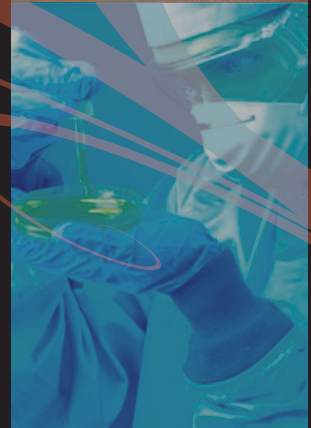
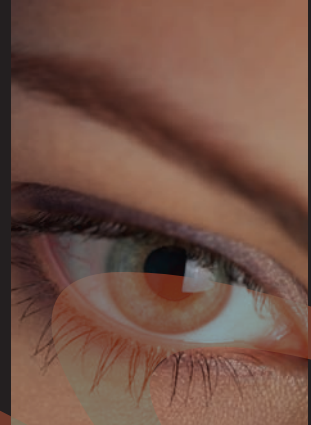




Australian Government

National Health and
Medical Research Council



*NHMRC Awards for Excellence
in Health and Medical Research*

Excellence...

NHMRC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Professor Rinaldo Bellomo
Austin Hospital

Professor Bellomo is passionate about the intensive care area and the role of clinical science in increasing the number of lives we save. He develops treatments that are effective and demonstrate that they work by conducting appropriately designed and rigorous multicentre trials that will change practice for the better.

He is involved in numerous teams including clinical trials at the Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Research Centre; developing experiments to identify new therapies at the Florey Institute; kidney research at the Brain Research Institute, and advancing clinical trial outcomes at the Austin Hospital.



Professor Terry Speed
Walter and Eliza Hall Institute

Forty years ago, biologists collected data in their notebooks, and if they needed help in analysing and interpreting it, they would pass a piece of paper with numbers on it.

Now, in contemporary biology (and many other areas), new technologies generate data whose quantity and complexity stretches our computers and our imagination. Genome sequencing, genechips, mass spectrometers and a host of other technologies are becoming essential research tools. Databases are filling with information vital to biomedical research.

Scientists need help in harnessing this revolution in data availability, and bioinformatics is the art and science of providing that help.



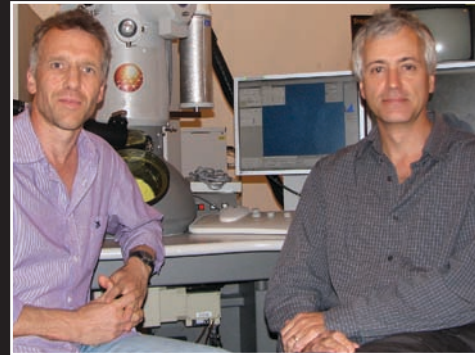
Professor Iain McGregor
University of Sydney

Professor McGregor is a scientist who specialises in studying the effects of drugs on the brain and behaviour.

Australia leads the world in the consumption of drugs such as ecstasy and methamphetamines.

He investigates how drugs influence the brain function to produce their short-term euphoric effects; how their long-term use can lead to addiction; increased vulnerability of mental illness and associated long-term changes in brain function.

He aims to transform our understanding of drug abuse and to energise the search for new treatments to assist the millions of Australians who struggle with addictions and addiction-related disease.



Professor Robert Parton and Professor John Hancock
University of QLD

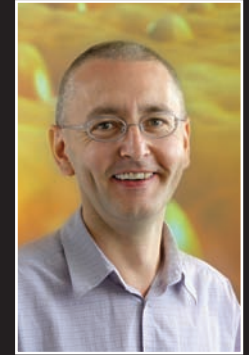
Professor Hancock is the Deputy Director (Research) at the Institute for Molecular Bioscience (IMB) and is interested in understanding the basic biology of Ras proteins.

Professor Parton is the lead researcher on cell surface in health and disease with the Molecular Cell Biology Group at the IMB and is interested in the organisation, dynamics and functions of the plasma membrane.

The overall aim of this research program is to dissect the function and composition of specific plasma membrane assemblies – including Ras signalling domains and caveolae.

Ras, the focus of Professor Hancock's work, is among the most intensively studied signalling proteins because of its oncogenic role in ~30% of all human tumours. Caveolae, small surface pits studied for many years by Professor Parton, have been linked to lipid regulation, transformation, and muscular dystrophy.

NHMRC SCIENCE TO ART AWARD



A/Professor Brian Cooke
Monash University

Malaria remains the worst and most widespread human parasitic disease. Over 40 per cent of the world's population is at constant risk of infection.

Associate Professor Cooke's studies aim to characterise parasite proteins that cause severe and fatal malaria in humans and to identify vulnerabilities in the parasite that would be good targets for new and urgently required drugs and vaccines.

In the longer term, his work could help to save millions of lives each year by preventing the deadly toll of this human scourge.

THE INAUGURAL NHMRC
AWARDS RECOGNISE
OUTSTANDING AUSTRALIANS
FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS
AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN HEALTH
AND MEDICAL RESEARCH AND
HEALTH ETHICS.

NHMRC OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION AWARD



**Sr Regis Mary
Dunne AO RSM**

Sr Regis started her professional career as a microbiologist and was one of the first to introduce cytogenetics into a laboratory. She has extensive experience as an ethicist, and geneticist and was the former Director of the Queensland Bioethics Centre.

Sr Regis is an outstanding Australian who has made innumerable contributions to medical research and clinical practice through her work as a member of many Human Research Ethics Committees, the NHMRC's Medical Research Committee, the NHMRC Australian Health Ethics Committee and as a member of the NHMRC Gene and Related Therapies Research Advisory panel.



Mr Peter Wills AC

Peter Wills is widely acknowledged as a leader in the Australian development industry. Peter served as Chairman of The Garvan Institute and Director of The Garvan Research Foundation.

He chaired the committee that delivered the *Wills Report* in 1999 and was instrumental in bringing medical research to the attention of the media and increasing funding for Australian science. He was also a key player in several Federal Government committees that developed the National Biotechnology Strategy in 1991 and Australia's Innovation Statement in 2001.

In 2001 the Peter Wills Bioinformatic Centre was established at The Garvan, in recognition of his enormous contribution.

NHMRC ETHICS AWARD



**A/Professor
Sandra Egger
UNSW**

Associate Professor Egger established the first NHMRC recognised Human Research Ethics Committee in Australia that dealt with health research and prisoners in 1994.

Compared with the general community, the health of prisoners is poor with high levels of infectious diseases, mental illness and other health risk factors. High quality and ethical health research is as important to the well being of prisoners as to any other section of the community.

The excellent research ethics collection and framework provided by the NHMRC has been an invaluable support for our work as prisoners constitute one of the most disadvantaged and stigmatised groups in society.



**Dr Teresa Iacono
Monash University**

Dr Iacono's passion has always been to find effective strategies for people with severe communication impairment to experience meaningful interactions and improve their quality of life.

Her research interests have evolved as a result of blending research with clinical and educational activities. It encompasses the acquisition of reading skills, physical and mental health, ageing and ethical considerations of involving people with developmental disability in research.

Excellence...

NHMRC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Dr Jane Oliaro
Peter MacCallum
Cancer Centre

Dr Oliaro's aim is to understand how lymphocyte polarity (or shape) is regulated, and how lymphocytes respond to conflicting signals during an immune response.

She is particularly interested in how pathogens can redirect the polarity of an immune cell so that it can no longer respond appropriately during an immune response. Her work represents a critical step towards our understanding of how pathogens, such as the measles virus, can suppress immune function.

Ultimately, Dr Oliaro hopes that her research will allow the development of more effective treatments for infectious diseases and cancer.



Dr Rebecca Ivers
The George
Foundation

Over the past five years, Dr Ivers has built a research program that aims to shape health and transport-related policy, particularly in the field of road traffic injury prevention. Her research, which spans Australia and developing countries in the Asia Pacific region, ranges from hypothesis-generating observational research to intervention research which has direct relevance to policy.

Current Australian projects include a cohort study of 20,000 novice drivers, a large case-control study of heavy-vehicle drivers and studies examining the effectiveness and use of motorcycle protective clothing. Dr Ivers is also developing new research work in the area of Indigenous road injury.



Dr Stephen Tong
Monash University

Dr Tong is an obstetrician and gynaecologist and currently a senior lecturer at Monash University. He hopes to undertake research that may result in improving future clinical care.

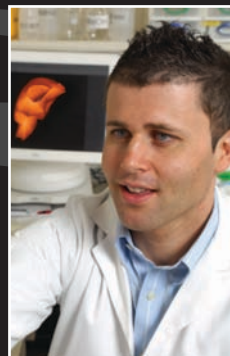
His research interests include biomarker discovery, twinning and early pregnancy events. He is also undertaking work designing short interfering RNAs that concurrently silence target genes and recruit the innate immune system. It is hoped that this might be developed into a novel class of drug to treat various diseases.



Professor
Louisa Degenhardt
UNSW

Professor Degenhardt conducts research on the epidemiology of illicit drug use and related morbidity, and on the comorbidity between drug use and mental disorders. She has examined the association between cannabis use and psychosis, the extent of heroin dependence and heroin overdoses in the community, and monitored the extent of harms related to methamphetamine and injecting drug use.

She has a highly regarded research output that has influenced policy and practice and is working with numerous national and international research groups, including a focus on research to conduct and compare the epidemiology of illicit drug use and related harm across the world.



Dr James Bourne
Monash University

By examining the development and maturation of the non-human primate cortex following birth, Dr Bourne hopes to discover how the brain adapts to recognise everyday objects and variables.

His work has challenged traditional hypotheses by examining whether the brain creates alternative routes during development to help with the formation of the multiple areas.

Dr Bourne's laboratory studies the physiological and anatomical bases of early damage to the visual functions of the brain. He hopes to learn how to switch these developmental mechanisms back on after a stroke or other brain injury, stimulating regeneration of vision.



Dr David Copland
University of QLD

Since receiving his PhD in 2000, Dr Copland has sought to understand the effects of neurological injury or disease on language and to shed light on the brain mechanisms underpinning language treatment and recovery.

He is internationally recognised for research that has significantly increased our understanding of the effects of stroke and neurodegenerative diseases on language and communication. He is also actively involved in training a large cohort of PhD students as future researchers in this area.

His current work seeks to map the brain mechanisms associated with language treatments and to identify how to optimise language function after neurological damage.