



Summer
Edition
2021

Lions Medical Research Foundation Line

What we do!

“The Lions Medical Research Foundation is committed to raising funds for Medical Research to improve the quality of life for the present and future generations.”



Chairman's Report



*David Eades
Chairman*

Well, another calendar year draws to a close and our thoughts turn to some well-earned relaxation, family the usual round of pre-Xmas celebrations and maybe some early planning for the new year.

As I reflect on 2021 and my six months as Chair, I can say I feel a lot more comfortable with where we are as an organisation.

We have a solid pipeline of potential fundraising ideas, a far better strategic view of the corporate direction, a more robust accountability framework and a somewhat healthier financial position.

COVID-19 has not been kind to the Foundation with disruption to our engagement with Clubs, online Board meetings, limited fundraising events and the general malaise that has affected many of us.

However, donations are up 145% on last financial year and a substantial bequest received later in the calendar year will improve this result further.



Chairman's Report continued

I am also delighted to welcome Lion Ed Olssen who was approved at the recent Foundation AGM as our Honorary Treasurer. This follows over three years of sterling service in that position by Lion Dr. Kee Cheung for which I am very grateful.

Another recent key appointment is Yeni Amin who replaces Raquel Moores in the accounts function in the office. A warm welcome to Yeni who brings business qualifications and international experience to the Foundation as she returns to the workforce after family duties.

The Board held a combined District Governors Elect and AGM in Brisbane over the weekend of 27/28 November and it was great to see all four DGEs attend. I am sure they and their partners gained an insightful look at the research being done by Professor Carlos Salomon and Dr. Olivia Holland.

Both of our senior Fellows are making solid progress on their respective work on early ovarian cancer detection and gestational diabetes.

Evidence of this is well demonstrated by some exciting news. On Friday 3rd December I had the pleasure of attending the University of Queensland Medical School to sign an agreement to jointly fund with UQ an additional researcher on Professor Carlos' team to accelerate his work.

Carlos recently obtained funding to move his research into field trials over the next four years. The benefits of early detection of ovarian cancer are literally inestimable on a global scale. This disease is the real silent killer in women as the emergence of symptoms is usually too late for successful treatment in the longer term.

As the Foundation prepares for 2022, we do so with high spirits. The review of its constitution will be with Club's in the early new year by way of consultation, our Bequest Program is showing green shoots, the planning for a Gala Dinner celebration our more than 50 past researchers is on track for March, the JV with UQ will cut in the same month, our finances will now allow us to continue with SPARQ-ed* and we build our Board and office competencies.

May I take this opportunity to thank the Board and staff of LMRF for the solid performance in 2021 and wish them and all our constituent Lions Club members a peacefully safe and happy Xmas and a brighter 2022.

*For those who are not familiar [SPARQ-ed](#) (Students Performing Advanced Research Queensland) is a joint UQ Diamantina Institute/Queensland Education /LMRF program that provides an opportunity for students from around Queensland to come to Brisbane to participate in a week-long immersion program that allows them to conduct an experimental project in conjunction with the [Translational Research Institute](#)'s world-renowned biomedical research groups.

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Stamp Out Diabetes



LIONS
MEDICAL
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION



Dr Olivia Holland and her team from Griffith
University

Breaking News



Beat Ovarian Cancer

On Friday 3rd December 2021 Chair David Eades signed a contract for Lions Medical Research Foundation to partner with University of Queensland in funding a new researcher to the team of Associate Professor Carlos Salomon. Carlos and his group are researching into Ovarian Cancer.

Carlos' team have developed a way of identifying bio markers and thus detecting the disease in its early stages. This detection is through a simple blood test. Clinical trials will begin within four years.

Ovarian Cancer, known as the 'silent killer' is a disease that is not necessarily age related. This can happen to any woman at any age and the reason it is named as such is because there is no early detection at this time. The disease in most women survivors is detected only because of testing for another complaint. In other words, by the time a woman gets any type of symptom at all, in most cases the disease has spread to vital organs and it is too late for treatment.

Recently Lion Tom Braes from the Lions Club of Mareeba lost his dear wife Karen to Ovarian Cancer. Tom and the family have dedicated the proceeds of a fundraising event they had in honour of Karen to Lions Medical Research Foundation to initiate the engagement of our new researcher.

Thank you so much Tom and family. Our thoughts are with you at this time, and it is wonderful that the Lions Medical Research Foundation can ensure Karen's legacy goes on.



LMRF Office Report



Narelle Parkins
Executive Manager

In February 2020 I was in Chicago training for my new position in Lions as a District Governor. It was at that particular time that the new Corona virus reared its head and caused havoc around the world. Who would have thought that 22 months later it would still be with us! Now known as COVID-19 and with more and more strains emerging we are not only learning to live with it, we are also learning from it. Medical researchers from around the world banded together to fight the pandemic and to make the world a better place for you and I and our generations to come. This alone shows the utmost importance of medical research and the wellbeing for future generations.

Our Foundation is not immune to suffering. Sure, we suffered along with millions of other businesses throughout the world, but to blame the pandemic for everything is unrealistic. Throughout the past twelve months our Foundation has not only sought to survive, but we have sought to achieve. Directors are not only a part of the board, they also play an important part in the running of the business by Chairing committee portfolios. These portfolios are worked on at the highest level and then passed down the line to the operations team – the office.

In October this year we were sad to see our Administration Accounts Officer leave the company. Raquel Moores was a credit to the Foundation and will be sorely missed. However, I am pleased to acknowledge that her replacement Ryeni Armin who joined us in November is now on board and fitting into the role.- Welcome aboard 'Yeni.

Several fundraising ideas are being mooted and will be advised in due course and the Foundation is currently holding its Christmas Art Union for a chance to win a \$10,000 visa debit card. Sadly, a major fundraising event due to be held in October this year was required to be postponed due to border closures and international travel, however, I am pleased to advise that this will be happening on 11th March next year. Our Foundation has funded 53 researchers in its 58 years of existence and the aim is to bring as many of those 53 researchers together for a Gala event. Assisted by Professor Ian Frazer, this event will be instrumental in raising money for the Foundation to continue its work in providing start- up funding to early career bio medical scientists.

“Research is tomorrow’s hope “



An LMRF Past Researcher

PROFESSOR GEORGE MELLICK

Name	Professor George Mellick
LMRF Fellow No.	19
LMRF Fellow dates	1991-1993
Field	Parkinson's Disease
What were you doing when you applied for your Fellowship?	I was studying for my PhD at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. I worked in the Pharmacology and Toxicology area of the School of Medicine, under the supervision of Professor Michael Roberts and Professor Susan Pond.
Where did you hear about the LMRF Fellowship?	Prof Roberts and the research team were supported by the Lion's Medical Research Foundation and our research was being conducted in the Lions Building in the old PAH. It was through these connections that I was fortunate to apply for and receive support from the Foundation towards my doctoral research.
What was your LMRF Research Grant for?	Research into neuro-degenerative diseases such as Parkinson's Disease My PhD research was in the area of pharmacology and toxicology, investigating the fate of drugs and poisons in the body and how this related to their physicochemical properties. This provided a very solid basis for my future work studying the causes of neuro-degenerative diseases such as Parkinson's Disease and in drug discovery.
Background / Working on now	I originally studied Honours Maths and Physics as an undergraduate before graduating with joint majors in Biochemistry and Chemistry. His Honours project was in the area of Natural Products Bioinorganic Chemistry at the University of Queensland. I was awarded a Lions Postgraduate Scholarship towards the completion of his PhD in the Field of Medicine (Pharmacology and Toxicology) from UQ, based at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. Following postdoctoral research at the <i>Karolinska Institute</i> , Sweden (Centre for Genomics and Bioinformatics) and the University of Queensland, I was appointed Lecturer in the School of Medicine (University of Queensland) in 2004. I then moved to Griffith University as a Next Phase Appointment and Associate Professor in 2006 and became Deputy Director of the <i>Eskitis Institute for Drug Discovery</i> (now <i>Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery</i>) in 2013. I was promoted to Professor in 2014. In February 2018, I was appointed "Head of School" to the newly established <i>Griffith School of Environment and Science</i> .

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Background cont.	<p>I am an interdisciplinary scientist who works on all aspects of neurodegenerative disease with an emphasis on Parkinson's disease. I am fortunate to have amassed an extensive research track record of grants, publications, and disciplinary engagement, while maintaining an active interest as a teacher of undergraduates and postgraduates, being a previous recipient of National Teaching Award. For many years, I have been an advocate for people affected by Parkinson's disease. Currently, I serve as the President of Parkinson's Queensland and the Chair and President of Parkinson's Australia, the peak State and National not-for-profit advocacy groups supporting the Parkinson's community.</p>
What the LMRF Fellowship meant to me at the time and how it helped my career	<p>The support of the LMRF enabled me to successfully complete my doctoral research and provided the incentive to pursue a career in medical research in Australia. The opportunity to engage with the public and with the members of the Lions Clubs who attended the research visits to the Hospital, gave me an important entry into communicating the impact of basic science and our research, in particular, to the community. It also convinced me that the best outcomes in the medical research space come through collaboration and partnership with community stakeholders and highlighted the importance of being able to explain complex science to intelligent lay people. It also opened my eyes to the huge efforts being undertaken by many people (including those in clubs like Lions) to serve the community and support good causes like that of the LMRF.</p>
Contact Details 	<p>Professor George Mellick Head of School School of Environment and Science Griffith University Nathan, Qld 4111 Research Leader and Head Clinical Neurosciences Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery</p> <p>Ph: +61 737355019 Email: g.mellick@griffith.edu.au</p>
Resource links UPDATE received 24/05/2021	<p>https://www.researchgate.net/profile/George_Mellick https://experts.griffith.edu.au/18682-george-mellick https://www.griffith.edu.au/griffith-sciences/school-environment-science/our-staff</p>

“ Research is tomorrow's hope “



Award your Special Lion

The Ray Phippard Fellow Award is named after Past District Governor Ray Phippard in recognition of his ongoing service to the Lions Medical Research Foundation for over 40 years.

An individual may be nominated to receive this award by a Lions Club, Lioness Club, Leo Club, District Cabinet, other organizations or an individual. The award may be given for outstanding service to the community of support of medical research.

Membership of Lions Clubs International is not a prerequisite. The amount of one thousand dollars (\$1000) undesignated, is required as a contribution to the foundation to qualify for the award. This may be paid as one sum or over a period of two years.

The nominated recipient honoured as a Ray Phippard Fellow, will receive an appropriately inscribed wall plaque and a lapel pin. The Award will be forwarded through the Lions Medical Research Foundation Office.

Applications can be made by downloading the form on our website www.lionsmedicalresearchfoundation.org.au or by contacting the office on (07) 3832 1688

“ Research is tomorrow’s hope “

LMRF Welcomes District Governors for 2022-2023

The Queensland and Northern New South Wales Lions Medical Research Foundation welcomes the incoming District Governors of Queensland & Northern NSW to their annual tour and presentation weekend held at Royal on the Park Hotel and Suites -Brisbane



Despite it being the second year in a row that COVID has ruined the chances of holding an organized tour, the event went off extremely well. “We can’t fight it; we just go with it and do what we can” organizers quoted.

This sponsored event is held annually to give the incoming District Governors an insight into what the Foundation is about, what it has achieved, and what it is about to achieve.

After checking into their rooms at Royal on the Park, the group were taxied to the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital at Herston where they were met by Nicole Zanyat, Advancement Manager University of Queensland. Nic spoke on the university’s long-term relationship with the Lions Medical Research Foundation, the research being carried out at UQCCR (University of Queensland Centre for Clinical Research), the Translational Research Institute and the major breakthroughs both present and emerging.

Among the guest speakers were the Foundation’s very own researchers Dr Olivia Holland and Associate Professor Carlos Salomon. Dr Holland spoke passionately on her research in gestational diabetes, the facts and the realities of women who contracted gestational diabetes during pregnancy going on to contract type 1 diabetes later-on in life and the future of the newborn. The statistics are alarming and proves that nothing should be taken lightly.

Associate Professor Carlos gave an in-depth insight into ovarian cancer, dubbed the ‘silent killer’ and his recent medical breakthrough. Carlos has recently received major government funding to continue his work in vital early detection of ovarian cancer through a simple blood test. *“This breakthrough occurred on our watch”* the LMRF directors said, *“and we are extremely proud to be a part of it”*.





Big Sister Advocate for Ovarian Cancer

During the recent District Governor's presentations at UQCCR the District Governor Elect group shared a heartfelt story about the loss of Kristen Larson and her crusade against this deadly disease. Sadly, Kristen passed away aged 21 but her sister Elsa continues to advocate in her honour.

Elsa's heart felt presentation told the story about she and her sister going on a working holiday to Europe and of the indications of what was to be Kristen's fate. Kristen was only 20 years old and the stomach aches and bloating she suffered whilst on that holiday were not even remotely considered that there could be something wrong. But there was. Kristen was diagnosed with ovarian cancer; proof that this condition has no age-related boundaries.

During Kristen's treatment and subsequent fight for life, she campaigned and lobbied major institutions and governments for funding to put more research into this disease and to raise awareness. Sadly, Kristen lost her fight for life months later at the tender age of 21. Her big sister Elsa has taken over where Kristen left off and her stories of Kristen's fight against the odds are not only gut wrenching, they are very real.

Elsa is now an activist in her own right.



picture of Kristen aged 20 and proof that ovarian cancer has no age-related boundaries.



LMRF Alumni Gala Dinner

***The Lions Medical Research Foundation
has funded 53 researchers in its 58 years of existence.***

As a special promotion and fundraising exercise LMRF, in conjunction with Professor Ian Frazer AC is working to bring together in one place as many of these past researchers as possible.

This fundraising event will be in the form of a 'black tie' event and will be held at Customs House on 11th March 2022. The cost will be \$185 per head and even though the invitation list is designed to past research fellows and the medical profession, Lions are most welcome to attend. Promotions will commence shortly, and invitations will be sent out in mid- January 2022.

Professor Frazer will be emcee on the evening and co-hosted by television personality Liz Cantor. Entertainment for the night is the 'Angel of Australia' Mirusia. (*previously toured with Andre Rieu*)

There will be a raffle plus an auction on the evening with our past Lord Mayor of Brisbane as the auctioneer and several dignitaries will be in attendance. All money raised will help the Lions Medical Research remain an integral part in funding of vital medical research.



Another Fundraising Event for LMRF

Thank you Lions Club of
Brisbane Chinese





This ticket could be yours



2021 Art Union

2021 ART UNION

First name _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

TICKET No. _____ 1 ticket for \$5.

1st Prize \$10,000 prepaid Visa card

2nd Prize \$1,000 prepaid Visa card

3rd Prize \$500 prepaid Visa card

Closing date 31 December 2021 Draw date 14 January 2022
Winners notified by phone or email

TICKET No. _____



10,000 tickets printed

Contact the office on 3832 1688 or email

info@lmrf.org.au

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Remember us in your Will!

Every dollar helps us fund medical
researchers to save lives!

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