

Jodi McKay

Minister for Tourism
Minister for the Hunter
Minister for Science and Medical Research
Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)



Tuesday 7 July, 2009

\$23 million boost for cancer research in NSW

Cancer research in NSW is set to receive a boost with \$23 million in new funding announced today as part of the NSW Government's strategy to prevent cancer and improve cancer survival rates.

Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) Jodi McKay said 82 cancer researchers and specialists will receive grants of up to \$1.8 million towards cancer research initiatives across the State.

"This funding will help NSW remain at the forefront of international efforts to better understand, prevent and treat cancer," Ms McKay said.

"More than \$16 million in funding will be allocated to projects commencing immediately with a further \$7.6 million to be awarded in September."

Ms McKay said over the past decade cancer research in NSW has led to better treatment, improved surgical techniques and earlier detection of cancer in sufferers, contributing to a state-wide decline in mortality rates.

"Cancer death rates have declined 14 per cent in men and 8 per cent in women over the past decade," Ms McKay said.

"The NSW Government's support for excellence and innovation in cancer research and treatment will help sustain this downward trend."

Ms McKay said cancer still remains the biggest single cause of premature death in NSW, with one in two men and one in three women likely to be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime.

"We are providing researchers in NSW with the support they need in order to make their ideas a reality."

Ms McKay highlighted the work of Professor Glenn Marshall and his team at the Children's Cancer Institute Australia as a prime example of the breakthroughs being made in cancer research in NSW.

Professor Marshall has previously received \$3.4 million from the NSW Government in 2005 and his research team has gone on to identify specific proteins that lead to the development of child cancers, such as neuroblastoma - a cancer in immature nerve cells that mainly affects infants.

"Professor Marshall's team have now developed new anti-cancer drugs which can target these proteins and inhibit the growth of identified tumours," Ms McKay said.

"This funding will ensure laboratory breakthroughs like Professor Marshall's are translated from laboratory discovery directly into practical treatment options for patients, helping to ease the burden of cancer across the State."

Minister for Roads and Member for Maroubra Michael Daley congratulated Professor Michelle Haber AM, Executive Director Children's Cancer Institute Australia who will receive \$330,000 to build a team capable of managing a new, world-class drug discovery facility never before seen in Australia.

"Professor Haber's work is cutting edge and is a national first," Mr Daley said.

"It will allow discoveries made by NSW's leading cancer researchers to be rapidly translated into potential new drug treatments.

"I am pleased the NSW Government is able to support Professor Haber's research through this grant funding process.

"I've also spent a lot of time at the Sydney Children's Hospital so it's fantastic to see patients at this facility benefiting from these types of cancer research.

"As someone with young children, I particularly appreciate the amazing work they do," Mr Daley said.

Grant recipients were selected by an independent Grants Review Committee for research into a wide range of cancers.

Ms McKay encouraged cancer experts throughout NSW to apply for grants totalling \$7.6 million in the next round of Cancer Institute funding.

Applications for the next round of funding are currently open until Friday 7 August.

A full list of grant recipients follows.

For further details on the NSW Government's cancer research funding program visit www.cancerinstitute.org.au .

Media contact: Hayley Thomas 0427 299 446

Grant Recipients

COOPERATIVE CLINICAL TRIALS INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS			
Recipient	Project Title	Administering Institution	Funding
John Simes	Development and operational support for AGITG and ANZGOG through the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre: A NSW-led initiative.	University of Sydney	\$1,745,788
Martin Stockler	Development and operational support for lung, prostate, urogenital, and brain cancer trials at the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre: A NSW-led initiative.	University of Sydney	\$925,917
Val GebSKI	Biostatistics, quality assurance and data systems for cancer clinical trials	University of Sydney	\$1,757,469
Meera Agar	NSW Palliative Care Clinical trials Collaborative Research Group	University of New South Wales	\$528,507
Geoff McCowage	Developing the collaborative capacity for paediatric cancer clinical trials.	The Children's Hospital at Westmead	\$697,387

RESEARCH EQUIPMENT GRANTS			
Recipient	Project Title	Administering Institution	Funding
Katharina Gaus	Molecular microscopy for cancer cell biology	University of New South Wales	\$500,000
Barbara Fazekas de St Groth	Next generation high speed cell sorter for cytometry and imaging facility	University of Sydney	\$760,000
Phillip Robinson	A superior mass spectrometry system for ultra-sensitive cancer phosphoproteomics	Children's Medical Research Institute	\$979,371
Des Richardson	PALM Microbeam Laser Microdissection (LM) Microscope for the Multi-User Sydney Cancer Gene Expression Facility	University of Sydney	\$632,578
Mark Raftery	Orbitrap XL mass spectrometer with Electron Transfer Dissociation and multidimensional LC for Cancer proteomics and protein phosphorylation research projects.	University of New South Wales	\$952,471

RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS			
Recipient	Project Title	Administering Institution	Funding
Roger Reddel	CellBank Australia	Children's Medical Research Institute	\$660,000
Peter O'Brien	TROG Cancer Research: Improving treatments for patients with cancer through international clinical trials	Calvary Mater Newcastle	\$657,000
Christine Clarke	Breast Cancer Tissue Bank - data collection and management infrastructure.	University of Sydney	\$450,000
Mathew Vadas	Manager Imaging and Cytometry and Imaging Specialist for expanded Centenary Institute flow and imaging facility	University of Sydney	\$330,000
Andrew Biankin	Pancreatic Cancer Xenografts	Garvan Institute of Medical Research	\$330,000
Warren Kaplan	Infrastructure Support for the ACRF Genomics Bioinformatics Facility to Empower NSW Cancer Researchers	Garvan Institute of Medical Research	\$330,000
Susan Clark	Supporting NSW Genome Research	Garvan Institute of Medical Research	\$330,000
Michelle Haber	Highly skilled staff to manage a new, world-class drug discovery facility	University of New South Wales	\$330,000
John Forbes	Funding for non-physical infrastructure to ensure the ANZ BCTG efficiently conducts collaborative, internationally relevant breast cancer clinical trials that benefit women in NSW.	University of Newcastle	\$330,000
Phyllis Butow	The Psycho-oncology Co-operative Research Group: conducting research into psychological needs and quality of life of people affected by cancer.	University of Sydney	\$330,000

RESEARCH SCHOLAR AWARDS			
Recipient	Project Title	Administering Institution	Funding
Thi Thu Cuc Bach	Understanding the core molecular events that underlie the spread of cancer cells throughout the body	The Children's Hospital at Westmead	\$50,000
Yong(Brian) Lee	Identifying signalling pathways involved in metastatic and chemoresistant prostate cancer.	Garvan Institute of Medical Research	\$62,500
Brian Stewart Gloss	Identification of Blood-based Markers for Early Ovarian Cancer Detection.	Garvan Institute of Medical Research	\$37,500

Teresa Bonello	Developing a new class of anti-cancer drugs for the treatment of neuroblastoma and melanoma.	University of New South Wales	\$60,500
Carole Abigail Harris	Targeted Cancer Therapies	University of New South Wales	\$62,500
Saul Bert	Mechanisms of Nuclear Deregulation in Cancer	University of New South Wales	\$62,500
Josh Stern	Factors that lead to unchecked growth in cancer cells: recruitment mechanisms for a key enzyme	University of Sydney	\$37,500
Sam Al-Sohaily	Biomarkers of prognosis and response to therapy in rectal cancer	Garvan Institute of Medical Research	\$37,500
Kip Dudgeon	Novel antibody therapeutics	Garvan Institute of Medical Research	\$37,500
Candice Grzelak	The Hedgehog pathway in the liver promotes cancer development	Centenary Institute of Cancer Medicine and Cell Biology	\$62,500
Jia (Jenny) Liu	Relationship between folate status and abnormal patterns of DNA methylation in bowel cancer	University of New South Wales	\$62,500
Tetsuo Yamagishi	Development of New Anti-Cancer Agents for Treatment of Leukaemia that Overcome Drug Resistance	University of Sydney	\$37,500
Rachel Dear (nee Shaw)	Development and evaluation of a consumer friendly cancer clinical trials web site	University of Sydney	\$32,500
Nethia Mohana Kumaran	Understanding and overcoming the drug resistance of melanoma	Centenary Institute of Cancer Medicine and Cell Biology	\$62,500
Mitchell O'Connell	Designer proteins as novel cancer detection and therapeutic agents	University of Sydney	\$62,500
Sarah Randall	Personalised chemotherapy for colorectal cancer	Macquarie University	\$62,500
Warwick Locke	Novel test for detection of breast cancer DNA in blood	Garvan Institute of Medical Research	\$62,500
Michelle Frances Maritz	Determining the best approach to reversing cancer cell immortality	University of New South Wales	\$61,500
Vivian Turner	Developing mouse models of multiple myeloma	Garvan Institute of Medical Research	\$62,500
Belinda Kiely	Estimating and Discussing Survival Times in patients with Incurable Cancer	University of Sydney	\$57,000

CLINICAL CONFERENCE GRANTS			
Recipient	Project Title	Administering Institution	Funding
Catherine Adams	IPOS - 11th World Congress of Psycho-Oncology	Hunter New England Area Health Service	\$ 5,000
Sharlyn Kang	13th World Conference on Lung Cancer 2009	South Eastern Sydney & Illawarra Area Health Service	\$ 5,000
Vinod Kumar Nelson	7th International Conference on Luminescent Detectors and Transformers of Ionising Radiation	Sydney South West Area Health Service	\$ 4,423
Jennifer Cohen	41st Congress of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology	South Eastern Sydney & Illawarra Area Health Service	\$ 5,000
Jessica Koehler	KConFab Familial Aspects of cancer: Research and Practice	South Eastern Sydney & Illawarra Area Health Service	\$ 1,324
Jane Maher	22nd International Congress of Lymphology	Sydney South West Area Health Service	\$ 1,175
Kahren White	Together! International Cultural Connections for Quality at the End of Life. Combining the 10th Australian Palliative Care Conference and the 8th Asia Pacific Hospice Conference	South Eastern Sydney & Illawarra Area Health Service	\$ 2,000
Joanne Cooper	Together! International Cultural Connections for Quality at the End of Life. Combining the 10th Australian Palliative Care Conference and the 8th Asia Pacific Hospice Conference	North Coast AHS	\$ 2,000

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS			
Recipient	Project Title	Administering Institution	Funding
Janet Tyler	Masters of Public Health		\$ 19,440
Vicky Papanikolaou (nee Giakoumidis)	Masters in Social Work Counselling (University of New South Wales)	South Eastern Sydney & Illawarra Area Health Service	\$ 15,360
Pharmila Sapkota	Master Degree in Cancer Nursing		\$ 13,920
Ling Wu	Graduate Certificate of Cancer Nursing at NSW College of Nursing		\$ 3,075
Julie Edwards	Master of Nursing - Nurse Practitioner Palliative Care		\$ 13,590

CLINICAL TRAINING FELLOWSHIPS			
Recipient	Project Title	Administering Institution	Funding

Sam Lung Sang Yuen	The role of microRNA in acute promyelocytic leukaemia.	Sydney South West Area Health Service	\$ 198,486
Angela Chou	A pathology fellowship with special emphasis on diagnosis of cancer of the thyroid, adrenal and pituitary glands with research into new ways to diagnose parathyroid cancer while it is still curable	North Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service	\$ 182,241
Meredith Johnston	Developing an Adaptive Radiation Therapy Program for Head and Neck Cancer, enabling radiotherapy plans to be modified according to changes in tumour volume and patient weight over the treatment course	North Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service	\$ 168,000
Susan Tiley	A training program in inherited cancers including a review of the testing procedures for families considered to be at high risk for bowel cancer, and an expansion of telehealth services to rural areas.	Sydney West Area Health Service	\$ 185,740

NSW REGISTRAR ADVANCED TRAINEE PROGRAM			
Recipient	Project Title	Administering Institution	Funding
Tom Shakespeare	An accredited Radiation Oncology advanced training registrar for the North Coast Cancer Institute - John Hunter Hospital (Newcastle) training collaboration	North Coast AHS	\$ 138,212
Paul Craft	Rural Advanced Trainee in Medical Oncology for SE NSW Based at The Canberra Hospital	Greater Southern AHS	\$ 133,044
C Soon Lee	Analysis for differentially expressed proteins in radiation sensitive and resistant rectal cancer cells	Sydney South West Area Health Service	\$ 132,211
Phillip Good	Application for ongoing funding for NSW Cancer Institute Advanced Trainee in Palliative Medicine at the Calvary Mater Newcastle	Hunter New England Area Health Service	\$ 138,212
Ehtesham Abdi	Advance Trainee in Medical Oncology The Tweed Cancer Care Centre	North Coast Area Health Service	\$ 149,313

CLINICAL STUDY GRANTS			
Recipient	Project Title	Administering Institution	Funding
Paul Reich	A site visit at the Stanford School of Medicine combined with attendance at the 2009 AAPM Summer School	North Coast AHS	\$ 8,444