

New Director for Prince Henry's Institute

Picture: Leader Newspapers



Following an international search, the Board of Prince Henry's Institute (PHI) has appointed Associate Professor Matthew Gillespie as its new Director.

Associate Professor Gillespie is currently an Associate Director at St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research in Melbourne. He has attained international recognition for his research into hormones, bone biology and cancer. He is a National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Principal Research Fellow.

The new Director said he was looking forward to building upon the strengths of PHI, and facilitating new strategic directions for the Institute.

"PHI is world renowned for its research in the areas of hormones and reproductive health, which impact upon cancer, cardiovascular risk, sex determination and upon the skeleton which is my area of research. PHI has an established history in clinical translation of its laboratory findings as well as commercialising many of these."

Associate Professor Gillespie will commence his new role at Prince Henry's Institute on 1 April 2008.



Support Ovarian Cancer Research

PHI invites you to attend alliance partner, Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation's Silver fashion event, part of L'Oreal Melbourne Fashion Festival Runway Deluxe, 6 March 2008, 8pm, tickets \$250 each.

Prestigious \$50 Silver Raffle Tickets are also available, with the opportunity to win valuable prizes. All proceeds from the raffle go to ovarian cancer research.

To purchase tickets, contact Helen Dower, OCRF, Ph 1300 OVARIAN (1300 682 742)

or email: helen@ocrf.com.au



Inside



Support R4R
Make a Pledge
Page 4



Support R4R
Bingo Night
Page 4



Research at a Glance
Just for You
Page 3

Fertile Award

Jock Findlay awarded AO

Professor Jock Findlay, Group Head of Female Reproductive Biology at PHI, has been awarded one of Australia's highest honours in recognition of his distinguished service to medical research.

Awarded with an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO), this is recognition of his achievements as a medical researcher, his contribution to the development of assisted reproductive treatments and also his involvement in national and international health programs.

Jock says this latest recognition was a "completely unexpected honour".

Jock joined PHI in 1979 and leads a team of dedicated researchers. A major theme of his research has been in understanding how fertility in women is related to the function of their ovaries, exploring how healthy eggs are stored and released.

Jock has published over 350 research papers and received multiple awards and accolades for his work. He was made a member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2001.

His research has led to a shift in understanding how hormones have local effects on the body including the production of eggs. Jock's work has also contributed to the development of improved IVF procedures.



The group's current research aims to develop new infertility treatments, better contraceptive choices for women and to provide new leads to understanding and treating ovarian cancer.

And the winner is...

Amanda Rickard receives the Quantum Student Award



PhD researcher Amanda Rickard has won the competitive 2007 Quantum Award for Scientific excellence.

The award is open to PHI students and recognises Amanda's research findings which she presented in May 2007 at the 33rd International Aldosterone Conference Toronto, Canada.

4 years ago, following an undergraduate degree in Townsville, Amanda was picking grapes in a Yarra Valley winery and was undecided about her next career step. Whilst working in the Yarra Valley it was

a chance encounter with Professor John Funder, PHI Deputy Director at the time, that inspired her to pursue a career in medical research rather than as a representative for a pharmaceutical company or even becoming a ski instructor.

Her decision to dedicate herself to science at the bench, commence a PhD at PHI and pursue a hard working approach have led to an impressive body of findings and awards for such a young researcher.

The research, under the supervision of Dr Morag Young, is identifying some of the different factors responsible for inflammation and permanent scarring of the heart, a serious condition which can lead to heart failure and death. In all its forms, heart disease affects some 3.7 million Australians.

Amanda usually gets up at 5am to jog along the Melbourne Bay esplanade and spends her days in the lab exploring how the combination of salt and hormones can lead to inflammation and permanent

damage to the heart. She has been able to target one of the four cell types within the heart and demonstrate how, if this cell is modified in the laboratory, the inflammation and damage can be halted.

Whilst there are already several drugs on the market which are used to treat and prevent this heart condition, Amanda's work brings closer the possibility that more targeted treatments may be developed with fewer side effects.



Gavin Williams, National Sales & Marketing Manager of Quantum Scientific, presenting the award.

Boost for Men's Trial

Testosterone Clinical Trial

PHI Researcher, Dr Carolyn Allan, was recently featured on Channel 7 News and also spoke to Kochie and Natalie on the Channel 7 Sunrise breakfast show about a clinical trial looking to boost the testosterone levels of older men.



All women will go through menopause but not all men will have a fall in testosterone levels. PHI researcher, Dr Carolyn Allan says that "men's testosterone levels fall gradually by about 1% a year from the age of 30 onwards. About 1 in 10 men over the age of 60 have low testosterone levels and there may be a real medical benefit in boosting their testosterone levels."

It's estimated a quarter of a million Australian men over 55 have low testosterone levels and most don't know it. This could be a reason they're losing muscle tone and gaining fat around the middle. Other symptoms of low

testosterone include irritability, mood swings, poor concentration, reduced energy levels and a lower sex drive.

Studies have also shown a link between low testosterone and heart disease, diabetes and early risk of death. PHI researchers are looking at the effect of testosterone on fat mass and muscle strength.

One of the volunteers taking part in the study is 55 year old, Port Melbourne businessman Terry Wicks. He's among sixty Melbourne men who volunteered to take part in a testosterone trial, which involved monthly injections to determine whether this kind of hormone replacement therapy can help men.

Preliminary trial results have already shown that those men given testosterone kept muscle tone and were less likely to gain weight.

However, the results have not been finalised. Scientists now believe a hit of testosterone may well be able to slow down the symptoms. Dr Carolyn Allan says that "for some men, there is no doubt there is a role for testosterone therapy".

Visit www.princehenrys.org to download factsheets or call PHI on 03 9594 4372

Research at a Glance Just for You

12 new factsheets are available about the research undertaken by PHI scientists. They are easy to read and available now.

Topics include:

- Male Fertility
- Female Fertility
- Breast Cancer
- Ovarian Cancer
- Menstruation
- Pregnancy
- New Contraceptives
- Ageing and Hormones
- Obesity
- Cardiovascular Disease
- Diabetes
- Sex Determination



Ride for Reproduction

R4R 2008

12 cyclists from PHI are taking up the challenge to raise research funds by enduring a gruelling cycle relay of 520 km from Echuca to Port Fairy.

This is the third year a PHI team has taken part in the event and our target this year is to raise \$50,000. With 1 in 8 Australian couples having difficulty conceiving a child naturally, it's clear that new treatments and strategies are needed to help these couples realise their dreams. All monies raised will support PHI's research programs to make a difference and you can be part of this.



Support R4R 2008 – Make a Pledge

If you'd like to inspire our riders and crew to keep going by making a pledge of support, please look out for the enclosed Ride for Reproduction BINGO FUNdraising Night order form where you can **nominate a gift of support or contact PHI on 03 9594 4372.**

Support R4R 2008 – Enjoy a Night Out Saturday 15th March, 2008

Join us for a light hearted night out at our BINGO FUNdraising Night at the Royal South Yarra Lawn Tennis Club, Saturday March 15th, 2008. It will be a night of fun and frivolity, as we chime up with Bingo, bid up on an intriguing Mystery Box and delight in the items for sale in our Silent Auction. There's more surprises in store with entertainment and prizes to be won on the night. Tickets are \$25 and go on sale Monday 18th February. Preorder your tickets using the enclosed order form or contact PHI.

Davies Collison Cave Rally for Reproduction

The 2008 Davies Collison Cave Rally for Reproduction provided a great day out at the tennis for over 120 friends (new and old) of PHI.

Congratulations to our two competition winners – Mr Damon Henshaw of Davies Collison Cave – winner of the dining experience prize, and Mr Tony Grosso of White & Grosso – winner of the Lanson magnum signed by tournament winner Andy Roddick.

Our principle sponsor, Davies Collison Cave, is one of Australia's leading life-science patent attorney firms and provides PHI with critically important service to safeguard our intellectual property. We were pleased to accept a cheque for \$10,000 from Davies Collison Cave, whose vision to supporting medical research is inspiring our researchers. Our thanks also to all the friends who supported the Davies Collison Cave Rally for Reproduction, together we raised just over \$13,500 for PHI reproductive research.

Thank you

A special thank you to our donors:

Estate of Helen Louise Edwards,
Mrs P Donges, Mrs J MacLean,
P&M Harbig (Holdings) Pty Ltd,
Wade Educational & Legal
Consultancies Pty Ltd.

We are also delighted to receive donations from:

Mrs V Berry, Mr T Campbell,
Dr Peter Ferwerda, Ms J Fisher,
Prof Peter Fuller, Mr Michael
Geraghty, Miss D Gittins,
Mrs C Marley, Dr G Medley,
Ms S Perelstein, Mr A Polglase,
Mr & Mrs B Randall, Mr E Russell,
Dr W Varney.

Thanks to our valued Sponsors:

Supporting PHI Reproductive Research are: Davies Collison Cave (Davies Collison Cave Rally for Reproduction 2008), Boom Logistics (Ride for Reproduction 2008), Collins Simms (Ride for Reproduction 2008), Ckaos Ink Pty Ltd (Ride for Reproduction 2008).



DAVIES COLLISON CAVE
PATENT AND TRADE MARK ATTORNEYS



Photo: Mark Roberts, Davies Collison Cave hands over a cheque for \$10,000 to PHI Acting Director Dr Jane Glatz.