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National Foundation  
for Medical Research  
and Innovation

NFMRI

## **The Mason Foundation & NFMRI announce more than \$600,000 to support Alzheimer's disease research projects**

Thanks to generous funding provided by [The Mason Foundation \(managed by Equity Trustees\)](#), National Foundation for Medical Research and Innovation (NFMRI) is pleased to announce four new Alzheimer's disease projects with funding commencing in 2020.

New Alzheimer's disease projects being supported in 2020 include:

- 1. Prof Stuart Dashper**, The University of Melbourne, \$160,000 over two years  
*A polymicrobial aetiology for Alzheimer's disease*
- 2. Dr Lyndsey Collins-Praino and Dr Andrew Care**, University of Adelaide, \$249,990 over two years  
*"Cage vs. Age": Development of an innovative nanotechnology to half the spread of abnormal Tau protein in Alzheimer's disease*
- 3. Prof Ralph Martins AO**, Edith Cowan University, \$170,000 over two years  
*In-depth Neurofilament analysis as potential biomarkers for Alzheimer's disease*

**4. Dr Lesley Cheng**, La Trobe University, \$20,200 over one year

*Specificity testing and cross-laboratory validation of a blood test for Alzheimer's disease (additional study for existing grant)*

More information about our projects can be found on our website [here](#).

NFMRI congratulates all recipients and thanks everyone who submitted an expression of interest as part of its funding rounds. We also thank all of our partners and benefactors for generously providing research funding. The successful Alzheimer's disease projects are funded thanks to The Mason Foundation (managed by Equity Trustees).



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## COVID-19 Update

### **NFMRI's response for new and existing research grants**

NFMRI recently sent out a letter to researchers to re-assure them of our flexibility during these uncertain times. Being aware of the potential impact of COVID-19 to research around the country, we have informed grants recipients of our ability to offer time extension as required to alleviate anxiety or concern faced by the research community. Researchers are encouraged to communicate openly with NFMRI so that we can be of assistance and support them on a case-by-case basis.

### **Online reporting**

Over the coming months, NFMRI will be introducing and implementing a new cloud-based, online progressive reporting system, where researchers will have the ability to log-in remotely and update progress periodically as it occurs. We remain committed to reducing the time researchers spend on administration whilst receiving the updates and progress information we require.

This expands upon our existing top-up form and will provide greater flexibility by

This expands upon our existing top up form and will provide greater flexibility by allowing Chief Investigators to log into their personal dashboard and update progress as and when it occurs, making it easier to submit reports when due. It will also enable us to capture progress as it occurs and beyond the grant period as translation progresses and impact is realised.

## **Online presentations/webinars**

As part of our grants program, we normally deliver presentations to educate researchers around translation and to address some of the factors that will increase their chances of success when applying for grants.

Due to the current COVID-19, all presentations have been postponed and we are instead looking to offer complimentary webinar meetings. We welcome any topic suggestions you may have - please feel free to send these through via email ([events@nfmri.org.au](mailto:events@nfmri.org.au)).

As webinars are planned, they will be announced via newsletter and on our website's event section.

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## **Deadline for Dr John Dixon Hughes Medal nominations extended**

NFMRI thanks all applicants who recently submitted an EOI as part of its Cystic Fibrosis, Alzheimer's Disease and general grant rounds. These have now closed and the submissions are currently being reviewed. We also thank our partners, The Mason Foundation (managed by Equity Trustees), The NSW Community Foundation, The NSW Community Foundation - Nicholas & Phyllis Pinter Trust and Cure4CF Foundation for partnering with NFMRI to make these funding opportunities available.

We are pleased to advise that the deadline for Dr John Dixon Hughes Medal nominations has since been extended to 6pm AEST on Friday, 15 May 2020.

### **About the Medal:**

The National Foundation for Medical Research and Innovation (NFMRI) is pleased to offer the Dr John Dixon Hughes Medal for Medical Research

Innovation every two years to a researcher under the age of 45 for outstanding contribution towards the development and advancement of a biomedical innovation related to the nature, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and incidence of disease and other health problems that have a significant impact on the health of humans.

More information about the Medal and the nomination process can be found on our website [here](#).

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

**A focus on creating impact**  
NFMRI partners with other funders, applying its strategy, systems, networks and expertise to achieve common goals.

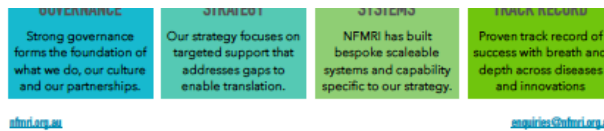
Founded in 1977 and with DGR1 status the National Foundation for Medical Research and Innovation (NFMRI) has an established partnering program assisting other funders of medical research achieve better outcomes.

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.

- 1 GOVERNANCE
- 2 STRATEGY
- 3 OUTREACH
- 4 TRUST RECORD



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](mailto:enquiries@nfmri.org.au)

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## Recent blog post

- [A for-purpose view of supporting research translation towards impact](#)



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