

National Foundation for Medical Research and Innovation



2016 NFMRI Awards

The 2016 NFMRI Awards were held on 8 December 2016 in Sydney. The Awards saw us present the Dr John Dixon Hughes Medal for Medical Research Innovation to two impressive winners, the grant recipient of our funding partnership with the NSW Department of Primary Industries, as well as our grants with funding commencing in 2017.

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

SAVE THE DATE
**[NFMRI Medical
Research Innovation
Conference](#)**

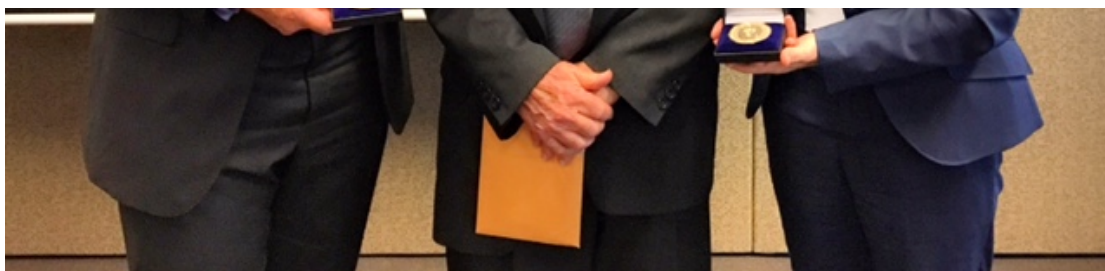
21-22 Nov 2017, Sydney

SAVE THE DATE
**[NFMRI 40th Anniversary
Celebration Dinner](#)**
22 November 2017,
Sydney

[Thinking Out Loud Blog](#)

Australia's next innovators announced





Dr John Dixon Hughes Medal for Medical Research Innovation

[SYDNEY, NSW] The National Foundation for Medical Research and Innovation (NFMRI) announced joint winners of the **Dr John Dixon Hughes Medal for Medical Research Innovation** and new 2017 grant recipients. In the presence of industry, business and research experts, successful researchers from across the country received funding to support the advancement of their innovations.

The Medal, developed in honour of Dr John Dixon Hughes OAM (NFMRI's longest standing Trustee) to showcase and celebrate the achievements of Australia's recent biomedical research innovators, entails a \$50,000 prize in the form of a research grant for each recipient and was awarded to both:

Professor Mark Kendall from The University of Queensland, and

A/Prof Michelle McIntosh from Monash University.

Dr John Dixon Hughes OAM said "that the nominations were simply of exceptionally high calibre, demonstrating the sector's progress and improvement of innovation commercialisation." He noted that the Foundation's research committee felt it was impossible to compare and decide between the final two finalists and hence made the decision to award two medals: one to Professor Mark Kendall, for his successes with the Vaxxas nanopatch vaccine delivery system; and one to A/Prof Michelle McIntosh for the development of an inhalable form of oxytocin to prevent postpartum haemorrhage in women from resource-poor settings.

Infectious Diseases Grant Winner

NSW Department of Primary Industries, Director of Science and Research, Dr Jeffrey Hammond, also announced **Prof. Eric Gowans, from the University of Adelaide**, as the recipient of a new round of funding from a partnership between DPI and NFMRI to help develop and advance a vaccine for Zika virus.

"With 2016 proving to be a year of greatly increased numbers of mosquitos, which can transmit Zika virus, the successful project is well-placed to develop a novel vaccine to prevent infection and spread of this virus in New South Wales and beyond, and provide DPI with a link to the world-class expertise in DNA vaccination that Prof Gowans's team provides" said Dr Hammond.



NFMRI Grants Commencing in 2017

A number of other highly innovative proposals likely to improve the lives of many in Australia and beyond were also announced as new recipients of NFMRI research grants at yesterday's awards event. They include:

- **Prof Des Richardson, The University of Sydney**

for a new therapy that will prevent the anaemia of chronic disease (ACD), a severe cause of morbidity and mortality in millions of patients with cancer or inflammatory diseases

- **Dr Nicholas Opie, The University of Melbourne**

for the development of a device that converts thoughts into computer commands, bringing independence to patients affected by paralysis

- **A/Prof Michelle Hill, The University of Queensland**

for the development of a screening test to facilitate early detection of oesophageal cancer

NFMRI CEO, Dr Noel Chambers, noted that innovations from both Medal recipients were rapidly advancing to improve the lives of many vulnerable people globally and that the Foundation was excited to be able to provide nearly \$1.7 million dollars in existing and new funding for research advancing medical innovations of tomorrow.



"We would like to thank the NSW Department of Primary Industries for hosting the event"

2017 NFMRI Grant Recipients

NFMRI wishes to congratulate all 2017 grant recipients with funding commencing or continuing in 2017:

Congratulations to our Dr John Dixon Hughes Medal Winners:
Prof Mark Kendall, The University of Queensland and
A/Prof Michelle McIntosh, Monash University

Congratulations also to our grantees with funding commencing or continuing in 2017

Researcher	Institute	Focus Area	Total Funding
Prof Stephen Haswell	Deakin University	Infectious diseases	\$372,000
Prof Michael Good	Griffith University	Rheumatic heart disease	\$251,000
Prof Eric Gowans	University of Adelaide	Infectious diseases	\$293,880
Prof Des Richardson	University of Sydney	Cancer	\$105,500
A/Prof Michelle Hill	University of Queensland	Cancer	\$169,204
Dr Nicholas Opie	University of Melbourne	Neurodegeneration	\$390,000
Prof Mark Kendall	University of Queensland	Immunology	\$50,000
A/Prof Michelle McIntosh	Monash University	Maternal health	\$50,000
TOTAL			\$1,681,584

2017 Grant Round Now Open

Our 2017 grant round is now open and we are seeking expressions of interest (EOIs) for funding commencing 2018. The grant round will close at 6pm AEST on Thursday, 6 April 2017. More information, including forms can be found on our website [here](#).

The general call for EOI in 2017 is only open for Portfolio 2 and Portfolio 3 applications this year. The common focus of portfolio 2 and 3 grants is enabling researchers to access research capability and capacity beyond their labs and institution to advance their biomedical discoveries and innovations.

Save the date: 2017 Conference and 40th Anniversary Celebration Dinner



Conference Sponsorship

The NSW Department of Primary Industries has kindly agreed to support the 2017 Conference as our primary conference partner. Other opportunities to support the conference remain available and more information on sponsorship packages can be found [here](#).

More information, including a draft program and speaker profiles will be made available in the new year.

NFMRI's 40th Anniversary Dinner: Save the Date

The 2017 year will see NFMRI celebrate its 40th anniversary and to commemorate the special day, it will be holding a special event at the Australian National Maritime Museum on the 22 November 2017.

This special event will celebrate 40 years of giving to medical research by NFMRI and include the awarding of new grants to Australian scientists to support their medical research and innovations.

This unique event will coincide with our annual conference and bring together leaders from industry, government, academia, venture capital, financial services and philanthropy, providing a unique opportunity to engage, learn and contribute to the activities that support innovations from concept to reality.

More information will be made available on our website in the new year.

Thinking Out Loud

[NFMRI awards: Australia's next innovators announced](#)

[NFMRI applauds MRFF's vision and strategy](#)

[Medical research and innovation conference provides insights to funders](#)
Generosity Magazine

[NFMRI 2016 Conference presentation: Dr Rob McInnes, DibbsBarker](#)

[NFMRI 2016 Conference presentation: Dr Dan Baker, Janssen Research & Development](#)

[NFMRI 2016 Conference presentation: Thinking big outside of the small box](#)

[The innovation food chain; amoeba to top predator or just one organism](#)
Philippa Lewis

[Investing in the pipeline of biomedical research](#)
AVCAL

[Six questions for funders of medical research](#)
Generosity Magazine

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