

National Foundation for Medical Research and Innovation



NFMRI

NFMRI announces more than \$1.8 Million to fund Australian medical research innovations

The National Foundation for Medical Research and Innovation (NFMRI) announced joint winners of the *Dr John Raftos AM Medal* and new 2020 grant recipients at its 2019 Awards Night, which coincided with its medical research & innovation conference in Torquay, Victoria. In the presence of industry, business, for-purpose and research experts, successful researchers from across the country received funding to support the advancement of their innovations.

- **A/Prof Bernard Flynn and A/Prof Lenka Munoz are the joint recipients of the Dr John Raftos AM Medal, each receiving a \$50,000 research grant**
- **NFMRI announces \$1,151,390 for new grants commencing in 2020**
- **NFMRI and Cure4 Cystic Fibrosis Foundation announce the first two recipients of the *Barbara Stow-Smith CF Innovation Grant*, together totalling \$350,000**
- **New and ongoing research support for 2020 is more than \$1.8 million.**

The Medal, developed in honour of the late Dr John Raftos AM, a leading cardiologist and hypertension researcher who served the Foundation from

1982-2007, is awarded every two years to an existing or past NFMRI grant recipient for outstanding contribution towards the development and advancement of a biomedical innovation. Both A/Prof Bernard Flynn and A/Prof Lenka Munoz were presented the Dr John Raftos AM Medal by John Harkness, a Director of the Foundation.

A/Prof Flynn was recognised for having established a spin-off company, Cincera Therapeutics Pty. Ltd, which received a \$7 million series A investment. A/Prof Flynn's drug research has potential application across diseases such as type-2 diabetes, fatty-liver disease, heart disease, chronic kidney disease and cancer.

A/Prof Munoz was recognised for her brain cancer research which has attracted more the \$5 million in competitive funding for a brain cancer drug discovery and built a substantial intellectual property and out-licencing portfolio around neuro-oncology. A/Prof Munoz hopes that they will be able to offer patients with fatal brain tumours an effective treatment.

New projects being supported in 2020 are:

- **Prof Marc Pellegrini**, Walter & Eliza Hall Institute, Cystic Fibrosis, \$175,000 *
- **A/Prof Sarah Vreugde**, University of Adelaide, Cystic Fibrosis, \$175,000 *
- **A/Prof James Chong**, The University of Sydney, cardiovascular disease, \$200,000
- **A/Prof Bernard Flynn**, Monash University, pulmonary hypertension, \$110,400
- **Dr Wei Deng**, The University of New South Wales, rectal cancer, \$101,825
- **Dr James Blackburn**, Garvan Institute of Medical Research, sarcoma cancer, \$144,865
- **A/Prof Nuri Güven**, University of Tasmania, relevant to a range of chronic disorders, \$144,300

**Barbara Stow-Smith CF Innovation Grants funded via NFMRI & Cure4 Cystic Fibrosis Foundation partnership*

NFMRI CEO Dr Noel Chambers noted that innovations from both Medal

NFMRI CEO, Dr Peter Chambers, noted that innovations from both medical recipients were rapidly advancing to improve the lives of many vulnerable people globally and that together with its partners, the Foundation was excited to be able to provide over \$1.8 million in existing and new funding to advance some of Australia's most promising innovations.

Dr Chambers thanked NFMRI's funding partners, which included the NSW Department of Primary Industries; The Mason Foundation, The NSW Community Foundation and the NSW Community Foundation – Nicholas and Phyllis Pinter Trust (managed by Equity Trustees); as well as the Cure4 Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Suzy Dimaline, Executive Manager of the largest Australian funder of cystic fibrosis research and development outside government, the Cure4 Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, said that “these two promising cystic fibrosis projects had the potential to significantly extend and improve quality of life for people living with cystic fibrosis”. Suzy noted that these grants were in recognition of Barbara Stow-Smith, the first person to make a bequest to the Cure4 Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Dr Chambers emphasised that “support from our partners enables us to advance research and innovations towards potential future treatments and options for those in need that would otherwise be left unfunded”.

NFMRI congratulates all recipients and thanks everyone who submitted an expression of interest as part of its 2019 funding rounds. We also thank all of our partners and benefactors for generously providing research funding. The successful Alzheimer's disease projects funded thanks to The Mason Foundation (managed by Equity Trustees) will be announced in March 2020.

CURE4
CYSTIC
FIBROSIS
ALL FOR THE FIGHT



THE MASON
FOUNDATION
Managed by Equity Trustees Limited

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.

Partnering for success
NFMRI partners with funders of medical research to create impact

Supporting Medical Research
Advancing Innovation
Enabling Collaboration

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
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 scaleable 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

As part of our grants program, we deliver presentations at publicly funded research organisations to educate researchers around translation and to address some of the factors that will increase their chances of success when applying for grants. The seminars are titled “***Solving the wicked problem of the gap from the research to translation***”.

These events are complimentary. At the moment there is a scheduled presentation in NSW in early 2020. More information about our current seminars are available on our website here: <https://nfmri.org.au/events/upcoming-events/>

Should your institution wish to host a seminar, you may submit a request for Dr Noel Chambers to present using this [online form](#). Please bear in mind that we require suitable numbers to justify our travels (40 or so) and the session would require a minimum of an hour in order to be able to get the message out effectively and to help address the questions in the audience.

Upcoming Events

14 Feb 2020 - Newcastle, NFMRI Seminar

If you would like to invite a speaker from NFMRI please complete the [speaker request form](#).



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Our mailing address is:

PO Box 6247, Highton VIC 3216
Level 12, 20 Martin Place, Sydney 2000

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www.nfmri.org.au | enquiries@nfmri.org.au