

MARCH 2014

Sir Charles Gairdner Research Foundation Newsletter



The new Comprehensive Cancer Centre

Welcome to 2014!

I know that the new year is well and truly underway, but why not take just a few minutes to reflect on what I hope was an excellent, restful and rewarding festive season for all of you.

Here at the Foundation, we have been furiously working on presenting to you, our recipients of this year's Sir Charles Gairdner and Osborne Park Health Care Group Research Advisory Committee Grants.

I am pleased to announce that the Foundation has contributed a quarter of a million dollars to this year's research projects at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and this is where I pass the credit on to you.

We're not finished yet though, in the coming months we will be announcing the recipients of the Foundation's inaugural and world-leading Major Programs Grant.

The Major Programs Grant is a cutting-edge funding pathway to get researchers, clinicians, practitioners, allied health workers, nurses and the like to think big. Really big.

To my knowledge, this kind of 'big-picture-thinking' Major Program – which was designed to ask applicants to think laterally, work collaboratively and creatively – hasn't been available or attempted in Western Australia before. We are excited. Very Excited.

Needless to say, your support and generous donations are needed more now than they ever have before.

So, here's to another excellent year ahead and I wish all of you health, wellness and prosperity.

Bianca Wheeler
Executive Director



Approved Funding for Research in 2014

The Foundation is proud to announce the 2014 Grant Recipients, who will share in the quarter of a million dollars donated by yourselves.

This funding will support research projects at Sir Charles Gairdner and Osborne Park Hospitals that have been approved by the Research Advisory Committee.

Project Title	Reseracher	Department
RAC Annual Grant - \$250,000		
Gut microbiome and metabalome and liver injury in non-alcoholic fatty liver disease	Leon Adams	Liver Transplant Unit
Analysis of regulatory T cell function in advanced cancer patients following a combination therapy of low-dose cyclophosphamide and standard care chemotherapy	Anna Nowak	Medical Oncology
Optimizing the use of Indwelling Pleural Catheter in Management of Malignant Pleural Effusions	Gary Lee	Dept of Respiratory Medicine
Imaging and modulating hypoxia in a murine model of malignant mesothelioma	Roslyn Frances	Nuclear Medicine
Profiling co-chaperone interactions and heat shock protein 90 inhibitory activity of a Sansalvamide A analogue in breast and prostate cancer cells.	Thomas Ratajczak	Endocrinology & Diabetes
Near-Miss Grants - 2 x \$75,000		
Mechanisms of fixed airway narrowing in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	Alan James	
An investigation into the cardioprotective effects of vitamin D in chronic kidney disease patients	Wai Lim	

NEWS FLASH!

The Foundation will soon be undergoing a facelift.
We will have a new name - *Charlies Foundation for Research*
- and a new corporate look.

Watch out for these changes that will be rolled out over the coming months.

SCGH excels at encouraging organ donation during 2013

2013 saw the highest ever number of organ donors in a year at SCGH – a fact worth commemorating, especially as DonateLife Week approaches.

SCGH is supporting DonateLife Week – Sunday 23 February to Sunday 2 March – Australia’s national awareness week to promote organ and tissue donation.

During this week, Australians are urged to discover the facts about organ and tissue donation and to register their donation decision on the Australian Organ Donor Register. Most importantly, it’s a time to ‘have the chat’ with loved ones to make sure your donation decision is known.

SCGH CNC Organ and Tissue Donation Mary Lynch said that in the same way we discuss what we want to have happen in the event of our death, we also need to talk about whether we would like to become an organ and tissue donor.

“It’s a conversation we can have today, that helps prepare our loved ones should they be offered the opportunity to proceed with organ and tissue donation,” she said.

“With one organ and tissue donor able to transform the lives of 10 or more people, it’s a conversation that could one day save lives.”

In Australia, the family will always be asked to confirm the donation decision of the deceased before donation for transplantation can proceed. Families that have discussed and know each other’s donation decisions are much more likely to support organ and tissue donation proceeding.

“Even if you have previously made a decision about organ and tissue donation, DonateLife Week is

a great opportunity to remind your family about your donation decision, and to ask and know their decision,” Mary said.

To encourage family discussion, SCGH will be marking DonateLife Week with a display on Watling Walk on Monday 24 February as well as other events in the Emergency Department, Intensive Care Unit and Operating Theatre throughout the week.

DonateLife is also providing education and training to SCGH staff on supporting families in conversations about the opportunity for organ and tissue donation. The training is designed to provide participants with the knowledge and skills to sensitively support grieving families to make an informed proactive decision about donation.

“With SCGH having 19 actual organ donors and 19 tissue donors in 2013, the Australian community is very grateful for the ongoing support given by SCGH,” Mary said.

Less than one per cent of all hospital deaths occur in the specific circumstances where a person can be considered for organ donation, although many more have the potential to become tissue donors. To optimise every opportunity for potential donation, have the chat that saves lives this DonateLife Week, and encourage others to do the same.

DonateLife Week is led by the Organ and Tissue Authority as part of the national DonateLife campaign. For more information visit www.donatelife.gov.au

Have you had the chat that saves lives?

I have! Now my family knows I'd like to be an organ and tissue donor.

Have the chat that saves lives. Discover, Decide, Discuss organ and tissue donation today.

donatelife.gov.au

DonateLife
Week 2014
SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY – SUNDAY 2 MARCH

Deb and Gill walk to end women's cancers

Building on a raft of charitable and awareness-raising activities carried out by the unit in 2013, two staff in SCGH's Short Stay Unit are this year taking part in the Weekend to End Women's Cancers™.

Deb Ralph and Gill Groom are clinical nurses in the Short Stay Unit, where a substantial component of their jobs is taking care of women who are undergoing surgery for breast cancer.

Together with their colleagues, they look after these women and their families as they have their lumpectomies, their mastectomies, their lymph node removals and, unfortunately for many, further surgery when the initial intervention needs to be extended.

2013 was an active year in the pursuit of improving comfort and positive outcomes for their patients – the Short Stay Unit entered and won the Medline Pink Glove Dance, earning \$10,000 for Breast Cancer Care Nurses WA, they held a great Pink Ribbon Afternoon Tea in October, and they have an ongoing relationship with their community volunteers in the Breast Drain Bag Project.

Not content with just these endeavours they decided to further the cause by entering the Weekend to End Women's Cancers. In doing so Deb and Gill hope to pay tribute to all the women they care for, and the women that they have known and worked with who are suffering with breast cancer, in the hope that one day a cure may be found.

The Weekend to End Women's Cancers event is a two-day, 60-kilometre walk through the neighbourhoods of Perth, held on Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 March.

It includes public cheer stations and food and beverage pit stops along the route, plus an overnight camp where participants enjoy pre-pitched tents, hot meals, showers, entertainment and complimentary massages. To take part, each entrant must raise at least \$2,000.

The fundraising event benefits the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research (formerly called WAIMR), located here at QEII, and enables advances

in groundbreaking cancer research such as to find the genetic clues to help prevent and treat cancers. Funds raised support ongoing projects as well as innovative new research.

To support or get involved with the Weekend to End Women's Cancers, call 1300 99 WALK (9255) or visit www.endcancer.org.au. You can register, donate or find out more on the Perth page of the website.

Gill and Deb are keen to hear from other SCGH staff who might already be involved in the walk, or who decide to take part. Contact them on Ext. 4197 (Gill) or Ext. 4321 (Deb).

