

National Foundation for Medical Research and Innovation



NFMRI

2014 NFMRI Awards

The 2014 NFMRI Awards were held on 10 December 2014 in Sydney. The Awards saw us present the inaugural Dr John Dixon Hughes Medal for Medical Research Innovation, the grant recipient of our funding partnership with the NSW Department of Primary Industries, as well as our grants with funding commencing in 2015.

We are thrilled to have held this event in collaboration with the NSW Department of Primary Industries, who recognise the importance of philanthropy, research and innovation.



Department of
Primary Industries

Events

FIA Conference 2015

18-20 February 2015,
Brisbane

Collaboration in Health and Medical Research Conference

18-19 March
2015, Melbourne

NFMRI Medical Research Innovation Summit

9-10 September
2015, Sydney



Medical Research Innovation Summit

"Putting Rubber on the Road"

September 9 -10, 2015
Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney

Dr John Dixon Hughes Medal for Medical Research Innovation

The inaugural recipient of the Dr John Dixon Hughes Medal for Medical Research Innovation, A/Prof Guillaume Lessene, was acknowledged for his outstanding contribution to biomedicine. A/Prof Lessene was presented with his medal and prize, a grant of \$50,000 at the 2014 NFMRI Awards on 10 December 2014.



L-R: A/Prof Guillaume Lessene with Dr John Dixon Hughes OAM

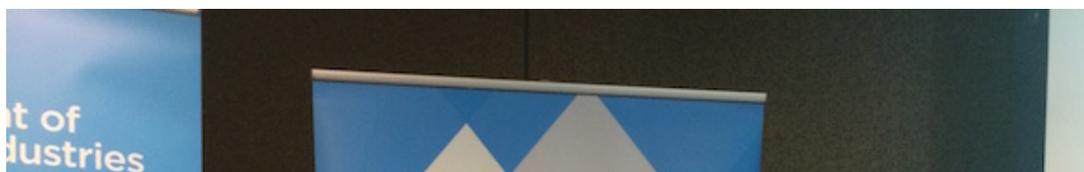
A/Prof Lessene spearheaded a program of research and development that has transformed the field of cancer therapy. In collaboration with his colleagues at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute and fellow researchers at the US-based pharmaceutical companies Genentech and Abbott Laboratories (now AbbVie), A/Prof Lessene discovered new pharmaceutical agents with exquisite specificity for a form of programmed death "cell suicide". This new class of drugs, the so-called "BH3 mimetics", can induce cancer cells to commit suicide by preventing "protein-protein" interactions, something that many thought unachievable.

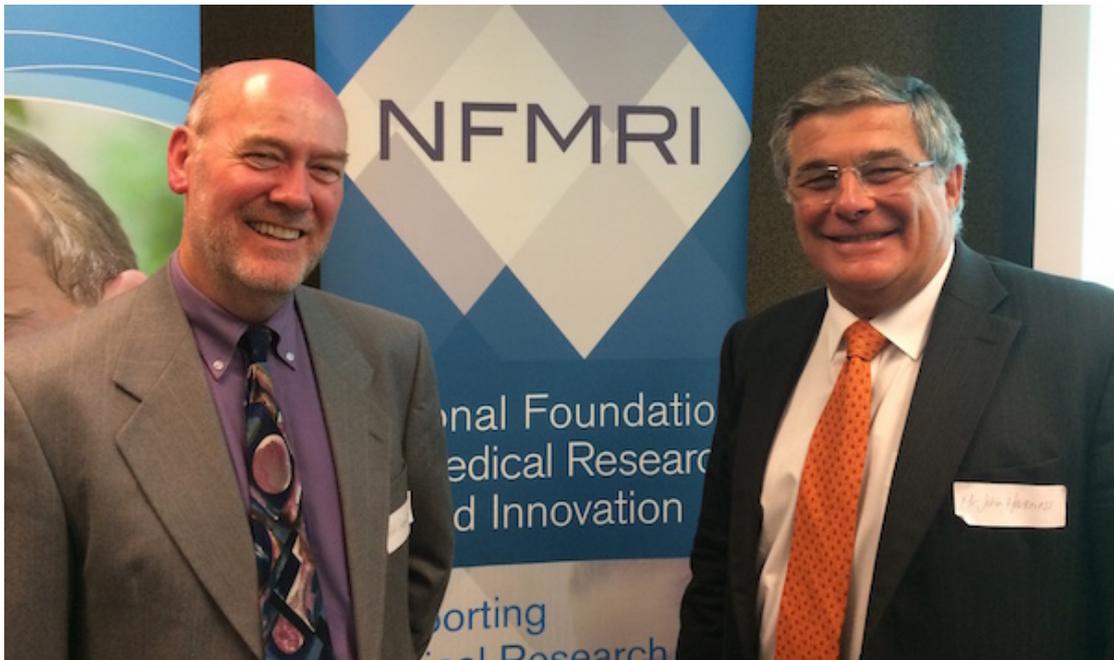
The NFMRI commends A/Prof Lessene for his ground-breaking achievements and look forward to seeing the progression of his team's innovative research.

The Board was delighted with the exceptional quality of nominations received for the award. The quality of nominations made it very difficult to choose a candidate and the Board wishes to extend its congratulations to others nominated for this award.

The next medal will be awarded in 2016.

Joint Infectious Diseases Grant Recipient





L-R: Prof Stephen Haswell with NFMRI Chairman, Mr John Harkness

Mr Bruce Christie, Executive Director of Biosecurity NSW, had the pleasure of announcing the recipient of joint partnership funding between NFMRI and the NSW Department of Primary Industries. A proposal from Prof Stephen Haswell from Deakin University to design, manufacture and commercialise a cost effective "lab-on-a-chip" device that can instantly identify the presence of infection and the causative virus from a range of existing possibilities received joint support. The device will cost less than \$20, will take less than an hour to generate results and will be linkable to a database to produce a range of control and treatment options, including vaccine specific selections, where appropriate.

2014 Grant Round – Successful Recipients

NFMRI wishes to congratulate all 2014 grant recipients with funding commencing or continuing in 2015:

Congratulations to the inaugural John Dixon Hughes Medal Winner

Associate Professor Guillaume Lessene
from the Walter + Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research.

Congratulations also to our 2015 grant recipients

<u>Prof Stephen Haswell</u>	<u>Deakin University</u>	Infectious Diseases
<u>A/Prof Guillaume Lessene</u>	<u>WEHI</u>	Cancer
<u>Prof Michael Good</u>	<u>Griffith University</u>	Rheumatic heart disease
<u>Dr Andrew Mitchell</u>	<u>University of Sydney</u>	Bacterial meningitis
<u>Dr Janet Davies</u>	<u>University of Queensland</u>	Asthma & allergies
<u>Dr Nick Shackel</u>	<u>University of Sydney</u>	Liver cancer
<u>Dr Lenka Munoz</u>	<u>University of Sydney</u>	Brain cancer
<u>A/Prof Wendy Cooper</u>	<u>Royal Prince Alfred</u>	Lung cancer
<u>Dr Tim Molloy</u>	<u>Garvan Institute</u>	Breast cancer
<u>Prof John McAvey</u>	<u>University of Sydney</u>	Eye research

Save the Date: NFMRI Medical Research Innovation Summit – 9-10 September 2015

The NFMRI's inaugural Medical Research Innovation Summit will take place at the Australian National Maritime Museum in Sydney, New South Wales on the 9th and 10th of September 2015. It will bring together local and international experts to explore general themes focused on how the right private and social investments in medical research can lead to the advancement of innovation, and how these investments may be made in areas that improve the current system and therefore increase Australia's capability and capacity to deliver results.

The inaugural Summit will focus on improving collaboration between research and industry and will look into how this can be led through private, philanthropic and government investments. It will highlight ways the sector can invest in disruptive change to deliver better health outcomes for Australians and potentially the world.

A draft program and early registrations will be made available on our website in early 2015. For more information on the Summit, registrations and sponsorship opportunities, please visit our [conference page](#).

NFMRI wishes to thank our Conference Partner, NSW Department of Primary Industries, for supporting the two-day event.



Expressions of Interest for Portfolio 3 now accepted year round

To assist with the advancement of later stage research projects crossing the "valley of death", NFMRI is now accepting expressions of interest from researchers at any time. These will be reviewed by our research advisory committee in association with funding opportunities and will assist the foundation to communicate opportunities with donors.

Given the stage of Portfolio 3 research, it is anticipated that these expressions of interest would be prepared with the assistance of the relevant industry engagement office.

Applicants will find the foundation's [introductory presentation](#) and [impact giving strategy document](#) helpful. The foundation strongly advises applicants to consider these when preparing their EOI.

[Download the Portfolio 3 EOI form](#)

2015 Grant Round

Although expressions of interest for Portfolio 3 are now accepted year round, our normal expressions of interest for our 2015 grant round (which also includes Portfolios 1 & 2) will open on Monday, 2nd February 2015 and close at 6pm on Thursday, 30 April 2015. Forms will be made available from the 2nd of February on our website: www.nfmri.org.au

Recent Blog Posts

- [NFMRI unveils 2015 grant recipients](#)
- [Research communication under the spotlight](#)
- [Universities: How important is the evolution of purpose?](#)

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- [Philanthropic giving: Exploring the balance between cause and effect](#)
 - [Medical research: Seeking the right company](#)

Events

Join us at the following upcoming sector events:

- **SAVE THE DATE: NFMRI Medical Research Innovation Summit**

National Foundation for Medical Research and Innovation, 9-10 September 2015, Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney

More information [here](#)

- **FIA Conference 2015**

Fundraising Institute of Australia, 18-20 February 2015, Brisbane QLD

Register [here](#)

- **Collaboration in Health and Medical Research Conference**

Criterion Conferences, 18-19 March 2015, Melbourne VIC

Register [here](#)

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