

National Foundation for Medical Research and Innovation



More than \$1.6 million of medical research innovations funded by NFMRI and partners

[SYDNEY-NSW] -Together with its partners, the National Foundation for Medical Research and Innovation (NFMRI) announced its new 2021 grant recipients. Successful researchers from across the country received funding to support the advancement of their innovations ranging from diagnostics, to vaccines and gene therapy – across a number of diseases or conditions affecting the health of humans.

- **NFMRI announces \$1,031,990 for new grants commencing in 2021**
- **NFMRI and Cure4 Cystic Fibrosis Foundation announce the third recipient of *the Barbara Stow-Smith CF Innovation Grant*: Dr Leszek Lisowski**
- **New and ongoing research support for 2021 is approximately \$1.6 million.**

New projects being supported in 2021 include:

- Dr Leszek Lisowski, The University of Sydney, Cystic Fibrosis, \$140,000 *
- Prof Michael Parker, St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research, Alzheimer's disease \$192,374 **
- Prof Roger Pocock, Monash University, Parkinson's disease, \$199,916
- A/Prof Bernard Flynn, Monash University, Inflammatory bowel disease, \$135,700

- Dr Branka Grubor-Bauk, The University of Adelaide, Zika virus \$220,000
- Prof Stephen Fox, The University of Melbourne, cancer, \$144,000

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

***Grant funded via NFMRI & The Mason Foundation (managed by Equity Trustees) partnership*

New funding received from The NSW Community Foundation, the Vernon Sinclair Fund and The NSW Community Foundation (all managed by Equity Trustees) is being contributed to support the cancer diagnostic research of existing grant recipient, Dr James Blackburn, at The Garvan Institute of Medical Research.

NFMRI CEO, Dr Noel Chambers, noted that the Foundation was excited to be able to provide nearly \$1.6 million in existing and new funding to advance some of Australia's most promising innovations.

Dr Chambers thanked NFMRI's funding partners, including The Mason Foundation, The NSW Community Foundation, The Vernon Sinclair Fund, and The NSW Community Foundation – Nicholas and Phyllis Pinter Trust (all managed by Equity Trustees), as well as the Cure4 Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Suzy Dimaline, Executive Manager of the largest private funder of cystic fibrosis research in Australia, the Cure4 Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, said that "Dr Lisowski's promising research project in gene therapy had potential to be a game changer 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".

[Read more about our research projects by visiting our website here.](#)



NFMRI's Networking/Celebratory Function

Join us at our celebratory/networking function on the evening of the 17th February 2021, where we will celebrate the previous year's achievements and share our new and exciting projects. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we have had to postpone our 2020 Awards Night, which was previously scheduled for 2 December 2020. We decided to wait and hold a networking event in person.

Refreshments and canapés will be provided, and social distancing measures will be in place. In order to comply with COVID-19 restrictions, we require that all guests register prior to the event, providing contact details for contact tracing purposes only. This will save time with checking-in on the day.

After the whirlwind of a year 2020 was, we hope you can make it and look forward to welcoming you all in the new year!

Limited spaces available - [register 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

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.

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"

<p>1</p> <p>GOVERNANCE</p> <p>Strong governance forms the foundation of what we do, our culture and our partnerships.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>STRATEGY</p> <p>Our strategy focuses on targeted support that addresses gaps to enable translation.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>SYSTEMS</p> <p>NFMRI has built bespoke scalable systems and capability specific to our strategy.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>TRACK RECORD</p> <p>Proven track record of success with breadth and depth across diseases and innovations</p>
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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 post

- [Systems thinking can support research translation and crossing the "valley of death"](#)
- [A for-purpose view of supporting research translation towards impact](#)



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