

Annual Report 2017



Research For Life

WELLINGTON MEDICAL
RESEARCH FOUNDATION



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Mission Statement

To foster the strength and excellence of health research in the Wellington region and to advance the quality of health care by seeking and applying bequests and donations.

Investing in the Community's health since 1960

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The 57th Annual General Meeting of Research For Life will be held on Monday, 20 November 2017 at 5:30pm in the Kumutoto Room, Level 6 of the Wellington Club, 88 The Terrace, Wellington.

Business

1. To receive, consider and adopt the Research For Life Annual Report.
2. To receive, consider and adopt the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2017.
3. To elect the Chairman.
4. To elect not more than nine members of the Board.
5. To appoint Auditors.

Note: PricewaterhouseCoopers have signified their willingness to continue as Auditors.

6. General Business.

K R Macdonald
Secretary

Address

Following the Annual General Meeting, Mr Burton King MB ChB, FRACS (GS) will give a presentation about breast cancer diagnosis and innovations in the treatment of breast cancer.

Mr Burton King is one of New Zealand's most respected breast cancer surgeons, and a sought-after guest speaker.

Annual General Meeting 2016

Minutes of the 56th Annual General Meeting of Research For Life held in the Kumutoto Room, Level 6, Wellington Club, 88 The Terrace, Wellington, on Monday 21 November 2016 at 5:30pm.

Present:

Professor John Nacey (Chairman) and 20 members and supporters.

Apologies:

Professor Brett Delahunt, Mr G Malaghan and Mrs A Hall.

Minutes:

The minutes of the 55th Annual General Meeting held on 23rd November 2015 were approved.

Annual Report:

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2016 indicated that the Foundation had embarked on a major fund-raising appeal, the preparation for which had taken place in the year under review. The objective of the appeal was to enable the amount made available in research grants doubled within five years.

The Chairman thanked the members of the Research Advisory Committee and the Investment Committee for their work during the year.



Financial Statements:

The Treasurer, Mr K R Macdonald, in moving the adoption of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2016 reported that the operating surplus was considerably reduced this year because of the costs of the fund-raising Appeal. Funds under management were increased by the transfer to the Foundation of \$340,731 from the Cancer Standards Institute following its winding up.

The Financial Statements were duly adopted.

Election of President:

Professor J Nacey was declared re-elected as President for the ensuing year.

Election of Board Members:

The following were elected as Board members:

Mr P Barker, Professor B Delahunt, Mr R McGregor, Mr T W Hall, Ms G Phipps.

The President thanked Professor A W Mann for his many years of service. He had retired from the Board effective from this meeting.

Appointment of Auditors:

PricewaterhouseCoopers were re-appointed as Auditors.

Conclusion:

There being no general business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 5.30pm.

Directory

President and Chairman of the Board

Professor John Nacey

Board Members

Mr Peter Barker

Professor Brett Delahunt

Mr Terry Hall

Dr Lance Lawler

Professor Athol Mann

Mr Rob McGregor

Ms Gaeline Phipps

Research Advisory Committee

Professor Brett Delahunt (Chair)

Dr David Ackerley

Dr Peter Bethwaite

Dr Rebecca Grainger

Professor Anne La Flamme

Associate Professor Peter Larsen

Professor Graham Le Gros

Professor John H Miller

Dr Robert Weinkove

Board Secretary/Treasurer

Mr Ross Macdonald

Investment Committee

Mr Peter Barker

Professor Athol Mann

Mr Terry Hall

Auditors

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Solicitor

Mr David Gault



Chairman's Report 2016 – 2017



PROF JOHN NACEY
CHAIRMAN OF RESEARCH FOR LIFE

It gives me great pleasure to present Research For Life's 57th Annual Report.

In 2015, the Board recognised that if we were to continue with even our present level of research funding, we would need to broaden our support base. To this end, we rebranded under the name 'Research For Life' and embarked on an endeavour to raise our profile and double our research funding capability over the next five years.

While we can be justifiably proud of our past achievements, we cannot afford to be complacent.

The ambitious goal we have set ourselves is a challenge. It will take time, considerable effort, and an investment in stakeholder engagement.

However, I am pleased to be able to report that our new face is being recognised. Our role is now better known and appreciated, and we have been very successful in putting Research For Life on the map.

The feedback we received from the emerging researchers who attended our inaugural Research For Life Forum was all positive.

That event and the other initiatives undertaken over the past 18 months have helped build our profile. They are helping create the platform upon which

we can better engage with those who can lend their support to our organisation. I would like to acknowledge the contribution Fraser Carson and the Flightdec team are making as our fundraising partners.

I have appreciated the support and commitment made by the board and committee members over the past year. They have ensured that Research For Life has had a successful year and is well positioned for the future.

Research Funding

Applications for research grants remain highly competitive and our process for approving applications, overseen by the Research Advisory Committee is rigorous.

Attending and presenting research at national and international conferences is important for research development, critical appraisal and stimulation of innovative ideas for existing and potential research projects.

In the two grant rounds this year, we approved 12 research grants and nine travel grants making a total of \$173,609 available to researchers. A synopsis of each grant is provided in this year's Annual Report.

Grants under management totalled 37 of which 19 remained open at year end.

Financial

The net operating surplus for the year was \$227,286, up from \$167,411 the previous year, and the overall funds under administration increased by \$84,554 to \$4.57 million.

Investment income was down slightly, again reflecting the lower interest rates available and operating expenses were higher this year. This was due to the expanded work programme undertaken to raise the profile and broaden the organisation's support base through a targeting fundraising initiative.

The market value of investments exceeded their book value by \$1.142 million.

Research For Life Forum

The Nikau Foundation provided a grant of \$4,000 enabling us to engage Hannah Wignall as a part-time contractor to implement the 'Interconnectivity Project to Assist Young Medical Researchers'. This project involved determining the degree of connection between emerging medical researchers in Wellington, the barriers to better connection, how researchers might better connect and subsequently organising an inaugural network event for emerging medical researchers.

Fifty-five people attended the inaugural Research For Life Forum held on Wednesday, 23 August at Tuatara's Third Eye venue on Arthur Street.

Those attending came from the University of Otago, Wellington; the Malaghan Institute; Massey University; Victoria University of Wellington; ESR; and Capital and Coast District Health Board. The event included a presentation on the Research For Life grant application process by Professor Anne Le Flamme and myself.

Feedback about the Forum was extremely positive with many attendees wanting to see more of this type of event held in future.

Board and Committee Membership

Two longstanding board members, Professor Athol Mann and Mr Terry Hall, resigned from the board during the year and were appointed Honorary Life Members of Research For Life in recognition of their outstanding contribution to our organisation.

Athol Mann was first elected to the board in 1988. He was President from 1996-1998 and has been a member of the Foundation's Investment Committee since 2003.

Terry Hall joined the board in 1996 and has chaired the Foundation's investment committee since that time.

Their excellent stewardship of our organisation's investments has meant the value of our funds have experienced strong and sustained growth over that period.

Both Terry and Athol have an outstanding record of community service and we are privileged to have had them as board members.

Earlier in the year, our longstanding board secretary and treasurer Ross Macdonald advised that he wanted to step down from a role he has held since 1996.

Ross is synonymous with the Foundation and we are particularly grateful for the contribution he has made over the past 21 years.

We are currently seeking to appoint someone to undertake this key role and expect to be able to announce Ross' successor in the near future.

In July, we welcomed a new board member Dr Lance Lawler. Lance is a Diagnostic and Interventional Radiologist with special interests in healthcare administration, heart and body imaging. He is President-elect of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists 2018-2019. A graduate of the University of Otago Medical School, Lance completed his radiology training in Christchurch. He subsequently completed the Harvard program for leadership development for high potential leaders and executives. He is also the founder and former chief executive of Pacific Radiology Group.

Lance is enthusiastic about contributing to Research For Life and working with us to advance the quality of healthcare in the Wellington region and beyond.

Professor Brett Delahunt has been a member of the Research For Life Research Advisory Committee since 1991 and has held the position of chair since 1997. The Research Advisory Committee rigorously assesses grant applications to ensure that research applications have merit and that there is a high probability of the research leading to improved patient outcomes and greater wellbeing for our community.

Brett has elected to step down as chair at the end of this year in favour of Dr Rebecca Grainger but will remain a Research Advisory Committee member. Rebecca is an academic rheumatologist and has been a member of the Research Advisory Committee since 2011.

She undertook rheumatology training in Melbourne and her PhD examined inflammatory mechanisms in gout. Rebecca's clinical work focuses on assessment and management of inflammatory arthritis and her clinical interests include inflammatory arthritis, gout and scleroderma.

Rebecca's research interests include outcome measures, non-pharmacological management of musculoskeletal disease, use of information technology solutions to optimise care for people with chronic rheumatic diseases and medical education.

We thank Brett for his outstanding contribution as Chair of the Research Advisory Committee to and wish Rebecca well in her new role.

I would like to acknowledge all those who have supported the work of Research For Life. Your contribution is very much appreciated and helps us support innovative, quality research undertaken by researchers in the early stages of their careers whose work will undoubtedly lead to important advances in the quality of healthcare. This impacts not just on our Wellington region but very much extends to having a national and global impact.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Nacey', is written over a faint, light blue grid pattern.

Professor John Nacey
Chairman

Annual Appeal Launch

25 September 2017



Inaugural Forum event for researchers

23 August 2017



The background of the page features a soft-focus, high-key photograph of several pieces of laboratory glassware, including Erlenmeyer flasks and beakers, some containing liquids. The lighting is bright and diffused, creating a clean, scientific aesthetic.

The Wellington Medical Research Foundation Incorporated

Summary Performance Report

For the year ended 30 June 2017

The summary performance report has been extracted from the full performance report authorised for issue on 19 September 2017.

The summary performance report cannot be expected to provide a complete understanding as provided by the full performance report of the financial performance and financial position of the Foundation.

The full performance report has been audited and an unqualified audit opinion was expressed by the auditors on 19 September 2017.

For a copy of the full performance report, please contact the Secretary at PO Box 51 211, Tawa, Wellington.

Summary Statement Of Financial Performance

For The Year Ended 30 June 2017


	2017 \$	2016 \$
Operating Revenue	446,899	306,615
Less: Operating expenses	(219,613)	(139,203)
NET OPERATING SURPLUS	227,286	167,411
FUNDS AT BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	4,485,553	4,316,509
Less: Research Grants (net of prior year grants written back)	(142,732)	(339,098)
Plus: Bequests received	-	340,731
FUNDS AT END OF THE YEAR	4,570,107	4,485,553

Summary Statement Of Financial Position

As At 30 June 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
FUNDS	2	4,570,107	4,485,553
<i>Represented by:</i>			
CURRENT ASSETS		338,900	547,688
Add: NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Investments	1	4,438,427	4,297,355
TOTAL ASSETS		4,777,327	4,845,043
Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES		(207,220)	(359,490)
NET ASSETS		4,570,107	4,485,553

The Board of the Wellington Medical Research Foundation Incorporated authorised this performance report summary for issue on 19 September 2017.



President



Secretary/Treasurer

Notes To And Forming Part Of The Summary Performance Report

For The Year Ended 30 June 2017

1. Investments

Market values of investments at balance date are as follows:

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Notes and bonds - Main Fund	1,240,231	1,264,060
Notes and bonds - The Leonard Malaghan Medical Research Trust	866,229	878,253
Shares - Main Fund	1,973,315	1,938,544
Shares - The Leonard Malaghan Medical Research Trust	1,501,404	1,250,357
	5,581,179	5,331,214

2. Funds

	Balance 30 June 2016	Bequests and Grants	Operating surplus before research grants	Research Grants Approved	Research grants written back	Transfer to General fund	Balance 30 June 2017
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Funds available for distribution:							
General Fund	6,056	-	356	(300)	-	-	6,112
Sir Fred & Lady Bowerbank Fund	531,052	-	31,233	(48,922)	387	-	513,750
Diabetes Wellington Inc. Research Fund	333,863	-	19,635	-	12,775	-	366,273
The Leura Trask Trust Kidney Research Fund	28,005	-	1,647	-	-	-	29,652
Sarah Mulholland Fund	1,768,425	-	104,006	(80,912)	18,015	-	1,809,534
Malaghan Haematology Fund	262,162	-	2,306	(9,342)	-	-	255,126
Cancer Standards Institute Fund	126,055	-	6,,317	(34,433)	-	-	97,939
Funds not available for distribution:							
The Leonard Malaghan Medical Research Trust	1,429,935	-	61,786	-	-	-	1,491,721
	4,485,553		227,283	(173,909)	31,177	-	4,570,104

3. Commitments

The Foundation has no commitments at 30 June 2017 (2016: nil).

4. Contingent Assets and Liabilities

There are no contingent assets or liabilities at 30 June 2017 (2016: Nil).



Report of the independent auditor on the summary financial statements

To the Board of Management of the Wellington Medical Research Foundation Incorporated

The summary financial statements comprise:

- the summary statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017;
- the summary statement of financial performance for the year then ended; and
- the notes to and forming part of the summary financial statements.

Our opinion

The summary financial statements are derived from the audited financial statements of the Wellington Medical Research Foundation Incorporated, for the year ended 30 June 2017.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements, in accordance with FRS-43: Summary Financial Statements issued by the New Zealand Accounting Standards Board.

Summary financial statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by New Zealand equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (NZ IFRS). Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements and the auditor's report thereon. The summary financial statements and the audited financial statements do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on the audited financial statements.

The audited financial statements and our report thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated 19 September 2017.

Responsibilities of the Board of Management for the summary financial statements The Board of Management are responsible, on behalf of the Society, for the preparation of the summary financial statements in accordance with FRS-43: Summary Financial Statements.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with International Standard on Auditing (New Zealand) 810 (Revised), Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

Our firm carries out other services for the Society in the areas of business advisory and financial statement preparation. The provision of these other services has not impaired our independence as auditor of the Society.

Who we report to

This report is made solely to the Society's Board of Management, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state those matters which we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Society and the Society's Board of Management, as a body, for our audit work, for this report or for the opinions we have formed.

The logo for PricewaterhouseCoopers, featuring the company name in a stylized, cursive script.

Chartered Accountants
19 September 2017

Napier

PricewaterhouseCoopers, 36 Munroe Street, PO Box 645, Napier 4140, New Zealand
T: +64 6 835 6144, F: +64 6 835 0360, pwc.co.nz

Research Grants 2016 – 2017

Twelve research grants to value of \$153, 609 were approved during the financial year to 30 June 2017, as follows:

Carl Beyers Victoria University of Wellington



Carl received a \$10,000 Research for Life grant to assess the impact of MIS416 therapy in altering the immune system of people with progressive multiple sclerosis (MS).

There is an urgent need for therapies which are effective at treating progressive MS. MIS416 has been shown to be safe to use in progressive MS, and a large stage two clinical trial offering MIS416 as treatment concluded recruitment earlier this year. This grant is in aid of work to define how MIS416 alters inflammation at a cellular level. Access to samples from the trial, a valuable resource, offers an excellent opportunity to further medical research into MS treatments. Carl is a chartered biomedical scientist completing a PhD with the multiple sclerosis research group at Victoria University.

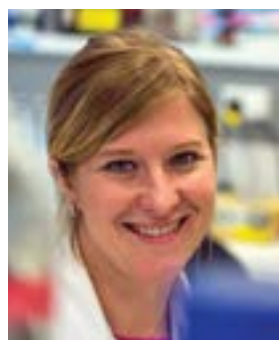
Dr Darren Day Victoria University of Wellington



Darren received a \$20,250 Research for Life grant to undertake research into developing a new type of anti-microbial drug for treating bacterial infections that are resistant to current antibiotics.

Darren's research uses DNA molecules coated with tiny particles of silver to specifically bind to bacteria and sensitize them to conventional antibiotic therapy. Darren is a senior lecturer in the School of Biological Sciences at Victoria University of Wellington and the program manager for Cellular and Molecular Biosciences.

Dr Lisa Connor Victoria University of Wellington



Lisa received a \$9,342 Research for Life Grant to investigate the cellular and molecular mechanisms involved in the initiation of allergic immune responses.

New Zealand has one of the highest rates of allergic diseases in the world, affecting up to 20% of the population. The immunological mechanisms involved when an individual becomes allergic to an allergen is not well understood. Dendritic cells are master regulators of the adaptive immune system and provide the signals required to drive specific immune responses. The goal of this project is to investigate the specificity of potential candidate molecules on dendritic cells as biomarkers for development of the allergic immune response. Lisa is a Research Fellow at the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research, and Lecturer at the School of Biological Sciences at Victoria University.

Dr James Fingleton

Capital and Coast District Health Board



James received a \$10,089 Research for Life grant to undertake research to help people with respiratory failure. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) affects 14% of adults aged over 40 in NZ and is

responsible for over 12,000 hospital admissions every year.

James's research is exploring new treatment options to treat the respiratory failure that affects some people with COPD.

James is deputy director of the Medical Research Institute of New Zealand, Wellington, and a consultant respiratory physician at Capital and Coast District Health Board.

Kathryn Hally

Victoria University of Wellington



Kathryn received a \$25,833 Research for Life grant to investigate platelet activation in acute coronary syndromes (ACS), the leading global cause of death. Anti-platelet medication is the standard-

of-care for ACS patients but a proportion of patients will continue to experience recurrent cardiovascular events despite treatment.

Kathryn's research focuses on how platelets may be alternatively activated in responses to infection and how this may relate to patient outcome. Kathryn Hally is a PhD student at the School of Biological Sciences at Victoria University of Wellington.



Photo courtesy of Malaghan Institute of Medical Research

Dr Ana Holley
University of Otago, Wellington



Ana received a \$13,000 Research for Life Grant to support research into discovering early predictors of left ventricular (LV) remodelling following a heart attack. The process of remodelling ultimately

leads to the development of heart failure, a disease that carries a high morbidity and mortality rate.

Ana's research examines the use of small molecules, called microRNA's, as early markers of LV dysfunction, and their relationship to heart failure development following a heart attack. An improved ability to predict those patients who are more likely to develop heart failure may allow intervention prior to significant LV remodelling to improve clinical outcomes. Ana is a postdoctoral fellow in the Cardiovascular Research Group at the University of Otago, Wellington.

Professor John Miller
Victoria University of Wellington



John received an \$18,000 Research for Life grant to undertake research into the development of new anti-cancer chemotherapeutics. Current drugs for solid tumours have unwanted

side effects, and cancer cells can acquire resistance to these drugs. New drugs that are better tolerated and can improve patient outcomes are needed to either replace or be used in combination with those now in use. John carries out his research and teaches in the School of Biological Sciences at Victoria University of Wellington, and is a member of the University's Centre for Biodiscovery.

Dr Kirsty Danielson
University of Otago, Wellington



Kirsty received a \$16,433 Research For Life grant to investigate early biomarkers for colorectal cancer. New Zealand has the highest rate of colorectal cancer in the world and early detection is

key for effective treatment and recovery.

Kirsty's research will explore the utility of small RNA species found in the blood as early markers of the presence of colorectal cancer. Kirsty is a lecturer in the Department of Surgery & Anaesthesia at the University of Otago, Wellington.

Professor Dawn Elder
University of Otago, Wellington



Dawn received a \$4,289 Research For Life grant to undertake research related to the assessment of breathing stability in preterm infants ready for discharge. New generation pulse oximetry will be used

as a non-invasive measure of brief drops in oxygen levels in the baby while they are sleeping overnight. Healthy term babies will also be tested.

Dawn's research is assessing how we can determine, using this newer technology, what is a normal breathing pattern for preterm infants when they are ready to go home and at what age their breathing pattern becomes the same as babies born at term. Dawn is the head of the Department of Paediatrics & Child Health at the University of Otago, Wellington, and a paediatric sleep physician at WellSleep, University of Otago Wellington and at Capital and Coast District Health Board.

Dr Bronwyn Kivell
Victoria University of Wellington



Bronwyn received a \$13,725 Research For Life Grant to undertake research into developing a new class of drug to treat neuropathic pain. It is estimated that around 4% of the population suffers

from neuropathic pain, a chronic pain condition that can result from physical trauma or diseases such as diabetes, cancer, multiple sclerosis, shingles and stroke. Current pain medications are ineffective when administered long-term and can have serious side-effects including itch, constipation, decreased respiration and addiction. The goal of this project is to develop effective medications to treat chronic pain with fewer side-effects. Bronwyn is a senior lecturer in the School of Biological Sciences and Centre for Biodiscovery at Victoria University of Wellington.

Dr Ayesha Verrall
University of Otago, Wellington



Ayesha received a \$6,923 Research For Life grant to purchase a cell counter. Ayesha will use the cell counter in experiments to understand immunity to Tuberculosis. This builds on a large study Ayesha

performed with collaborators at Universitas Padjadjaran, Indonesia which showed about a quarter of people who live with a tuberculosis patient remain uninfected, and are probably immune to tuberculosis. Tuberculosis is the world's most deadly infection, killing over 1.5 million people each year. It is hoped that understanding how these people are immune would lead to new tuberculosis treatments or vaccines. Ayesha is a senior lecturer at the University of Otago Wellington and a consultant infectious diseases physician at Capital and Coast District Health Board.

Varun Venkatesh
University of Otago, Wellington



Varun received a \$5,725 Research For Life grant to undertake research to investigate the mechanisms of glioblastoma growth. Glioblastoma is a highly debilitating brain cancer with a 12–14-month

survival time.

Varun's research is exploring a peptide signalling system that has recently been shown to be an important factor in other cancers but has not been investigated in depth in glioblastoma. Varun hopes to shed some light on the potential roles of this system within the cancer. Varun is a PhD student at Victoria University of Wellington's School of Biological Sciences department in the lab of Dr Darren Day.

Travel Grants 2016 – 2017

During the year, nine travel grants were approved to assist local researchers meet the cost of presenting their research findings at International Conferences. These grants totalled \$20,000 and were made to the following:

Kerry Hilligan



Kerry is a PhD candidate at the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research, received a \$1,500 travel grant from Research for Life to present her research at the 14th International Symposium on Dendritic

Cells in Shanghai this year.

Kerry's research aims to improve current vaccination strategies by understanding how a population of innate immune cells, known as dendritic cells, initiate and regulate protective immune responses against bacterial, fungal and parasitic infections.

Karmella Naidoo



Karmella is a PhD student at the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research received a travel grant for \$2500. This grant will support her travel to Switzerland in March 2017, where she will present her

research findings at the 11th World Immune Regulation Meeting in Davos.

Karmella's research is a part of the allergy programme at the Malaghan and focuses on investigating inflammatory markers in eczema. The aim of the project is to identify specific immune pathways that could be targeted to treat eczema. Thus, giving the many allergy sufferers in New Zealand a chance at conquering this debilitating disease.

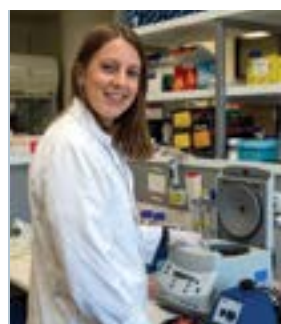
Jennifer Soundy



Jennifer is a third year PhD student at Victoria University, received a travel grant of \$2,000 to present her research findings at the International Society of Aptamers conference in Oxford in April next year.

Jennifer is undertaking a study on the development of novel antimicrobials for fighting antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections.

Jodie Chandler



Jodie is a Research Officer at the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research, received a travel grant of \$3,000 to present her research findings at the Hydra Conference on Molecular and Cellular

Biology of Helminth Parasites in Greece this year.

Jodie's research investigates the evolution of parasitic worms from their non-parasitic ancestors. She is primarily interested in hookworm - a species that infects over 700 million people worldwide and causes severe anaemia and cognitive stunting. Her intention is to improve our knowledge of hookworm genetics, which would provide a platform to develop effective vaccines against human hookworm.

Dr Katherine Robins



Katherine is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the School of Biological Sciences at Victoria University of Wellington, received a \$2,000 travel grant to present her research findings at the Enzyme

Engineering XXIV conference in France later this year.

Katherine's research interest lies in developing improved DNA ligase enzymes through directed evolution. These improved ligase enzymes can be used to increase the efficiency of next generation sequencing technologies, which have a wide range of medical applications both in research and in the clinic.

Kelsi Hall



Kelsi is a PhD student at Department of Biological Sciences at the Victoria University of Wellington, received a travel grant of \$2,000 to present her research findings at the Enzyme Engineering

biennial research meeting in Toulouse this year.

Kelsi's research involves using directed evolution to evolve bacterial nitroreductases to activate specific prodrugs. The aim of this research is to use these nitroreductases as a tool for targeted cell ablation in zebrafish to create disease models.

Ross van de Wetering



Ross is a 2nd year PhD student at Victoria University of Wellington, received a travel grant of \$3000 to present his research at the International Drug Abuse Research Society meeting

in Dubrovnik, Croatia this year.

He is developing a novel analytical procedure to profile the numerous neurochemical changes that occur in the brain with repeated exposure to drugs of abuse. The aim of his research is to identify novel or unanticipated neurochemical systems that are involved in the development of drug addiction, which would provide new research avenues and novel targets for pharmacotherapy.

Shaystah Dean



Shaystah is a PhD candidate from the Suicide and Mental Health Research Group and Department of Psychological Medicine at the Wellington School of Medicine, received a travel grant of \$2,000 to present

her research findings at the International Conference on Motivational Interviewing in Philadelphia this year.

She recently published results from a randomised clinical trial supporting the use of motivational interviewing for engaging adolescents in mental health treatment. She has an interest in adolescent mental health, and bridging the gap between research and clinical practice.

Sarah Lillas



Sarah is a Masters Student at Rehabilitation Teaching & Research Unit (RTRU), School of Medicine, University of Otago, received a travel grant of \$2,000 to present her research findings at

Australasian Society for the Study of Brain Impairment conference this year.

Sarah's research interest is regarding how people manage their fatigue after sustaining a traumatic brain injury (TBI). In particular, how people manage their fatigue at work to enable them to participate in paid employment. The area of fatigue management after TBI has limited quality research on it yet, fatigue has a substantial impact on peoples return to work.

Photo courtesy of Malaghan Institute of Medical Research



Members at 30 June 2017

Honorary Life Members:

Sir Roderick Weir
Dr T W Jordan
Professor A W Mann
Mr T W Hall

Life Members:

Mr & Mrs J G E Benton
Ms L M Blake
Mr H R Cummins
Dr P M Ellis
Miss M A Gardner
Dr P Holst
Mr B E Johnson
Dr A W Mitchell
Mr & Mrs P W Schumacher
Mr R Stallworthy
Mr R S Stubbs
Mrs F P Taylor
Dr C A Teague
Lady Trotter
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Mr P Barker
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Mr C J Calcinai
Mr D H Catley
Dr B Corley
Prof B Delahunt
Mr P C Dukes
Prof D Elder
Mr D F Gault
Mr & Mrs C Gibbs
Dr R Grainger
K Jones & D Long
Prof G Le Gros
Mr K R Macdonald
Mr N F Manthel
Mr R A McGregor
Prof J E A McIntosh
Prof J H Miller
Prof J Nacey
Dr E I F Pearce
Ms G Phipps
Dr F Ronchese
Dr R B Smith
Dr N H Stace
Dr B L J Treadwell
R J & J K Webster



Research For Life

WELLINGTON MEDICAL
RESEARCH FOUNDATION



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Research For Life (Wellington Medical Research Foundation Incorporated)
PO Box 51 211, Tawa, Wellington 5249.