 2014/15 financial year, Gerri and her husband Andrew once again raised funds for Professor Martin Oehler's research at the RAH. This work is looking at new ways to detect ovarian cancer in the early stages to ultimately improve patient survival. In 2014/15, **Gerri and Andrew** raised over \$5,000 for this research. We would like to pass our condolences on to Andrew and say thank you to him and his beloved wife Gerri. She will be greatly missed.

In December 2014, the **Vietnamese Literature and Arts Association** raised over \$13,500 for research at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. The group wanted to show their appreciation for the RAH's invaluable healthcare to the general community and believe donations are the key to supporting much needed medical research that will help fight cancer and other major diseases.

Another worthy mention is **Roger Horne's 'Cans for Cancer' recycling run**, which raised \$12,000 for the RAH Research Fund in 2014/15 as well as the generous **Millicent Cancer Support Group**, who also raised \$20,000.

In 2014/15, the **Origin Energy Social Club** was able to pool the money raised from various casual days over the years to donate an amazing \$12,877. We're so very thankful for the support of these community fundraisers and everyone else who held an event to lend their hand to raising money for lifesaving medical research at the RAH.

RAH Volunteers

The Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH) is supported by a large number of devoted volunteers who help to ensure the running of the RAH is continued with the highest level of patient care in mind. RAH Volunteers are funded by the RAH Research Fund to provide patient care and other services at the hospital.

RAH Volunteers or Lavender Lads and Ladies – Initiated in 1971, the concept of the Lavender Lads and Ladies at the time comprised of a small handful of volunteers from the local Adelaide community. Now, more than 40 years on, the volunteer service has grown significantly both in the number of volunteers and the level of services offered to patients. Consisting of 200 volunteers between the ages of 19 to 86 years old, ranging from university students to retirees, the volunteer program currently offers nine different services to patients ranging from laundry and driving to palliative care.





Lavender Lads and Ladies – 2015 Report

From Volunteers Manager, Chris Iovino

We celebrate 44 years of service this year and our services are still as current and required as much if not more so than ever. From our humble beginnings in 1971 with a handful of kind and caring people from around Adelaide to the 200 or so uniformed, trained, respectful, reliable and multi-cultural team we have today is testimony to our progress and the perceived needs that are important to those at a low point in their lives. The scope for more involvement grows each day and it is a credit to all paid staff that the volunteers are made to feel that they are a vital part of the hospital experience planned or unplanned by so many members of our community. Our assistance around the hospital is extremely well known and it seems almost weekly I receive requests for help in some way or another.

Extra assistance with Ward Q3 has been given this year. Q3 is an assessment ward where many patients are then moved to other wards or discharged from here meaning more organisational work for nurses, attendants, cleaning staff and volunteers. Some collation work is also part of the volunteer role in this area. The outpatient clinics are starting to receive some attention from the volunteers and this will expand as we move into the new RAH. Currently Orthopaedics, Eye and Oncology all have some volunteer input in the care and assistance for the patients.

The new shuttle service that began late last year has proved to be yet another way of helping the hospital and a new team of drivers were recruited to ensure this could be reliable. The shuttle, mainly for staff, operate a scheduled run between the RAH and TQEH to enable people to attend meetings at either facility. Later this year yet another shuttle will be put into action and will intersect with the current one to shorten the waiting time at both ends.

Statistics

As usual the volunteer service has been extremely busy with assisting in many ways and supporting visitors that come into the hospital. Here are our 2014/15 statistics.

New Patient Visits

- | | |
|---|-------|
| • Number of patients visited | 11919 |
| • Number of patient information packs given | 8793 |
| • % of new patients receiving packs | 74%* |

**Patients who have been previously admitted in the previous 6 months do not receive a patient information pack.*

Laundry

- Patients 1220
- Hospital items 4642

Wig Recycling and Loan Service

- Number of wigs loaned 66
- Number of turbans/sleeping caps and hats sold 233

Form Collation Service

- Emergency dept. blue folders 64394
- Blue Folder inserts 11525
- Pre anaesthetic packs 10445
- DOSA/DSU packs 11020
- A4 Packs 276
- S6 Packs 1849
- Amu Packs 7882
- General Theatre Packs 1052

Second Hand clothing for patients

- Sets of clothing and shoes provided 731

Guide Services

- People assisted 9695
- Wheelchairs loaned 174

Life Membership

Kaye Huyzer and Sue O'Brien both received Life Membership by achieving over 7,500 hours and were congratulated and awarded with a framed certificate, badge and flowers to mark the occasion at our Annual General Meeting.

As always, welcome to our many new people, sincere thanks to my leadership group and our wonderful willing and enthusiastic volunteer teams, to my support officer Karen who keeps our records up to date and our new volunteers well looked after.

Chris Iovino, Volunteers Manager

A Patient Perspective

Living Proof Medical Research Saves Lives

Matt Jackson from the RAH Research Fund was a carefree 19-year-old at the brink of beginning his adult life, when he was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukaemia.

“For a few weeks in early 2008 I thought I had just caught a bad cold,” Matt recounts.

“I knew things were probably getting a bit strange when I couldn’t make it through a shift without needing to go out the back and have a lay down on the only surface that wasn’t the floor.

“But I always had the attitude of ‘just work through it, you’ll be right’.”

Pushed by his friends who were growing sick of his complaining, Matt gave in and saw a doctor who prescribed antibiotics for a bad case of tonsillitis.

“I’d never go to the doctors, not unless I wanted a day off school and needed to fake a headache to stay home and watch Jerry Springer!” Matt said.

Running his course of antibiotics and still feeling no better, Matt returned to the doctor who took a blood test to determine what was going on.

It was later that night, when out with friends, Matt received a rare phone call from his dad and instantly knew something was wrong.

“I have a brother with Down Syndrome, who also suffers from a plethora of health issues; I immediately thought something had happened to him.

“I answered my phone and my dad said ‘you have to come home. The doctors called and they think they have found leukaemia cells in your blood test’.

“This broke me. There was one thing I knew about leukaemia and only one. I couldn’t even spell the word but I knew that you could die from it.”

Immediately Matt began three rounds of chemotherapy lasting for 28 days and all resulting in the loss of his, at the time, shoulder length hair style.

“My mum hated me having such long hair, so that took care of that, but it probably wasn’t quite the way she wanted it to happen.

“It was a tough time, having tonnes of medication every day, and having needles every four hours for observations, but I got through.”

Months later, happy to be over the three treatment hurdle, Matt sat down with his haematologist who regrettably informed his chance of relapsing was likely.

The only solution was a bone marrow transplant, and after exhausting his family with no luck of a match, Matt was fortunate to discover he was compatible with a European female listed on the worldwide registry.

A number of weeks of chemotherapy, radiotherapy and numerous check-ups followed until he received the all clear to return home.

“Things went smoothly for a while; I stayed on my medication and kept myself indoors and safe from the elements while I recovered,” Matt said.

“It wasn’t until a few months down the track when things started to go wrong.”

Matt had Graft-versus-host disease (GVHD), a complication that can occur after a bone marrow transplant where the newly transplanted cells attack the recipient’s body.

The repercussions of GVHD left Matt with lasting problems with his liver and eyes, which he says are “continuing issues now but are certainly the lesser of two evils of what my outcome could have been.”

Now 27, Matt has just recently celebrated the seven year anniversary of his transplant, and through the RAH Research Fund plays a vital role in raising money for medical research.

“It may sound strange to hear, but in a way I see what I went through as a blessing more than a curse.

“It’s helped me to spread the message about what research has done, and continues to do, and the importance of maintaining that research.

“I am living proof of what the continued success of cancer research is capable of, which is potentially, saving lives.”



Matt with his mother in hospital during his treatment.



Matt Jackson from the RAH Research Fund was a carefree 19-year-old on the brink of beginning his adult life, when he was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukaemia.



Research in Focus

Treating Dermatitis with Calendula

If you have ever had marigolds in your garden, you'll remember their unmistakable fragrance.

A proven companion plant, these bright orange flowers are known to deter beetles from melon crops, but did you know they do more than this?

A native of Mediterranean countries and known as "pot marigold," *calendula officinalis*, is a member of the aster or daisy family and flowers profusely between spring and autumn. Calendula extract, made from the flowers, is used in the complementary health and cosmetics industries. It has also been used as a traditional herbal remedy to treat minor wounds, burns, bee-stings, sunburn, warts, bruises and dermatological conditions.

A study conducted in 2004 by French researchers showed that using calendula lotion on radiation-induced dermatitis had very promising results. With this in mind the Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH) Radiation Oncology Department decided to investigate whether calendula lotion would be beneficial to women with breast cancer who receive radiation therapy.

According to Margaret McGee, a scientist at the RAH, it's only a small part of patient care, but a really important part, and one that they hope they can make improvements in.

"There is lots of traditional evidence for burns and dermatitis management, but many trials compared calendula against different control products. It's really important that we compare calendula against our standard of care here at the RAH, which is sorbolene."

Sourcing a product from a manufacturer in Mylor in the Adelaide Hills, the lotion used in the trial contains a greater proportion of calendula than the preparation used in the French study. Robyn Clothier, the Trial Coordinator says it's hoped that the lotion will be helpful in preventing radiation induced skin dermatitis. This is a sunburn-like skin reaction people often get when being treated with radiation; the severity of the reaction varies."

Dr Michael Penniment, Radiation Oncologist at the RAH says that every single patient that has radiotherapy has skin care issues.

"Many patients were bringing in creams that somebody had given them to try, the calendula cream showed up a significant number of times. We know which creams they shouldn't use due to perfumes and other ingredients that can cause irritation, but we don't know which creams might be better.

"So we set up a simple trial that compares what we've been doing with a new product that could be quite significant. The patients love being part of the trial as they feel like they are doing something, and actually helping research."

An update of this research will be provided in 2016.

A Future Anti-Cancer Therapy

The adult human body is comprised of trillions of cells that all need to function in a highly coordinated manner. If cell-to-cell communication becomes defective it can lead to diseases.

Research in Professor Stuart Pitson's Molecular Signalling Laboratory is focused on how this cell-to-cell communication regulates the growth and survival of cells, and how defects in this contributes to the development of cancer, inflammatory diseases and impaired wound healing.

One mechanism that cells use to control their growth and survival involves a protein called sphingosine kinase. Recent studies have shown that if sphingosine kinase levels are too high in the cell it can lead directly to cancer, and also increase the likelihood of cancer resistance to chemotherapeutics or radiotherapy.

If researchers can understand how cells regulate sphingosine kinase, they may be able to identify new anti-cancer therapies. With the support of donations through the RAH Research Fund and the Fay Fuller Foundation, a number of significant advances in anti-cancer research have already been made.

The Pitson laboratory currently has two main goals:

1. To discover and develop drugs that target sphingosine kinase for cancer therapy.
2. To understand how sphingosine kinase is regulated so that future drugs can control the detrimental effects of this protein in cancer.

The lab has already developed new inhibitors of sphingosine kinase that show considerable promise for use in anti-cancer therapy. One of these inhibitors, MP-A08, shows excellent results in the laboratory, and in pre-clinical trials.

These tests have shown that MP-A08 appears to have no negative side-effects that are commonly associated with cancer therapies. It can significantly retard the growth of:

- lung cancer (one of the most common cancers in humans)
- glioblastoma (a very aggressive and currently untreatable form of brain tumour)
- forms of acute myeloid leukaemia (which currently has poor treatment options).

MP-A08 looks to have considerable promise as a future anti-cancer therapy. There are still important steps that need to be taken to develop MP-A08 before any use in humans can be considered. These are:

1. Improve the potency of MP-A08
While MP-A08 has excellent anti-cancer properties, at present the doses required are quite high. Therefore, the aim is to improve the potency of MP-A08 by modifying its structure so that lower doses can be used to further reduce the chances of negative side effects.
2. Examine the efficacy of MP-A08 as a combination therapy with existing chemotherapy. Research shows that MP-A08 can reduce cancer progression as a mono-therapy, however, the most likely use would be as a combination therapy with existing chemotherapeutics. The advantage is that it builds on the anti-cancer activity of existing chemotherapeutics and also reduces the chances of the development of chemotherapeutic resistance to either single agent.

The lab has already discovered that MP-A08 sensitises cancer cells to killing by chemotherapeutics currently used clinically. This has only been proven in the laboratory, but the aim is to now move the research into advanced pre-clinical trials. If successful here, then the next step will be clinical trials in human patients.

The lab has also made other significant breakthroughs; they have found a protein that naturally inhibits the cancer-inducing activity of sphingosine kinase, which is lost in some ovarian cancers and may contribute to progression of this disease. Further research in this area may reveal which ovarian cancers are likely to respond to anti-sphingosine kinase therapies and also provide avenues for the development of new therapeutics.

Other unexpected discoveries made in the Pitson laboratory include that in addition to its role in cancer, sphingosine kinase also plays a significant role in wound healing. The lab has built on this discovery and developed a new potential therapeutic agent that improves wound healing in pre-clinical trials. They are now extending their studies into improving wound healing specifically in diabetics, since this group often suffer with chronic unresolved wounds that can become infected, commonly leading to amputation, with subsequent serious effects on both patient morbidity and mortality. Success in this area will lead to human clinical trials, a step closer to developing new treatments.



Your story

To ensure research can be humanised and connect with the wider community, the RAH Research Fund is always on the lookout for personal patient stories. If you would like to share your story with us, so that we can use it to explain how important research is to the community, please call us on 08 8222 5281 or email us on RAHresearchfund@sa.gov.au.

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The Royal Adelaide Hospital Research Fund is a member of the Central Adelaide Local Health Network. ABN 96 269 526 412



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