

Winter
Edition

Winter

Lions Medical Research Foundation Line
2022



LIONS
MEDICAL
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION



Chairman's Report

Chair David Eades



It is almost the end of another Lion's year, and the curved balls keep coming. More floods, more logistics issues and a war in Ukraine that threatens to escalate! However, our Clubs keep rolling, our researchers remain hard at it and the LMRF Board continues to reform the organisation to improve efficiency and its reach to DG's, Districts and Clubs.

From a personal perspective I recently had an unexpected and enforced hospital stay and, for the first time in my three quarters of a century on this planet, had more than one night in hospital.

I was amazed at the advances in technology, medicine and treatments afforded today's patients and mused at the advances we have seen over the last 20 to 40 years. I was also blown away by the growth in medical conditions, diseases and illnesses prevalent in the modern world. COVID has become a base issue in our hospitals rather than the driver that it was only twelve months ago. Speaking to a senior cardiac specialist at one point, he opined that more than around 25% of the people currently in the hospital would have probably died if it were 40 years ago and modern medicine had not made the advances in drugs, diagnosis and technology that it has over that time.

A sobering thought and one that motivates to build the LMRF capability as a contributor to these advances. Having left hospital with a very positive prognosis I feel it is now appropriate to talk about the future again! As Chair of LMRF I refer of course to the future of LMRF.

From a strategic perspective, our base operation will be continuing to support Dr Olivia Holland in her research into gestational diabetes and our newest Fellow Dr Dominic Guanzon in his work with Associate Professor Carlos Salomon on the early detection of ovarian cancer. This work is progressing solidly and is about to enter field trials. This will be fundamentally by way of accessing a major longitudinal study in the UK of women's development of ovarian cancer over time.

Believe it or not, in lay terms, the end-product of this research will be a simple test (somewhat like the current RAT test for COVID) to detect ovarian cancer at a pre-physical symptom stage by a visual reagent to biomarkers (exomes) in the blood. This has the potential to save over 1000 lives in Australia each year and hundreds of thousands world-wide.

Chairman's Report

continued - David Eades



LMRF is also looking at supporting research into children's specific brain cancer as part of an addition and strategic direction into adolescent diseases.

Meanwhile, at ground level, LMRF held its annual President's Day at the Translational Research Institute at PA Hospital on 1 May 2022, and it was great to see a significant attendance not withstanding the early onset of the 'flu' season and the enduring complexities from the COVID pandemic.

I think it is fair to say that those that attended enjoyed the day including the on-site visits to the various research modules including the SPARQ-ed laboratories. If you are an incoming President and you or your club have not had exposure to this annual event, I suggest you pencil it in for next year or drop an email to the LMRF office and we will make sure you are reminded. It is a day specifically designed for you to see YOUR LMRF in action and understand where YOUR shareholder funds are spent.

David Eades
Chair





LMRF Office

Lion Narelle Parkins
Executive Manager

Disease knows no boundaries.

This has been said before, and it will be said again and again.

Why, because it is true.



Here at Lions Medical Research Foundation, we know that disease can hit any one of us at any given time; no matter what your age or social status may hold. We know that debilitating cancers can cause deaths amongst babies and adolescents as well as the elderly. We know that ovarian cancer becomes terminal once the symptoms appear. We know that millions of people around the world are suffering from diabetes and diabetes related issues and that adolescent suicide is a major concern. All of this; plus more. But we also know that nothing in this world is impossible. We put trust in researchers who dedicate their lives researching into illnesses with hopes of finding preventatives and cures.

That is why our Foundation is so passionate about the work it does and why the directors and staff are so dedicated. It's all because we care. We care about the research currently being done, we care about the research that has been done, but more than that, we care about the future and what more can be achieved. We have come a long way in research but there is so much more out there that remains untouched.

The Queensland and Northern New South Wales Lions Medical Research Foundation (LMRF) puts faith in its researchers which is why they are chosen with such care. Whilst the foundation is a company limited by guarantee and is run and audited as a company with all the stringent obligations and responsibilities, it is accountable to the Lions Community and is proud to say that with the dedication of its personnel and careful management it has remained as a sincere and trustworthy entity since its inception in 1962.

Dr Carlos Salomon joined the foundation as an early career bio medical scientist in 2015 and has since made headlines with his recent discoveries into early detection of ovarian cancer. Even though, the now Associate Professor, Carlos has now ended his fellowship with LMRF, he and his team are by no way a thing of the past. LMRF has recently granted a fellowship to a member of the very same team to ensure that it is involved at the time of clinical trials.





LMRF Office *Continued*



A huge thank you to those who attended the recent Gala Dinner. It was a memorable event and raised for the Foundation the astonishing sum of \$72,069. Included in that figure was a special donation presented on the evening of \$58,000 from the Lions Club of Capalaba noting fifty-eight thousand dollars for fifty-eight years of continuing service by the Foundation.

LMRF thanks all Lions clubs and sponsors for their donations throughout the year. Collectively, each donation goes towards the saving of lives and the betterment of our future generations. With each donation we give, we can honestly say we played a part in the big screen production of moulding our future.

Kind regards

Narelle Parkins



Chair David Eades presenting President Graham Ericksen (Capalaba Lions) with a Certificate of Appreciation



Awards still going strong in 2022



Past District Governors

L to R Morrie Drake, Ray Phippard, Neil O'Kamura, John Shaw

These were the very first Ray Phippard Fellowship awards presented.
No's 1 to 4 with Ray Phippard being Number 1.

Don't forget your club disbursements at the end of the year. For every dollar you donate to Lions Medical Research Foundation you will win twice.

No. 1 - you will be helping with groundbreaking research
No. 2 - you will receive a dollar for dollar credit to enable you to purchase an award of your choice to present to a deserving colleague.

full description of awards on our website
www.lionsmedicalresearchfoundation.org.au



A Past Recipient of The Lions Medical Research Fellowship Grant

Where
are they
now?



Dr Gethin Thomas

Executive Director of Research for
Motor Neurone Disease Australia

What the LMRF Fellowship meant to me.

The fellowship was absolutely critical for my research career at that point. I was establishing myself in the ankylosing spondylitis field and the security of a long-term fellowship gave me the opportunity to complete some key studies. The data from these studies then enabled me to obtain independent research funding from a number of funders such as Arthritis Australia and the NHMRC. During this period I was able to establish myself nationally and internationally as an expert in the characterisation of new genes in ankylosing spondylitis which lead to invitations to speak at conferences and establish new research collaborations.

An additional bonus of receiving the fellowship was the opportunity it afforded me to meet many members of the wonderful Lions community. This is something I use continually in my current role right across the research spectrum by encouraging researchers to connect with the communities their research is serving.

It is vitally important that research experts can communicate the value of their research to the wider community beyond their own group of fellow experts. COVID-19 has certainly taught us the importance of clear science communication!



WHAT IS IT? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

WHAT IT IS - Well, from a small beginning at the 201A convention in 1963, a small acorn was planted by some very forward thinking Lions and it is now an oak tree of some merit.

The oak tree is a very hardy tree and if you allow it to represent the Foundation, you will see those early movers on the top of the tree, working hard to make a new innovative and challenging project work. The branches represent the club and the roots of the tree represent the members. Everyone knows, a tree cannot function without its roots and every organization needs strong vibrant support from its members. That is where our clubs and their members have come in. They have built our tree, encouraged it to survive and progress.



Members must be very proud of the success of the Foundation and the wonderful researchers. Just think of how many of our female population are grateful for Professor Ian Frazer and his research into cervical cancer. Not just in Australia, but throughout the world . We are proud that we gave him his start. So many people would not see the sun rise and set if not for the outstanding optical research of Professor Lawrie Hirst. Just think how many mums and dads could be left desolate with the death of their newborn if not for Professor Paul Colditz, another dedicated researcher. Dr Christine Staatz' research into organ donor rejection will also make a difference to others.

If we went back to the beginning we would think about Dr John Healy, our very first researcher, who in the 1960's became the forerunner tissue typing which led to groundbreaking kidney and liver transplants. Now we are learning about our latest researcher Dr Katrina Campbell , who is seeking answers to the connection between diet and chronic kidney and heart disease.

So many more have been assisted with seed funding to allow them to seek other funding when their term is up and this is only happening because of donations from clubs and others. So what does it mean - it means hope for the future. But ... nothing stays forever. Our oak tree needs continuous nourishment, and we are still relying on clubs to assist this wonderful foundation which help people no matter where they live, what their creed, religion or colour. In the end we are all the same and all need to know research can help in our hour of need.

Written in 2015 by PDG Irene
Dunning (now deceased)





**LIONS
MEDICAL
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION**

**Thank You Capalaba
and thank you all**

58 for 58



At the recent Lions Medical Research Gala Dinner held at Customs House in March this year the Lions Club of Capalaba surprised those present by donating the grand sum of \$58,000 to Lions Medical Research.

President Graham Ericksen presented a cheque to Chair David Eades advising that the club had made the huge decision of donating this amount of fifty eight thousand dollars in honour of the fifty eight years of the Lions Medical Research Foundation.

***A HUGE Thank you to the
anonymous donor of \$20,000
- love you.***



**A special thanks to a very special lady.
Recently Beryl Phippard made a very special
donation of \$40,000 to the Foundation. -
Thank you Beryl.**



Why I Do what I Do

I am passionate about helping others. A gift given, means much more to me than a gift received. And I believe this of all LIONS - the look on the face of the recipient is all it takes to forget the hard work, the excess hours and the tough grind from the giver.

Becoming a Lion has given me the opportunity to fulfill my passion and Lions Medical Research Foundation has given me the opportunity to fulfill my dream.

There are children suffering out there far beyond comprehension and their ailments are the contributing cause of so many mental health issues, which unfortunately in some cases lead to adolescent suicide.

Below I am showing a poem written a few years ago by a young girl 12 years of age. It shows her pain and her inward battle dealing with her condition. *A condition of which there is no cure.*



*I feel like a princess locked in a tower
My Narcolepsy and my Cataplexy is my dragon guard
My weight loss is the lava in the moat that makes me cower more
My evil witch is simply my medicine
At first we didn't see the harm
For it had a magic disguise to seem so beautiful
My poison apple of my story is this place I'm in
All those cute animals represent my friends
And now the magic mirror on the wall shows me their true form
As they reside in the dark
My fairy godmother is that flame within me that refuses to die
The prince I long await is no man at all but time
Time for the things to get better
Then I will wear my tiara proudly
Once my dragon sleeps
The witch's curse is broken
I rid of the poison apple
I befriend people not shape shifters
My fairy godmother no longer needs to struggle
And the magic mirror breaks - because
that is when my fight is over
And then I will truly become a Princess.*

That is why I do what I do.

New researcher to the LMRF Team

Dr Dominic Guanzon

Post Doctoral Research Fellow UQ Centre
for Clinical Research Faculty of Medicine
d.guanzon@uq.edu.au



Dr Dominic Guanzon has now joined the team to beat ovarian cancer.

Dominic joined the Salomon Group at UQCCR in May this year. In past years Dominic has been working with CSIRO and comes with high recommendations. LMRF were pleased to be able to support him with Lions Medical Research grant funding.

The Salomon Team believe they have come up with a way to detect ovarian cancer before it becomes evident.

Research shows that there is almost no recovery from this disease after diagnosis as once the symptoms appear it is invariably too late.

Clinical trials will begin soon and LMRF will be there when it happens.



A new combination therapy for children with brain cancer



Prof. Brandon Wainwright
University of Queensland

supported by LMRF



At the recent Incoming club President and member tour of the Translational Research Institute, LMRF had the pleasure of meeting and engaging Professor Brandon Wainwright to present on behalf of the Foundation and his research into children's brain cancers.

Professor Wainwright is an expert in the field of children's cancers and gave a passionate and heartfelt presentation on behalf of his little sufferers.

Brain tumours are the most common cause of disease-related death in Australian children. Despite the advent of powerful genomic and drug discovery technology the overall survival of children with brain cancer has not improved in over 30 years. Standard therapy for medulloblastoma (tumour of the cerebellum) consists of surgery, followed by radiation therapy of the brain, followed by multiple rounds of chemotherapy during which infants and young children often require bone marrow transplants to offset the side-effects of the therapy. For those children who survive the initial therapy and the 5-year survival, is around 60%. For those who relapse following initial treatment there is no effective therapy and so relapse is inevitably fatal.

The Wainwright laboratory and colleagues have identified a drug which targets a specific part of the cell growth cycle when treating medulloblastoma. Transplants into the brains of mice and treating them with this drug has resulted in 100% compared with 0% for the untreated. After the drug was withdrawn around 80% relapsed and 20% were long term survivors.

LMRF is happy to be able to support such wonderful research.



ART UNION *New*



LIONS
MEDICAL
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2022 ART UNION

FOUNDATION OF HOPE

ALL FUNDS RAISED FROM THIS ART UNION WILL GO TO
PROFESSOR BRANDON WAINWRIGHT AND HIS RESEARCH INTO
CHILDREN'S BRAIN CANCER

\$5
per ticket
Only 8,000 tickets
printed

WIN
\$7,500
GIFT CARD

1st prize: \$7,500 Coles Group & Myer Gift Card

2nd prize: \$950 Lady Elliot Island Trip for two plus
\$200 Coles Group & Myer Gift Card

3rd prize: \$500 Coles Group & Myer Gift Card

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LMRF will offer 10% rebate to our LIONS clubs for all sold tickets.
Please refer to terms and conditions.

To order your book on consignment please download the order form on www.lmrf.org.au and email to info@lmrf.org.au or alternatively contact the office on (07) 3832 1688

Closing date: 15 August 2022

Date drawn: 31 August 2022



Dr Olivia Holland

LMRF Fellow - Griffith University

Dr Holland has a passion to understand and eliminate Gestational Diabetes

Dr Holland presenting at the Translational Research Institute to club member's visit in May.



Note from Dr Holland:

I am currently the 53rd Fellow of the Lions Medical Research Foundation (LMRF). The support of LMRF allows my team and I to investigate how the placenta may be important in gestational diabetes (as well as allowing me to help with the occasional fund-raising sausage sizzle or early morning event marshalling).

My journey with LMRF began in 2019, with our lab's research on pregnancy complications expanding on promising preliminary work in gestational diabetes. Our collaboration with the Lions has continued with the shared mission of addressing the challenges of making pregnancies safer and healthier by working to reduce the prevalence of diabetes and improve quality of life for those diagnosed.

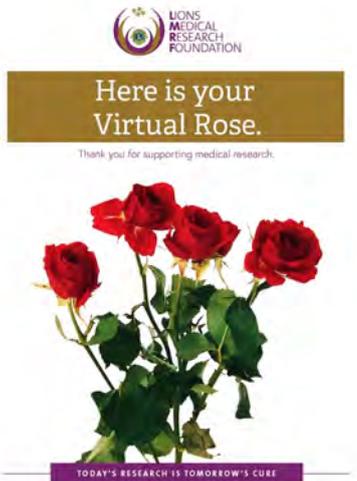
The backing of LMRF has been instrumental in the success of our research, which has now reached the stage of being applied in the clinic. In 2021-22 our team secured just under \$400,000 in funding to support the establishment of a research clinic focused on placental health. This project has brought together more than ten researchers and Higher Degree Research students across Griffith University and Gold Coast University Hospital and has ongoing support from Gold Coast Health. The project also comprises a partnership of researchers beyond the Gold Coast, with collaborators from Western Sydney University, Mater Research and Monash University.

We are now building on our team's knowledge and expertise in pregnancy health to develop robust tools to predict gestational diabetes and other important obstetric disorders (preeclampsia and foetal growth restriction) early in pregnancy. By developing new ways of combining the best predictive measures we can provide a clinical toolkit for doctors and midwives so they can offer pregnant women the best care.

The support of Lions has been key to progressing this research that will lead to a healthier start to life and better lifelong health for women and their babies.



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sizes black or
white available



See website www.lionsmedicalresearchfoundation.org.au for further information and order forms

Awards!

The **Ray Phippard Fellow Award** is named in honour of Ray Phippard in recognition of his ongoing service to the Lions Medical Research Foundation

Cost: \$1,000

**Ray Phippard
Fellow Award**

The **Ray Phippard Progressive Award** is awarded to the special person who already holds an existing Ray Phippard Award.

Cost: \$1,000

**Ray Phippard
Progressive Award**

The Professor Ian Frazer Humanitarian is named after Prof. Ian Frazer AC in recognition of his research into cervical cancer and his assistance to the Lions Medical Research Foundation over many years.

Cost: \$500

**Prof Ian Frazer
Humanitarian
Award**

The Professor Ian Frazer Progressive Award is awarded to the special person who already holds a Professor Ian Frazer Humanitarian Award

Cost: \$500

**Prof Ian Frazer
Humanitarian
Progressive Award**

Now the all new Community Service Award Cost: \$250

see website for full details and forms to download
www.lionsmedicalresearchfoundation.org.au



Celebrating 59 Years!
1962 – 2022

Support Us!

Research is Tomorrow's Hope

The Lions Medical Research Foundation is administered by a Board of Directors, made up of elected Lions members who receive no remuneration. It consists of 8 elected members, ie. Chairman plus 7 Directors – 2 from each District Q1, Q2, Q3 and Q4.

*Remember us in
your Will!
Every dollar helps us fund
medical researchers to
save lives!*

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