



**An occasional news Bulletin of the latest programs and projects of the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund
August 2006**



It's time to say thank you as we celebrate a record level of contributions.

It is also time to thank all the clubs that made contributions to the Fund. In this newsletter I would like to recognise some of the outstanding results from our researchers and, our PhD Scholars, and our Indigenous Students.

Please feel free to include some of the following information in your club Bulletin



Dr Evian Gordon & Professor Russell Mears

These scientists were the first researchers to bring together several complementary brain imaging technologies to research brain dysfunction. They are among the world's foremost researchers with an international network of collaborating physicians, engineers, physicists, mathematicians, psychologists and psychiatrists. The team measures special patterns of brain dysfunction and correlates them with body functions all of which help with better treatment for brain diseases.

Professor Ron Trent

Identified the gene responsible for cardiomyopathy [heart muscle disease], which can cause adolescent and young adults to drop dead after strenuous exercise. Families of adolescents found to have this gene are being tested to reduce future health problems

Professor Harvey Whiteside

The largest study to ever look at the mental health of Australians has begun. After positive results from a smaller study funded by the ARHRF a team led by Professor Whiteside secured a \$2.2 million dollar in funding from the Federal Government to expand nationally. More than 350,000 employees have been invited to participate in the study, of over 61,000 responses to a mental health screening survey have already been received.

A team of seven psychologists are contacting participants who are at risk of depression and encouraging them to see someone in their area for treatment

Professor Whiteside has said that the activities undertaken by the ARHRF were the catalyst that initiated the Federal Government's funding of 1.2 billion dollars to mental illness and depression initiatives in the next few years.



Assoc/Professor Greg Snell.

Professor Greg Snell has recently undertaken a revolutionary technique to transplant donor lungs into recipient patients some 8 hours after death.

Working at the Alfred Hospital Lung Transplant Unit he thanks the ARHRF together with the Rotary Club of Williamstown for making the funding available to research this breakthrough.



Indigenous Students Health Scholarships'

A record 58 students are currently enrolled in this project and we have 40 graduates to this time. Clare is doing her internship in St Vincent's Hospital and she has shown great excitement about the exposure she is having to many areas of medicine. She has formally applied to be considered to do surgery, which is another 3 years training.

Her mentor at the hospital is the first Indigenous ENT surgeon on staff.

PhD Scholar

Tim is undertaking his research at the Howard Florey Institute using Magnetic Resonance Imaging to study Attention Deficit Disorder and Autism

He is not long into his research, but has already made a number of important findings and recently attended an International Conference to present these findings to a world audience in Florence.

These are just a few of the success stories from our researchers and scholars. All have praised the opportunity they have had to undertake their research from ARHRF funding

A record 3.5 million dollars will be spent this year on the many and varied programs of the fund.

If you would like to hear more do not hesitate to contact our District Chairman Ron Adams at r.g.adams@bigpond.com or me at desjones@vicnet.net.au

Currently the fund has 18 Research Grants in mental illness, two Post Doctoral Fellows, 9 Ian Scott PhD scholars, 20 PhD Scholars and 8 Research Grants researching a wide variety of diseases and medical conditions

There are now 58 Indigenous students and there have been 40 graduates since the program started

You can be part of this unique Australian Rotary Program

Contact Des Jones desjones@vicnet.net.au

Or go to our website

www.arhrf.org.au