

August 2010

# Sir Charles Gairdner Research Foundation Newsletter

SCGRF

Sir Charles  
Gairdner  
Research  
Foundation

## Big Thank You to 6PR!

Having seen his 37 year old brother, Gerry, battling for life in our Intensive Care Unit last year, Declan Kelly, the General Manager of 6PR 6IX, wanted to give something back to the doctors, nurses and patients of Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (SCGH).

*"I think we nearly lost Gerry twice; he has young children and had plenty to live for and fortunately, because of the work of the staff in ICU, he's come through it."*

Declan recalls, "Together with my Promotions Manager Gary Rendall, I approached Tanya Basile, Nurse Co-Director of the Critical Care Division with a proposition. I asked her to talk to the doctors and the people who are there day to day saying, 'Give me a dream list and let's aim for \$100,000' and they came back asking for an ultrasound machine, which will allow them to carry out scans on patients in the Intensive Care Unit without having to move them off the ward."

Working together with the Sir Charles Gairdner Research Foundation (SCGRF), the station held an all day live

broadcast in the main hospital corridor on the 28th of May. With the support of Community Newspapers and LocalBuy.com they raised \$65,000.

*"On the 21st of May we had a function at Friends Restaurant at the Hyatt where we raised the remainder of the money to purchase the machine. The equipment is on its way and we look forward to handing it over to the hospital in the near future."*



## Your generosity helps answer medicine's big questions

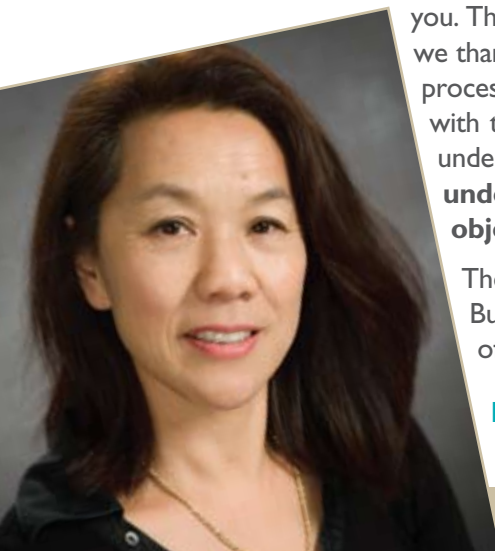
It gives me great pleasure as Chair of the Sir Charles Gairdner Research Foundation to be able to thank all of you, our generous donors, for continuing to support our doctors, nurses and other health professionals in their efforts to improve patient care and outcomes in Sir Charles Gairdner and Osborne Park Hospitals.

The money raised through your generosity has allowed our staff to undertake vital research projects that can help to make a real difference and benefit every one of the nearly half a million Western Australians who are treated in these hospitals each year.

You will have noticed that we have made some changes in the ways we communicate with you over the last few months, including the introduction of this newsletter, the enhancement of our website and the content of the letters we send you. These have been brought about after consultation with a select group of our supporters and we thank them for so generously giving us their time and sharing their thoughts. As part of this process we would really like to receive your feedback too. So we've included a questionnaire with this newsletter which I would urge you to complete and return so that we may better understand your wishes. **While we will always try to respond to requests, please understand that our resources are limited and need to be directed towards our objective of supporting research.**

These are exciting times for the hospital with major building projects going on all around us. But it is the research going on inside these facilities that will find the answers to the question of how can we better care for our patients, the research that you helped to fund.

**Dr Amanda Ling**, Chair of Sir Charles Gairdner Research Foundation Board  
Executive Director, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital





Professor Christobel Saunders,  
Professor of Surgical Oncology  
at UWA and SCGH, and lead  
researcher in the Targit Trial



## World Celebrates Breast Cancer Breakthrough

With the incidence of breast cancer on the rise, news of the success of a worldwide trial for a breakthrough treatment involving 300 patients at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital has been greeted with great excitement around the world.

The new method of treating breast cancer, targeted intra-operative radiotherapy (TARGIT®), involves 30 minutes of in-theatre radiation during surgery, eliminating the need for the conventional six weeks of radiotherapy.

65 year old Judith Jones\*, one of the participants in the trial, didn't hesitate when she was asked if she would consider being involved.

*"I was thrilled to bits," she said. "I didn't really like the idea of having to go into the hospital every day to have the radiation. I would have had to go in every day from Monday to Friday for six weeks. It's been absolutely fantastic having the Targit trial. I only went into hospital once. I had it done and then I went home. I went back to work the following week. I had absolutely no problems, no soreness or bruising, whatsoever.*

*I would recommend it to anybody who had the same category [of cancer] as me."*

The results of the international study, involving more than 2,000 patients aged over 45, were presented at the American Society of Clinical Oncology's 46th Annual Meeting in Chicago on the 6th of June. The Targit trial is a shining example of what can be achieved through international cooperation in medical research. The big challenge facing us at SCGRF is providing funding for vital state of the art equipment and facilities to enable researchers in a wide range of projects being undertaken at SCGH to achieve their goals.

\*Judith's name has been changed to protect her privacy.

## How would you like to be remembered?

Not all of us have the qualities to become brilliant doctors, scientists or extraordinary nurses. But you do have the power to make a difference by making a bequest in your Will to support the dedicated doctors, nurses and researchers working at Sir Charles Gairdner and Osborne Park Hospitals.

We are very grateful to those donors who remembered Sir Charles Gairdner Research Foundation in their Wills during the past year.

You can designate any amount or percentage of your estate you wish. Please remember, it's very important that you specifically nominate the Sir Charles Gairdner Research Foundation. Your bequest will enable us to fund much needed equipment and important research projects that might not be covered through normal government funding grants.

For more information about bequests and other planned gifts, please phone the Sir Charles Gairdner Research Foundation on (08) 9346 2042.

By specifically nominating **'Sir Charles Gairdner Research Foundation'**, which is a registered charity, you can be sure that your bequest will be used to further research. If you simply write Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, your money becomes part of the Hospital's (i.e. Department of Health WA) general income and we have no control over its use.

**'Tree of Life'**, in the foyer of G Block, symbolises the growth of medical research at SCGH. The leaves are engraved with the names of those companies and individuals who have made donations of over \$5,000 to the Foundation.

