

National Foundation for Medical Research and Innovation



Over \$2 million of medical innovations funded by NFMRI and partners

The National Foundation for Medical Research and Innovation (NFMRI) announced its new grant recipients at its biennial conference, Research with Purpose 2024, held on 26-28 November 2024 at the Tangalooma Island Resort, Moreton Island, QLD. Successful researchers from across Australia received funding to support the advancement of their innovations ranging from devices to vaccines – across a number of diseases and conditions affecting the health of humans.

New projects commencing in late 2024 and early 2025 include:

- **Prof. Bryce Vissel***, St. Vincent's Hospital Sydney, \$293,328 over two years, *"A novel therapeutic target to correct synapse loss and prevent cognitive decline in Alzheimer's disease"*
- **Prof. Isabelle Lucet***, the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, \$171,106 over 2 years, *"Targeting NEK7 mediated activation of the NLRP3 inflammasome as a new therapeutic avenue for Alzheimer's disease"*
- **Prof. Michael Rogers****, Garvan Institute of Medical Research, \$188,162 over 1.5 years, *"Developing a lipid replacement to overcome a childhood autoinflammatory disease"*
- **Prof. Vito Ferro****, The University of Queensland, \$145,000 over 1.5

years, *"Pharmacological chaperone therapy in a mouse model of MPS IIIA (Sanfilippo syndrome), a childhood dementia"*

- **A/Prof. James Wells**, The University of Queensland, \$344,610 over 2 years, *"The development of Q2361 for skin cancer prevention and treatment in transplant patients"*
- **Dr. Hayley Bullen**, The Burnet Institute, \$150,000 over one year, *"Developing novel antimalarials that prevent malaria parasites invading red blood cells"*
- **Prof. Gursel Alici**, University of Wollongong, \$120,000 over one year, *"Preclinical preparation for a novel multimodal human-machine interface to enhance myoelectric control of transradial prosthetic hands"*
- **Prof. Kate Schroder***, The University of Queensland, \$250,000 over 1.5 years, *"Inflammasome proteins as novel drug targets for treating dementia"*
- **Dr. Rebecca Nisbet***, Florey Institute of Medical Research, \$152,450 over 2 years, *"Vectorised antibody therapeutic targeting intracellular tau for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease"*
- **Dr. Remy Robert*****, Monash University, \$260,861 over 1.5 years, *"Targeted killing of immunosuppressive regulatory T cells for the treatment of solid tumours "*

[Click here to read project descriptions](#)

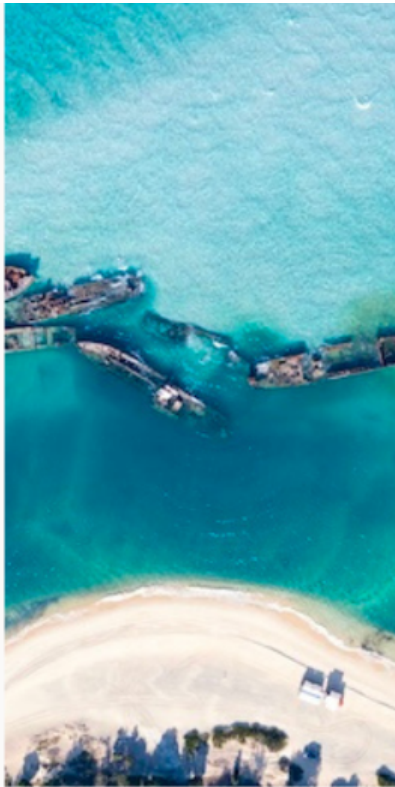
* Funded in partnership with The Mason Foundation (managed by Equity Trustees)

** Funded in partnership with an anonymous donor

*** Funded in partnership with State Trustees Australia Foundation

NFMRI thanks its funding partners for helping support important innovations throughout Australia.





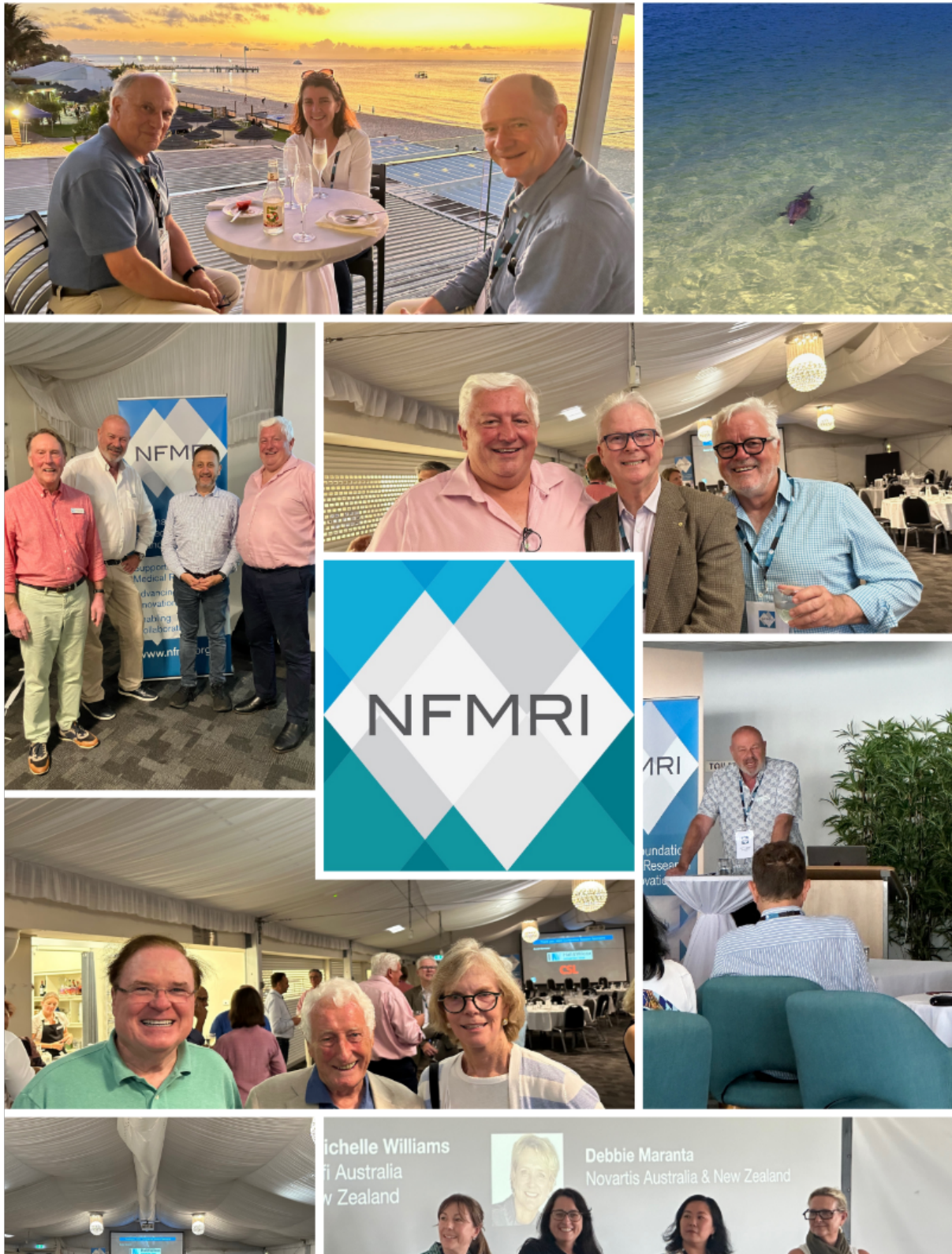
Research with Purpose 2024

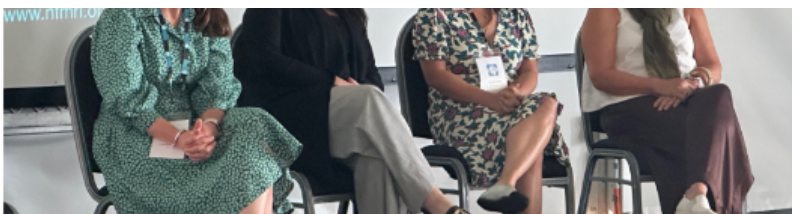
Thank you to those who joined us last week on the 26-28 November at Tangalooma Island Resort for *Research with Purpose 2024*. We hope everyone enjoyed the conference and expanded their network with strong connections over the course of the event.

We wish to acknowledge our speakers who generously donated their time to share their insights, knowledge and expertise over the course of the event.

We also thank Hall & Wilcox and CSL for sponsoring a session and helping make this event possible.

We hope you will consider joining us at our next conference, which will be held on the 23-25th November 2027 to coincide with our 50th Anniversary. Please save the date and stay tuned for more information.





NFMRI's 2025 Grant Rounds Opening Soon

Our 2025 grant rounds will be opening on the 28th of January 2025 and closing at 6pm AEDT on Friday, 28 March 2025. More information is available on our [website here](#).

Those wishing to invite our CEO, Dr. Noel Chambers, to deliver a presentation at their institution should complete the [speaker request form](#) as soon as possible as the 2025 diary is quickly filling up.

NFMRI welcomes feedback from applicants on their funding application experience via [this survey link](#).

Alzheimer's disease grant round open

As part of our partnership with The Mason Foundation (managed by Equity Trustees), NFMRI is seeking EOIs for Alzheimer's disease research projects. We strongly encourage women to apply and for the researcher leading the project day-to-day to be listed as the Chief Investigator, including mid-career researchers.

Focus: Alzheimer's disease applications that fall within portfolios 1, 2 & 3 (preference for 2 & 3), open nationally.

EOIs will be accepted until 6pm **AEDT on Friday, 28 March 2025**.

[Click here](#) for more information about our grant rounds

[Click here](#) for our online expression of interest form

[Click here](#) to view an example of our complete EOI form for reference only

Thank you to our generous partners for supporting this grant round:





**THE MASON
FOUNDATION**
Managed by Equity Trustees Limited



2023 Annual Report



2023

ANNUAL
REPORT

Our 2023 Annual Report has recently been released. [Please click here](#) to read more about our impact to date.

Partnering with NFMRI

NFMRI is always happy to consider partnership opportunities with other foundations, trusts, organisations or individuals looking to support innovative medical research in Australia and achieve greater outcomes from their funding. We are able to work within the disease and geographic parameters of our partners to collectively support new programs focussing on translation. This can better enable academic research outcomes, discoveries and innovations to move beyond academia and attract next stage partners including government, industry and venture capital. These partners have the expertise, capability and capacity to take research to the next stage, navigate the complex regulatory and approval systems and enable access to those in the community who are in need sooner.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Partnering for success

NFMRI partners with funders of medical research to create impact



Supporting Medical Research
Advancing Innovation
Enabling Collaboration



Professor Janet Davies
"NFMRI can foster a culture that enhances commercial uptake of our biomedical innovations, mentor academic inventors and facilitate connections between academia, philanthropy and commercial sectors"

A focus on creating impact

NFMRI partners with other funders, applying its strategy, systems, networks and expertise to achieve common goals.

Founded in 1977 and with DGR1 status the National Foundation for Medical Research and Innovation (NFMRI) has an established partnering program assisting other funders of medical research achieve better outcomes.

Supporting medical research that is important in the translation of discoveries leading to new innovations including; medicines, vaccines, diagnostics, devices, biologics and tools NFMRI has built specific expertise, capability and capacity that has enabled success.

Through our partnering program NFMRI is collaborating with other funders to achieve our missions.

[Contact us](#) to learn more and enquire about how we can work together.



A.Prof Bernard Flynn
"NFMRI provides critical assistance to researchers in bridging the 'valley of death' that separates basic science from viable therapies"

1

GOVERNANCE

Strong governance forms the foundation of what we do, our culture and our partnerships.

2

STRATEGY

Our strategy focuses on targeted support that addresses gaps to enable translation.

3

SYSTEMS

NFMRI has built bespoke scalable systems and capability specific to our strategy.

4

TRACK RECORD

Proven track record of success with breadth and depth across diseases and innovations

nfMRI.org.au

enquiries@nfMRI.org.au

NFMRI focuses strictly on supporting early stage biomedical innovations (drugs, vaccines, devices, diagnostics, biologicals and tools) advancements to cross the 'valley of death'. Our processes, systems capability and capacity have been purpose built to support a unique strategy and deliver impact by assisting publicly funded research organisations to attract next stage partners along the innovation pathway.

This strategy and support has already prevented a number of research projects from withering-on-the-vine. These projects have attracted next stage partners, secured investment and entered clinical trials across a number of diseases and innovations.

Based upon a framework of good governance, scalable systems and reproducible evidence of success, NFMRI established a targeted partnering program to assist other well-governed funders of research access our capability and capacity. Every dollar put towards our partnerships is distributed to innovative projects that meet the objectives of both NFMRI and the partner.

If your organisation would like to discuss a potential partnership further, please don't hesitate to contact Dr Noel Chambers by emailing enquiries@nfmri.org.au

Recent blog posts

- [Sector leaders convening in Queensland](#)
- [Research translation: the beginning starts with the end](#)
- [Research with purpose: thinking differently](#)
- [Inspirational women making a difference in medical research](#)



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