



Auckland Medical
Research Foundation
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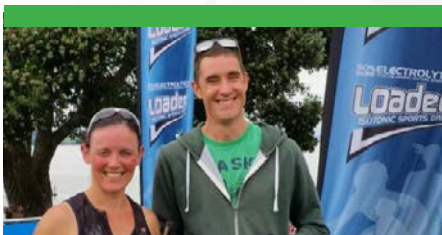
May 2018

For information about the AMRF
T: 09 923 1701
E: amrf@medicalresearch.org.nz
www.medicalresearch.org.nz

SUPPORTING
MEDICAL
RESEARCH
FOR OVER
60 years

Fellowship Awarded to Emerging Tendon and Orthopaedic Researcher

Dr David Musson's research has resulted in improvement in surgeries for spinal fusion and knee ligament grafts



David coached research collaborator Dr Sue McGlashan in a recent triathlon.

Medical research into tendon is severely neglected, especially compared to its anatomical neighbours in joints, bone and cartilage.

By awarding the AMRF Senior Research Fellowship to Dr David Musson, leader of the Tendon and Orthopaedic Research programme within the Bone and Joint Research Group in the Department of Medicine at The University of Auckland, tendon will receive a renewed research focus from an outstanding early career researcher making great strides in the field internationally.

Building on the Bone and Joint Research Group's expertise in chronic musculoskeletal disease, David's research will include work with orthopaedic surgeons at ADHB and CMDHB to improve surgical outcomes, supervising orthopaedic registrars and early career medical doctors. His research sets the stage for The University of Auckland to become a leading international authority in tendon research, surgery, recovery and more.

As a triathlete himself, David understands intimately the stress that active people put on their joints, and the need for improving our understanding of related tissues and how to recover quickly from injury and surgeries. With a growing older population that is increasingly active, better recovery rates from joint injuries improves quality of life and reduces care costs.

With recent AMRF-funded research entitled "Why are knee ligament surgeries failing in young people?" he identified key structural and biomechanical differences in the hamstring tendons normally used as graft material for ACL reconstruction in younger patients. The result? Clinicians now use an alternative, safer graft source for younger patients, thus improving patient's likelihood of recovery.

Career development funding for emerging researchers, like the AMRF Senior Research Fellowship, enables career stability and development of independence. Find out how you can support researchers like Dr David Musson www.medicalresearch.org.nz

The AMRF Senior Research Fellowship was established in celebration of AMRF's 60th year anniversary and is recognised as one of the most prestigious awards being offered through the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences. The Fellowship is designed to support an early career researcher for five years as they establish their independent research. The interview panel of Faculty and AMRF representatives agreed that David truly exhibits all the leadership attributes required for outstanding medical and health research.

The AMRF thanks the generous donors who have made this level of support for David possible, and congratulates him on receiving this very well-deserved Fellowship. We look forward to his research successes, and the future generations of researchers he will mentor.



MEDICAL AND
HEALTH SCIENCES



The Winds of Progress and Change

The writing of this newsletter comes directly on the back of the worst storm to hit Auckland in decades with hurricane force winds taking out the power supply to over 170,000 homes.

Being without power tipped lives upside down and it showcased the dependency we have on electricity to make our world go around.

We take stable electrical supply in New Zealand for granted, essentially as a human right. Similarly, many medicines, health treatments and surgeries we now consider common are the results of long-term commitments to medical research.

What was life like before antibiotics and what does the future look like if antibiotics cease to be effective? Associate Professor Siouxsie Wiles, nominated as a finalist for the 2018 New Zealander of the Year award, is featured in this issue with her work focusing on research into antibiotic resistant superbugs.

The winds of change bring other news with Jeff Todd, our President, announcing his retirement after nearly 16 years on the AMRF Board and passing the mantle to a very apt replacement, Richard Taylor. A fitting tribute to Jeff is provided on page three.

On that note, I would like to thank our dedicated volunteer Board and Medical Committee who ensure the strategic robustness of our organisation and our incredible researchers who continually strive for the medical outcomes critical to our survival and good health.

Most of all, thank you to you, our committed supporters who understand the importance of medical research and provide such a vital contribution towards our current and future quality of life.

Warmest regards, Sue Brewster,
Executive Director

News to Note

Our popular FREE PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES will be presented in partnership with The University of Auckland's Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences,

celebrating their 50th Anniversary. Read more inside. Tell us what you think. Email us at amrf@medicalresearch.org.nz

GRANTS AWARDED FROM RECENT GRANT ROUNDS

\$2,708,763 in funding was awarded for the last two grant rounds of 2017

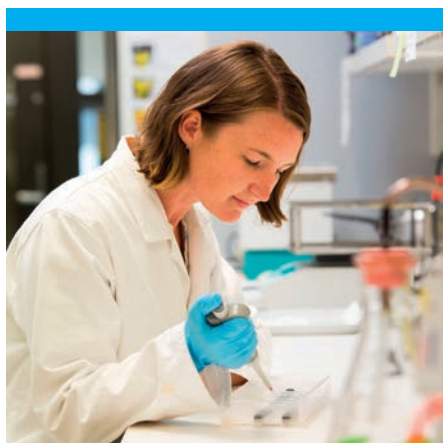
Scholarships, Fellowships and Project grants were the focus of the last two grant rounds of 2017. The quality of applications was high and for the first time we interviewed for the Postdoctoral Fellowships - an endeavour which proved to be highly informative and one we will continue to undertake.

The successful grants included 10 research projects, one Douglas Goodfellow Repatriation Fellowship, one Douglas Goodfellow Medical Research Fellowship, two Postdoctoral Fellowships and three doctoral scholarships for young researchers to undertake their Doctor of Philosophy research projects.

A selection of grants is summarised below:

EDITH C. COAN POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

EARLY CHANGES IN FRONTOTEMPORAL DEMENTIA (\$198,225 – TWO YEARS)



Dr Brigid Ryan

Dr Brigid Ryan Dept. of Anatomy & Medical Imaging, The University of Auckland

The aim of this fellowship is to investigate the possibility of using simple tests to identify biomarkers related to dementia years or decades before clinical diagnosis, so that intervention is possible.

On receiving this fellowship Brigid said "This fellowship will allow me to continue to work alongside a fantastic team of neuroscientists and clinical researchers to study a unique New Zealand family cohort and work towards an early intervention for dementia. I'm thrilled to be affiliated with the AMRF and delighted that the AMRF has chosen to support this important longitudinal research."

DOUGLAS GOODFELLOW MEDICAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF NEONATAL HYPOGLYCAEMIA (\$244,000 – TWO YEARS, SIX MONTHS)



Dr Matthew Glasgow

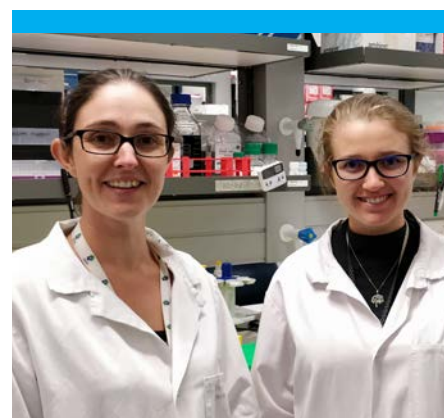
Dr Matthew Glasgow Liggins Institute, The University of Auckland

This fellowship will look at the long term health burden and costs of managing low blood sugar in newborn babies (known as neonatal hypoglycaemia), with the aim of guiding healthcare policy and resource allocation, both nationally and internationally.

On receiving his Fellowship Matt said "I am very grateful to the AMRF for the financial assistance awarded through the Douglas Goodfellow Medical Research Fellowship. This support allows me to commit full-time to undertaking PhD research in the form of economic analyses of the outcomes and management of neonatal hypoglycaemia. Working to improve health outcomes for vulnerable infants in New Zealand is personally satisfying, and represents a progression towards an intended academic career in the area of health economics."

DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIPS

TUMOUR HETEROGENEITY: A PATIENT-SPECIFIC MULTILAYERED INVESTIGATION (\$128,000 – THREE YEARS)



Tamsin Robb with her PhD supervisor Dr Cherie Blenkiron (left)

Ms Tamsin Robb Dept. of Molecular Medicine & Pathology, The University of Auckland

The overarching aim of this scholarship is to understand the effect and interplay of tumour heterogeneity in individual patients right down to the cell-level, in order to find new biomarkers for diagnosing and monitoring patients with neuroendocrine tumours in New Zealand, which will be widely applicable to cancer.

In response to being awarded this scholarship Tamsin said "It is a privilege to receive support from the AMRF, enabling me to embark on an exciting PhD research programme at The University of Auckland. Through this project, I aim to further our understanding of the regional complexities of cancer tumours. I look forward to undertaking this project."

For the media summaries of these projects and more please go to the 'Awarded grants' page of our website at www.medicalresearch.org.nz or contact the AMRF Office on 09 923 1701.

AMRF Farewells Board President

In 2011, the AMRF welcomed Jeff Todd CBE BCom FCA DistFlntD to his successful tenure as President of the Board of Trustees

With over 15 years as a Trustee and the last eight of those as President of the Auckland Medical Research Foundation, Jeff Todd announced his intention to retire. When Jeff joined as a Trustee in 2002, the President at the time, Bruce Cole, heralded Jeff's appointment as "bringing a wealth of business and financial expertise". During his time on the Board, Jeff has generously applied his professional skills and his personal leadership qualities, to make an outstanding contribution to the sustained growth and success of the AMRF.

Jeff has overseen the landmark 60th anniversary celebrations of AMRF, the opening of the AMRF Auditorium at the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences in Auckland, and more recently the appointment of our new Executive Director, Sue Brewster.

One of Jeff's contributions to the sustainability of AMRF has been to Board governance including the development of a succession plan which has ensured a smooth transition for the appointment of the incoming President. Along with the announcement of Jeff's retirement, it is with great pleasure we can announce that Richard Taylor has been appointed by the unanimous decision of the Board to succeed Jeff



Jeff Todd speaks at the annual HealtheX event.

as President. Richard who has been a valued member of the AMRF Board for 14 years. As a senior partner of TGT Legal, Richard's corporate governance and extensive legal experience specialising particularly in trusts (including charities) and wills, legacies and bequests is of great value to the Board and the AMRF.

During his tenure, Jeff, along with the Board, has awarded over \$25 million of funding for medical research with close to \$70 million distributed since the volunteer governance roles were first established back in 1955.

Jeff's final Board meeting as President is scheduled for June 2018 and we will ensure that Jeff's service to AMRF is recognised appropriately. If you have any



Richard Taylor, incoming AMRF President.

questions on Jeff's retirement or the appointment of the new President, please do not hesitate to contact the AMRF office.

Please join us in thanking and acknowledging Jeff for his notable commitment and the equally significant amount of time and expertise he has gifted to AMRF over the last 15 years.

To personally acknowledge Jeff and his contribution to medical research, please consider a Commemorative Gift to the AMRF

70% of New Zealanders don't donate because...



Source: New Zealanders for Health Research, New Zealand Speaks! New Zealanders for Health Research Opinion Polling 2017, www.nz4healthresearch.org.nz

...they don't know how the money will be spent.

We can tell you that here at the **AMRF 100% of your donation** supports our medical research programmes – projects, scholarships, fellowships, travel awards and more.

HOW?

AMRF's administration is completely funded by a separate endowment. Your donation is never used for office expenses – even this newsletter was designed and printed with support from our friends at:

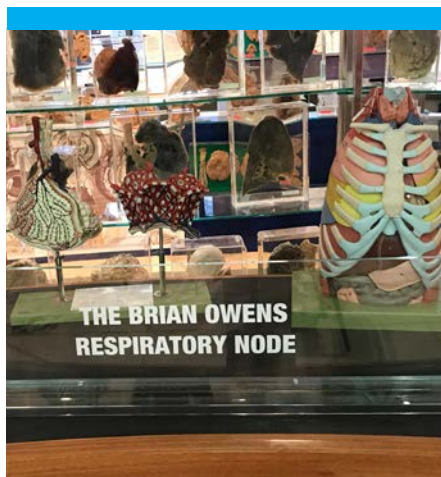
bluestar  **works**

Gift made in perpetuity for pancreatic research from Hugo Charitable Trust

One family's generous gift means years of research in pancreatic disease



The Owens family with AMRF President Jeff Todd.



Christmas time is often associated with giving and celebration and this was certainly true for us late last year when we were gifted a very significant donation from the Hugo Charitable Trust.

A special event was held at the AMRF Medical Sciences Learning Centre (MSLC) at the University of Auckland's Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences to celebrate and acknowledge this substantial gift from the Trust which creates an ongoing fund for pancreas-related research.

Esteemed guests from across the country attended the event including Maryanne and Mark Owens; their daughter Alice, grandson Ronan and Alice's partner Shane; other

members of the Owens family; fellow trustees and the team from the Hugo Charitable Trust.

The occasion was marked by an illuminating presentation from Professor John Windsor who has made the study and management of pancreatic diseases his primary clinical and scientific focus. This was followed by the unveiling of the plaque for the MSLC's 'Brian Owens Respiratory Node' in honour of Mark's father.

At AMRF, we simply could not do what we do without the incredible support of donors like Maryanne and Mark and the Hugo Charitable Trust. This gift will make an incredible difference to the size and scope of research that can be funded now and in perpetuity.

Permanent named funds like this receive the benefit of annual revaluation in line with AMRF's investment portfolio and the income from the fund is awarded in perpetuity for medical research purposes. If you would like to find out more information on this type of fund, please don't hesitate to talk to our Executive Director, Sue Brewster.

Hugo
CHARITABLE TRUST

Hear more from our researchers in videos on our website



Lecture Series: Celebrating 50 Years of Medical Education and Research in Auckland

The AMRF is proud to partner with The University of Auckland's Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences to present a year-long lecture series of medical research highlights.



The AMRF Auditorium, part of The University of Auckland's Grafton Campus Redevelopment, opened in July 2012.



The site of the future medical campus on Park Road in Grafton, c1967. Image courtesy of University of Auckland. CC BY-NC-ND 3.0

We are delighted to partner with The University of Auckland's Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences (FMHS) to bring you this year's free public lecture series in celebration of the FMHS 50th year anniversary. We invite you to join us at these free public events to showcase the rich history of medicine and the inspirational people and programmes that continue to achieve significant improvements in health and medical education, science and research since the opening of the Medical School in 1968.

This monthly series running from April through to September will feature prestigious speakers addressing a variety of topics including:

- May 15: Heart Attacks and Strokes with partners, the Heart Foundation – What They Are and Why They Matter, Treatment of Heart Attacks, Pulling Out Clots to Treat Stroke
- June 13: Improved Cancer Treatment: A Scientific-Medical-Patient Collaboration with partners, the Cancer Society Auckland Northland
- July 19: Living longer – a Social Revolution
- August & September: Topics & date to be confirmed



The FMHS buildings on Park Road in Grafton, c1976. Image courtesy of University of Auckland. CC BY-NC-ND 3.0

Where possible, we will host recordings of the event on our website, so check back often.



MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES



Lectures will be held in the evenings at the AMRF Auditorium, Ground Floor, Faculty of Medical & Health Sciences The University of Auckland, 85 Park Road, Grafton, Auckland

RSVP

For your FREE space at:
<http://fmhs-50years-events.blogs.auckland.ac.nz>
OR ring us at 09 923 1701

Commemorative gifts

Your gift in celebration of a special occasion or remembrance of someone special can support medical research – a great gift for birthdays, holidays and more.

For copies of these slips, just ring or email us, post this form back in the **FREE** return envelope or donate securely on our website.

☐ Yes, send me _____ slips. My address is on the back.



Medical Researcher finalist for NZer of the Year

A/Prof Siouxsie Wiles was nominated for the 2018 New Zealander of the Year award

Associate Professor Siouxsie Wiles is an award-winning medical and health sciences researcher, author, science communicator and business owner. Her dedication to demystifying science and conducting research to find treatments against antibiotic-resistant superbugs and infectious diseases has seen her add another notable distinction to her already long list: she was recently one of three finalists for Kiwibank's New Zealander of the Year. From this platform, she continued her challenging work that includes bringing understanding of infectious disease to New Zealanders of all ages.

Data from the prestigious medical journal The Lancet highlighted New Zealand's unfortunate distinction among developed countries of a steady increase in serious infectious diseases. This is in addition to a rise in hospital admissions for chronic diseases such as cancer and diabetes. In the last 25 years, New Zealand has seen infection-related admissions increase by 50%. Now more than one in four overnight hospital stays are infection-related each year – the equivalent of over 85,000 people,

primarily young children and the elderly.

A/Prof Wiles wrote her recent book, "Antibiotic Resistance: The End of Modern Medicine", because of the risk that in our lifetimes we will see the end of 'the golden age of medicine' that humanity has enjoyed for less than 100 years with the discovery of penicillin.

Her most recent AMRF-supported project, conducted with Prof Brent Copp at The University of Auckland School of Chemical Sciences, investigates new compounds that can enhance the effects of existing antibiotics on numerous different drug-resistant infectious micro-organisms. A/Prof Wiles' says her research collaboration is a "practical union of scientists, combining chemists with synthetic experience along with clinical microbiologists". The team is able to carry out biological evaluation of both the effectiveness and mode of action of the 50+ target compounds they're generating.

The AMRF is pleased to support A/Prof Wiles in her ongoing research and congratulates her on her many accolades.



Associate Professor Siouxsie Wiles receives her finalist certificate from Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern at the awards ceremony on February 22. Photo courtesy of the New Zealander of the Year Awards.

The need to develop better drugs and therapies to combat antibiotic-resistant infectious microorganisms will continue, amidst increasing pressures on already strained medical services.

Want to hear more?

Watch the video at <http://inner.kiwi/new-zealander-year/siouxsie-wiles-speaking-science/>

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