

MRFF GRANTS ANNOUNCED BY SYDNEY HEALTH PARTNERS



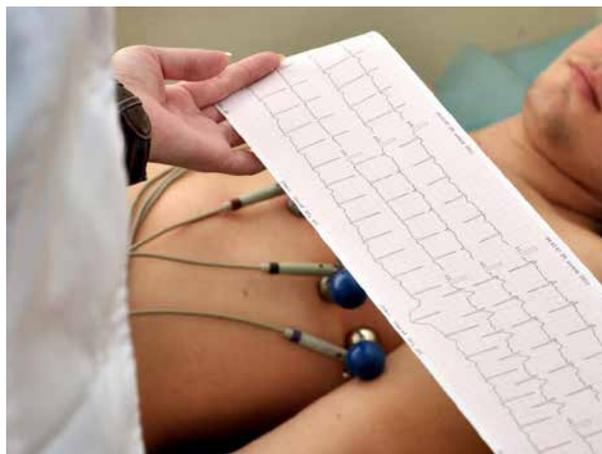
A new clinical model for assessing chest pain patients presenting to hospitals and a study into barriers to full implementation of a chronic care program for osteoarthritis sufferers, are amongst the translational health and medical research projects which have received funding from Sydney Health Partners (SHP).

The grants, which disburse a total of \$2 million from the Medical Research Future Fund, were awarded by SHP as part of its efforts to more rapidly and consistently deliver the benefits of research to patients and the community.

Executive Director of Sydney Health Partners, Professor Garry Jennings said SHP chose projects in advanced stages of development and involving collaboration among SHP partners across sites. "We were looking for projects that, through additional funding, could increase in pace or scale and deliver tangible benefits to patient care and outcomes within a 12-month period," he said. "That we received almost 60 applications meeting the criteria is testament to the vitality of translational research currently underway within the Northern, Western, Childrens and Sydney Local Health Districts – and the high degree of collaboration existing between our researchers and clinicians.

"Grants were assessed by an independent panel representing the partners and the panel had a difficult task selecting successful applications from the many good proposals put forward."

Project member Professor Clara Chow said the RAC model of care, started at Westmead Hospital two years ago, reduces utilisation of emergency department and inpatient resources by people with non-cardiac chest pain. The funding means RACs will now be trialled at Royal Prince Alfred, Royal North Shore and Concord hospitals.



"Sydney Health Partners brought myself and cardiologists from the other three hospitals together and the money also enables us to gather evaluation data on the RAC clinical pathway, which otherwise wouldn't be possible," said Professor Chow.

Another major burden upon hospitals is people presenting with pain and disability associated with knee and hip osteoarthritis. There is extensive variation in the way these people are managed, and in many cases, they undergo tests and treatments that are not supported by the latest evidence.



MRFF GRANTS ANNOUNCED BY SYDNEY HEALTH PARTNERS



Professor Clara Chow



Professor David Hunter

Professor David Hunter of Royal North Shore Hospital and collaborators across SHP received funds to investigate how the Osteoarthritis Chronic Care Program (OACCP) – developed by the the Agency for Clinical Innovation – has been implemented around the state.

“What we know is that there is a lot of variation state-wide in the implementation of that best practice,” said Professor Hunter.

“The grant from SHP allows us to assess OACCP sites across NSW, look at the reasons why clinical practice varies and what are the barriers to full implementation of the guidelines. A novel program called OACChangeMap will be developed to support OACCP sites to identify and address barriers to best practice.

Formed in 2015, SHP is one of four inaugural Advanced Health Research and Translation Centres named by the Federal Government and comprises the Sydney, Northern Sydney and Western Sydney Local Health Districts, the Children’s Hospital Network (Westmead), the University of Sydney, plus nine affiliated independent medical research institutes.



MRFF GRANTS ANNOUNCED BY SYDNEY HEALTH PARTNERS

The recipients of the grants were chosen in January with distribution of funding commencing this month.

Dr Sarah Maguire SYDNEY S Madden, M Cunich	The implementation of an evidence-based treatment in the hospital-to-community pathways for children & adolescents with anorexia nervosa
Associate Professor Angela Webster WESTERN K Sud, E O'Lone, K McCaffery, H Shepherd, D Muscat	Supporting culturally-diverse adults with Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) to engage in shared decision making successfully (Phase II)
Professor Barbara Fazekas de St Groth SYDNEY S Kao, S Clarke, N Pavlakis, R Hui, D Karikios	Predicting response to checkpoint therapy in lung cancer patients PROSPER – delivering affordable genomic testing for improved cancer outcomes in disadvantaged Australian populations
Dr Dinny Graham WESTERN Christine Clarke, Phuong Dinh, Elisabeth Elder, Nirmala Pathmanathan	PROSPER – delivering affordable genomic testing for improved cancer outcomes in disadvantaged Australian populations
Professor David Hunter NORTHERN	OACChangeMap: Moving from best practice models of osteoarthritis care to system level implementation and impact
Professor Jacob George WESTERN G McCaughan	Maximising Cures for HCV in Marginalised Communities
Professor Jonathan Morris NORTHERN	Does real time data reduce clinical variation and improve patient outcome in acute chest pain?
Professor Madeleine King SYDNEY M Tinsley, C Rutherford, R Speerin, A Butcher, L Soars	Enablers and barriers to implementing patient reported measures to improve patient self-management and behaviour change, clinical care and health services
Professor Nicholas Wood CHILDRENS T McGee, S Chua, M Nicholl, R Ogle, J Hyett	Efficacy and safety of vaccination in “at risk” pregnant women and impact on infant immune responses to vaccines
Professor Robyn Jamieson CHILDRENS	Genomic Eye Medicine Initiative (GEM) Initiative – translate genomics testing for genetic eye disease developed through research into the clinical setting at 4 participating hospitals.
Professor Sarah Hilmer NORTHERN D Le Couteur	Polypharmacy in the Elderly – caregivers at discharge from acute geriatric services about ceasing to use inappropriate medications identified during their hospital stay.
Professor Tim Shaw SYDNEY	Using EHR data to drive translation of evidence into practice and improve cancer care provided by teams and individuals
Professor Jonathan Morris NORTHERN M Nicholl, T McGee, I Alahakoon, T Nippita, J Ford	Are we there yet? Optimising timing of planned birth to improve newborn outcomes and reduce health service costs
Professor Clara Chow WESTERN G Figtree, L Kritharides	Cardiology Rapid Access Clinics – an outpatient management pathway for patients presenting to Emergency Department with chest pain, providing quick evaluation, investigations and management in a specialised outpatient setting.

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR SYDNEY HEALTH PARTNERS

SHP has commenced consultation on the development of a strategic plan.

Since being accredited by the National Health and Medical Research Council in 2015 as an Advanced Health Research and Translation Centre (AHTRC), SHP has been granted over \$2 million by Medical Research Futures Fund, almost all of which has already been allocated to translational research projects across the partnership.

In addition, SHP has collaborated with fellow AHTRCs and Centres for Innovation in Regional Health on several national projects. These projects aim to support the development of national frameworks in four main areas: health services research; vulnerable populations and especially Indigenous Australians; better health through data harmonisation and linkage; and community and consumer involvement.

SHP Executive Director Garry Jennings says that after a busy establishment period, the development of a strategic plan will focus SHP's priorities and optimise its potential. "Sydney Health Partners is unique, in that it can leverage partnerships to influence change and inform local and national agendas," he said. "Our partnership has the potential to contribute towards educational and capacity building activities, to develop new research collaborations and networks, and to promote NSW as a world class hub for translational research. The potential is limitless.

"We invite our partners to participate actively in this process."



The development of a strategic plan will focus SHP's priorities and optimise its potential



Professor Garry Jennings



NEW SENIOR APPOINTMENTS BUILD CAPACITY AT SHP

Sydney Health Partners has taken an important step in its development with the appointment of two key staff members.

Aisling Forrest has taken the new role of Chief Operating Officer with responsibility for implementing systems and processes, which will ensure the requirements of the organisation, its partner organisations and the MRFF are being met, facilitating the steadfast growth of SHP.

Aisling has worked in NSW Health for 13 years and was most recently the Manager, Registries and Data Collection at the Cancer Institute NSW.

Mark Mathot is the new Media and Communications Manager for SHP. A seasoned journalist and PR consultant, Mark spent the last four years promoting the health and medical research achievements of the Westmead precinct, working with the Westmead Institute, the Western Sydney Local Health District, and the Westmead Redevelopment.



Aisling Forrest

IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE PROJECT COMMENCES

Nicole Rankin has joined Sydney Health Partners to build capacity within the partnership in the emerging discipline of implementation science.

Dr Rankin, who is a Senior Research Fellow at the Cancer Council of New South Wales, is an implementation scientist with an extensive background in cancer control, including translation of evidence into practice and policy, psycho-oncology, qualitative research and clinical practice guideline development.

Implementation science is best described as the scientific study of how to implement research evidence into clinical practice. It has arisen from the growing evidence that much of the research outcomes produced are not successfully translated into clinical practice for a range of behavioural, organisational and practical reasons.

In 2016, Dr Rankin was awarded an international fellowship in the Mentored Training in Dissemination and Implementation Research in Cancer (MT-DIRC) program at Washington University in St Louis



Dr Nicole Rankin

“THE KIDS” NEW CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTRE OPENS AT WESTMEAD

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian and Health and Medical Research Minister Brad Hazzard, officially opened the Clinical Research Centre at The Children’s Hospital at Westmead on March 12.

Based within Kids Research, the \$10.6 million Clinical Research Centre (CRC) was constructed as part of the Westmead Redevelopment project and is a purpose built paediatric clinical trials facility that is expected to significantly improve medical treatment for children and young people.

Welcoming 1000 children annually, the CRC will allow access to novel therapies and innovative research in a safe, family-friendly environment. For clinicians, it provides the facilities and resources to support active engagement in research and the translation of interventions from bench to bedside.

Researchers from across NSW will have access to the new Centre, where clinical research into the prevention and management of childhood diseases across a range of therapeutic areas is conducted. These areas include allergy and immunology, respiratory, rheumatology, diabetes and endocrinology, obesity, neurology, developmental disorders and psychology.

The facility itself features 13 outpatient spaces, the NSW Paediatric Gait Analysis Laboratory, a multi-purpose clinical assessment room, interactive kids zone and parents lounge, pathology specimen laboratory and a clinical trials pharmacy.



Opening of the Clinical Research Centre at The Children's Hospital at Westmead



UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

The Medical Research Future Fund is growing, and with it the opportunities for medical researchers.

The Commonwealth Government has announced it will fund a third National Mission. Following the \$100M brain cancer mission announced last year – and the foreshadowed genomics and precision medicine mission – the MRFF will fund the Million Minds Mental Health Mission. This will address mental health challenges including specific issues relating to youth, Indigenous and elderly mental health.

The MRFF has also announced that it will make \$2.5 million available as part of the first-ever national approach to combat endometriosis. Grant applications will be sought in the coming months from research projects which improve the treatment and diagnosis of endometriosis.

1. **Low Survival Cancers and Diseases**

The MRFF opened the Low Survival Cancers and Diseases (LSCD) Grant Opportunity on March 7. Applicants must propose a single clinical trial that aims to improve survival rates for Australians with a low survival cancer or other disease. Applications will close at 5pm AEST on April 18 and details can be found [here](#).

2. **Translational Program Grants for cancer research**

The Cancer Institute NSW and Cancer Council NSW have agreed to fund world-class translational research in NSW through a joint call for Translational Program Grant (TPG) applications. Offering a joint funding opportunity will minimise the workload for the cancer research community and make more funding available for the program grants.

The TPG provides five-year funding to support multi-disciplinary approaches to cancer research that will rapidly translate research discoveries into clinical programs and policy. Funding is to a maximum of \$750,000 per annum x 5 years per application.

Applications are open to members of the Translational Cancer Research Centres. Expressions of interest will open on March 22 and close at noon on May 31.

Find out more about the TPG at: <https://www.cancerinstitute.org.au/data-research/grants/open-grants>

3. **ACI Research Grants Scheme**

The NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation has invited applications to its 2018 Research Grants Scheme, with funding totalling \$100,000 on offer.

The funding, of up to \$20,000 per project, is for translational projects and cross-network projects spanning more than one ACI Clinical Network, Taskforce or Institute.

For details go to <https://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/make-it-happen/research>

Applications should be sent to ivana.goluza@health.nsw.gov.au by COB April 6.

4. **Sydney Research Awards and scholarship program**

Our colleagues at Sydney Research are invitation applications for their 2018 Research Awards and Scholarship Program, designed to celebrate and encourage research excellence across our partnership. The Awards and Scholarships are presented at the annual Sydney Innovation and Research Symposium on Friday, June 22 at Australian Technology Park.

continued over

UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Applications/Nominations are accepted for the following categories:

- Research Excellence Award: Overall best publication in a high impact journal in the previous twelve months.
- Young Researcher Award: Outstanding performance as an Early Career Researcher (up to five years post PhD)
- Research Supervisor Award: Outstanding effort as a postgraduate research supervisor.
- Annual Health Research Infrastructure Award: To assist with the purchase, installation, maintenance and hire or lease of equipment
- Clinician Researcher Scholarship: Designed to encourage and support clinicians seeking to pursue a clinical research career
- Health Informatics Research Scholarship: To encourage research into how health information and communication technology to improve delivery of care and outcomes for patients

Visit the Sydney Research website for more information and to download application forms.

All applications must be submitted to SLHD-SydneyResearch@health.nsw.gov.au and received by 5.00pm (AEDT) on April 5.

5. **The Big Idea**

This innovation challenge provides pre-seed funding to recognise and progress very early stage ideas with commercial potential and to improve the commercial opportunities available

The winner(s) of the Big Idea will be awarded up to \$45,000 from Sydney Local Health District and the University of Sydney as a one-off grant to enable progression of the idea. Applications must be received by COB, April 3. [Click here for details.](#)

6. **2018 Discovery Fast Track Australian Challenge**

Researchers are invited to apply to win up to \$75,000 to collaborate with GSK scientists. The program aims to discover new compounds against targets for which there is a strong therapeutic rationale that modulation will have benefit in patients with unmet medical needs.

For further details: <http://openinnovation.gsk.com/challenge-australia.html>

