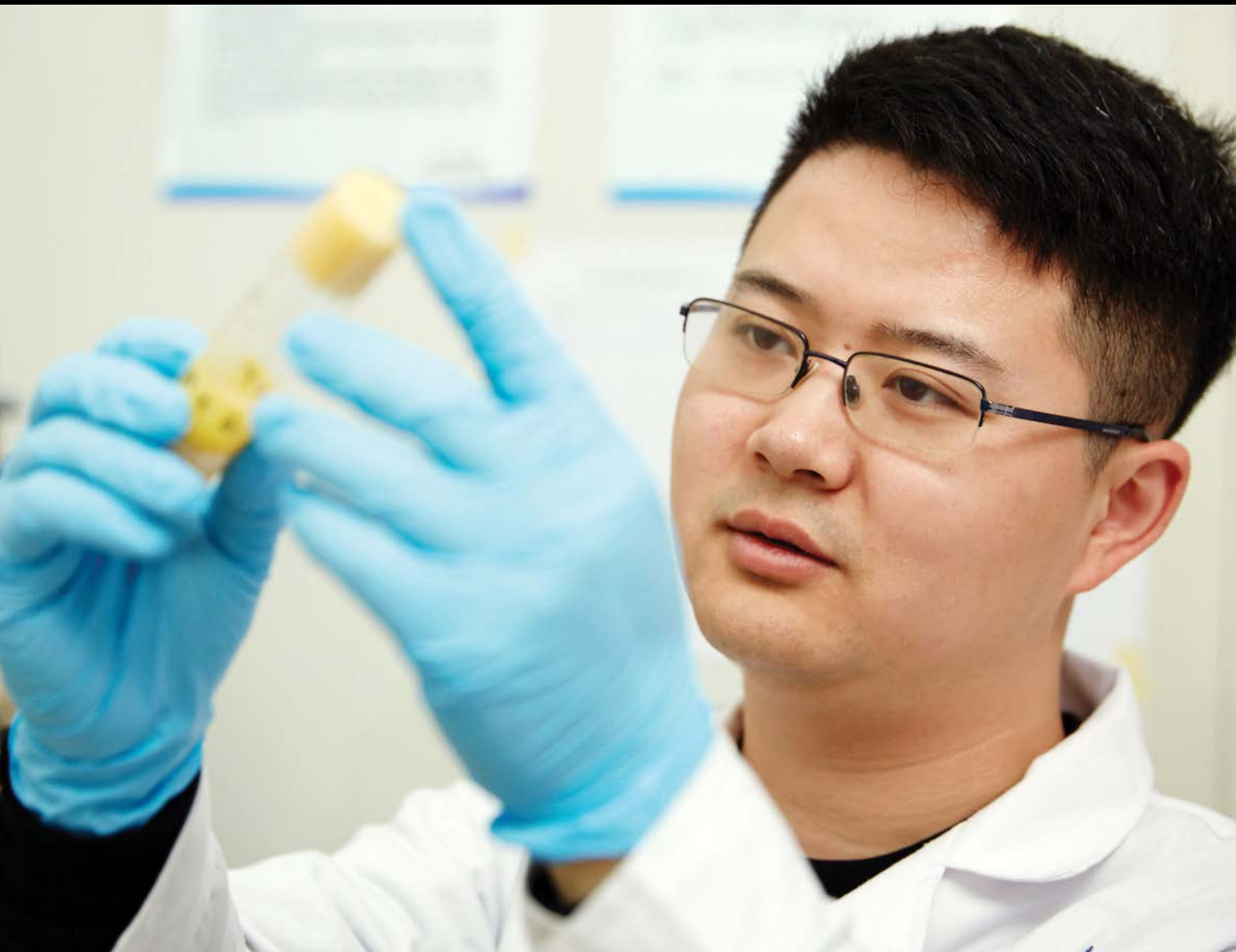


**ALZHEIMER'S  
AUSTRALIA  
DEMENTIA  
RESEARCH  
FOUNDATION  
ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2015-2016**



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# ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

## DEMENTIA IN AUSTRALIA

Dementia is the second leading cause of death in Australia and there is no cure. More than 413,106 Australians are living with dementia and without a medical breakthrough, this number is expected to rise to 1,100,890 people by 2056. Some 244 people in Australia are joining the population with dementia every day. Further, it is estimated that the costs of dementia in Australia is currently \$14.67 billion per year and may increase to \$36.85 billion a year by 2056.<sup>1</sup>

Researchers are developing improved techniques to better support people living with dementia and those involved in their care and are working hard to find ways to delay, prevent and ultimately find a cure for dementia. The major barriers to the development of new interventions and treatments in Australia are the lack of research capacity, funding and infrastructure and those willing to participate in research trials.

## ABOUT US

Alzheimer's Australia has been promoting dementia research, working with researchers and providing dementia research funding since its beginnings in the 1980s as a network of consumer support organisations.

The Alzheimer's Australia Dementia Research Foundation (AADRF) provides research funding for Australian researchers who are exploring the causes of dementia as well as strategies to improve prevention, diagnosis and treatment of this life limiting condition. The AADRF, with support from the Hazel Hawke Alzheimer's Research and Care Fund, also supports research aimed at improving dementia care.

The Foundation funds researchers across all stages of their careers, but maintains a particular focus on capacity building of new and early career researchers and students.

In the early days, Alzheimer's Australia provided small grants to support new researchers, and in 2000, three \$10,000 grants were awarded. In 2014, the AADRF awarded \$2.6 million in research funding, including scholarships, fellowships and project grants. This has been the largest allocation of funds made by the Foundation to date.

## OUR PURPOSE

- To support innovative Australian research that offers the best hope of defeating dementia.
- To work with people with dementia to ensure that research reflects their concerns.
- To disseminate information about the progress of dementia research.

## OUR WORK

The 2015 Dementia Grants Program provided competitive research funding worth approximately \$1 million, including project grants, travel fellowships, postgraduate scholarships and partnership awards. The recipients of research grant funding are integral to the future of dementia research in Australia.

Above all else, the AADRF and the dozens of researchers we fund could not do it without our dedicated supporters. All funding for the AADRF is donated by members of the public, private and philanthropic organisations. Some of our many supporters are featured in this Annual Report. We hope you enjoy their stories and we thank you for your continued support.

## OUR GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors and a Scientific Panel.

The AADRF Board of Directors is the major decision-making group for the Foundation. The Board is responsible for providing leadership and strategic direction, providing advice on funding opportunities, developing and providing oversight for the Foundation's strategy, and advising on the operation and financial position of the AADRF. Professor Graeme Samuel AC, President of Alzheimer's Australia, is the current Chair of the AADRF Board of Directors.

2015-16 meeting dates: 11 September 2015, 1 December 2015, 22 March 2016 and 7 June 2016.

The AADRF Scientific Panel is responsible for providing scientific input into the competitive grants rounds. The Panel is comprised of leading dementia researchers from across the country in the areas of biomedical and psychosocial sciences as well as two consumer representatives. The Scientific Panel: provides advice on the competitive grant rounds, including the scientific merit of applications; makes recommendations for successful award recipients; and advises on the breakdown of funding allocation. Professor James Vickers took up the position of Chair of the Scientific Panel in 2014.

2015-16 meeting dates: 14 September 2015, 30 November 2016 and 23 June 2016.

1 Alzheimer's Australia. Key Facts and Statistics 2017. Accessed from: <https://www.fightdementia.org.au/statistics>

# YEAR IN REVIEW



The AADRF continued to support new and early career dementia researchers in 2015 by awarding just over \$1 million worth of research grants, across 21 different scholarships, research projects and partnership awards.

Through the 2015 Dementia Grants Program, the AADRF awarded 13 projects

grants, six post graduate (PhD) scholarships and one travel fellowship. The Program attracted a large number of applications; 117 applications were received for the 20 awards available. The AADRF would like to make a special note of thanks to the many external reviewers who assisted our Scientific Panel in their review and selection of the best researchers to receive our awards. Some 105 leading dementia researchers gave their time voluntarily to assess proposals and provide valuable feedback to applicants.

This year also saw the AADRF partner with researchers from Queensland University of Technology, The University of Queensland and The Australian National University on a successful Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Project – a first for the AADRF. This is a 3-year project examining the links between cognitive changes and financial decision making in older adults. We anticipate that the findings will lead to better informed policy initiatives to protect older people and their family members from the risk of financial mismanagement.

The AADRF has been fortunate to receive support from increasing numbers of community fundraisers, industry partners, corporate donors, and charitable trusts. The AADRF has continued to work hard to maintain meaningful relationships with existing and new donors. This year, two project grants were supported through

new partnerships with the Cromwell Property Group Foundation and the Yulgilbar Foundation and additional PhD scholarships were funded through the generous support received from the Dementia Collaborative Research Centres. These scholarships encourage talented graduates to embark on a career in dementia research and are vital to building a skilled and passionate workforce in this field.

Increasing consumer involvement in research is a key objective of the AADRF. We encourage applicants to engage with people living with a diagnosis of dementia and those involved in their care as there are many mutual benefits that can be gained by talking to, and working closely with, consumers. Scientific Panel members Dr Jane Thompson and Mrs Christine Bryden continue to provide invaluable consumer input and to ensure that research reflects the needs of consumers, we awarded the Consumer-Priority PhD Scholarship in a key area identified by consumers – loss, bereavement and grief in dementia and the impact on the person with dementia, carers and families. Our Research Participation Portal hosted on the AADRF website also allows researchers to submit information on participating in their studies and consumers to search through a listing of research projects by state and territory. During 2015-16, over 20 new studies were listed on the Portal.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff from Alzheimer's Australia National Office and our partners and supporters. The contribution of all those involved in with the Foundation is greatly appreciated and vital to supporting innovative research in prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care of dementia.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Annette Moxey'.

**Dr Annette Moxey**  
**BA, GradDipHSocSci, PhD**  
**Manager, Alzheimer's Australia**  
**Dementia Research Foundation**

# CHAIR'S REPORT



Research needs bright and talented scientists and clinicians who are ready to combat the growing problem dementia poses to current and future generations of Australians. Our mission is to grow capacity in dementia research by promoting early career researchers and funding innovative Australian research into the prevention, diagnosis,

treatment and care of dementia. In 2015, the AADRFB awarded just over \$1 million worth of research grants, across 21 different scholarships, research projects and partnership awards.

It is not surprising that our strategy of encouraging, financially supporting and nurturing the next generation of researchers has yielded significant returns. This year, we saw the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and the Australian Research Council (ARC) join to support 76 early career researchers and provide \$43 million in funding through the NHMRC-ARC Dementia Research Development Fellowship scheme. We were delighted to see that 17 of our past fellows and project grant recipients received this most prestigious award. I congratulate our researchers on this significant career milestone.

The new NHMRC National Institute for Dementia Research (NNIDR) was announced last year, a key element of the Australian Government's \$200 million Boosting Dementia Research Initiative. Alzheimer's Australia continues to build their partnership with the NNIDR to prioritise, co-ordinate and translate the expansion of dementia research in Australia. We look forward to complementing the work of the NNIDR to ensure an integrated approach to supporting dementia research and that Australia continues as a world-leader in this field.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of our Board for their commitment and time throughout the year. I would also like to thank retiring Directors Dr Sean Maher, Professor John McKellar, Mr David Nathan, Dr Ron Sinclair, Dr Andrew Watt and, in particular, Scientia Professor Henry Brodaty who this year retired as Chair of AADRFB Board of Directors. Professor Brodaty's extraordinary level of commitment, foresight and passion for building research capacity and translating research into practice has played a significant role in the AADRFB becoming a major player in the field of dementia research in Australia. Professor Brodaty will continue his association with the AADRFB as its first Patron and join Ita Buttrose AO, OBE and Sue Pieters-Hawke in the important role of National Ambassador for Alzheimer's Australia.

I would also like to acknowledge the support and professionalism provided by Alzheimer's Australia National Office throughout the year.

The success of our Foundation is not possible without the generosity of donors. Partnerships with the AADRFB-Victoria, the Dementia Collaborative Research Centres, the Cromwell Property Group Foundation and the Yulgilbar Foundation enabled additional grants and scholarships to be offered in 2015. I thank you for your support and look forward to continuing our work with you in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Graeme Samuel'.

**Professor Graeme Samuel AC**  
**Chair, AADRFB Board of Directors**



# LONG SERVING AADRF DIRECTORS FAREWELLED



## SCIENTIA PROFESSOR HENRY BRODATY AO

Thirty years ago, a passionate academic doctor had a vision... for dementia research in Australia to thrive. That individual, Scientia Professor Henry Brodaty AO became the driving force behind what is today the AADRF.

After three decades at the helm of the AADRF, Professor Brodaty felt it was time to pass the baton and retire as Chair of the Board of Directors.

Professor Brodaty said back in 1984 the principles were simple, money raised for research should go to research.

"Australia was too small scientifically to support state-based research, so we would just have one pool and we wanted to encourage new researchers to the field of dementia. The Dementia Research Foundation started very small and with a committee of one (me), meetings were short!"

Professor Brodaty's extraordinary level of commitment, foresight and passion for building research capacity and

translating research into practice has played a significant role in the AADRF becoming a major player in the field of dementia research in Australia.

As well as heading up the AADRF, Professor Brodaty's illustrious career also includes Scientia Professor of Ageing and Mental Health, University of New South Wales; Consultant Psychogeriatrician, Aged Care Psychiatry; and Head of the Memory Disorders Clinic, Prince of Wales Hospital. He is the Director of the Dementia Collaborative Research Centre (Assessment and Better Care) and Co-Director of the Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing (CHeBA) at UNSW.

Professor Brodaty is immediate Past-President of International Psychogeriatric Association. He has served on several New South Wales and Commonwealth committees related to ageing and dementia. He is also the past Chairman of Alzheimer's Disease International, representing over 85 national Alzheimer Associations and past President of Alzheimer's Australia and Alzheimer's Australia (NSW). Publishing over 500 papers and book chapters, Professor Brodaty is on the editorial board of several journals and has been the recipient of a number of awards – most recently Henry was honoured with the prestigious Ryman Prize for 2016, in recognition of his three decades of tireless work in dementia research.

Professor Brodaty's lifetime achievements were recognised with the award of Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 2000. In 2013, his dedication to a lifetime of leadership, clinical excellence and research to improve the quality of life of people with dementia was recognised when he was honoured with the Lifetime Alzheimer's Australia Award.

It is with sincere gratitude and respect that we celebrate the role of Professor Brodaty as the original pioneer of the Foundation. We are pleased that he will continue his association with the AADRF as its first Patron and take on the important role of a National Ambassador for Alzheimer's Australia.





## **PROFESSOR JOHN MCKELLAR AM ED**

The AADRF also farewells Professor John McKellar AM ED, one of the Foundation's longest serving members. Professor McKellar has retired as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors, after some 16 years of dedication to the AADRF.

Professor McKellar joined the AADRF in 2000 as Alzheimer's Australia SA's member representative of the Foundation. Professor McKellar went on to become a Director in 2004 and Vice Chair in 2010.

Having helped establish the Rosemary Foundation in 1998, Professor McKellar was an advocate for the Rosemary Foundation Travel Fellowship, which enabled an Australian dementia researcher to travel and learn from some of the brightest minds overseas. These grants have supported the development of many early career researchers such as Dr Belinda Brown, NHMRC-ARC Dementia Research Development Fellow from Edith Cowan University, who was awarded a Rosemary Travel Fellowship in 2014 to visit The University of Pittsburgh in the U.S.

"This was a fantastic opportunity that helped me grow as a researcher in many ways. I have developed a collaboration with a fantastic team at the University of Pittsburgh, and we have numerous plans to continue our work together in the future.

"During my time at the University of Pittsburgh I was also trained in functional magnetic resonance imaging acquisition and analysis. I am currently in the process of having this imaging modality set-up in Perth, for use in our studies of ageing and Alzheimer's disease," Dr Brown said.

Some 21 Travel Fellowships and Research Grants (over \$165,000 worth of funding) have been awarded through the AADRF's Dementia Grants Program on behalf of the Rosemary Foundation since 2004.

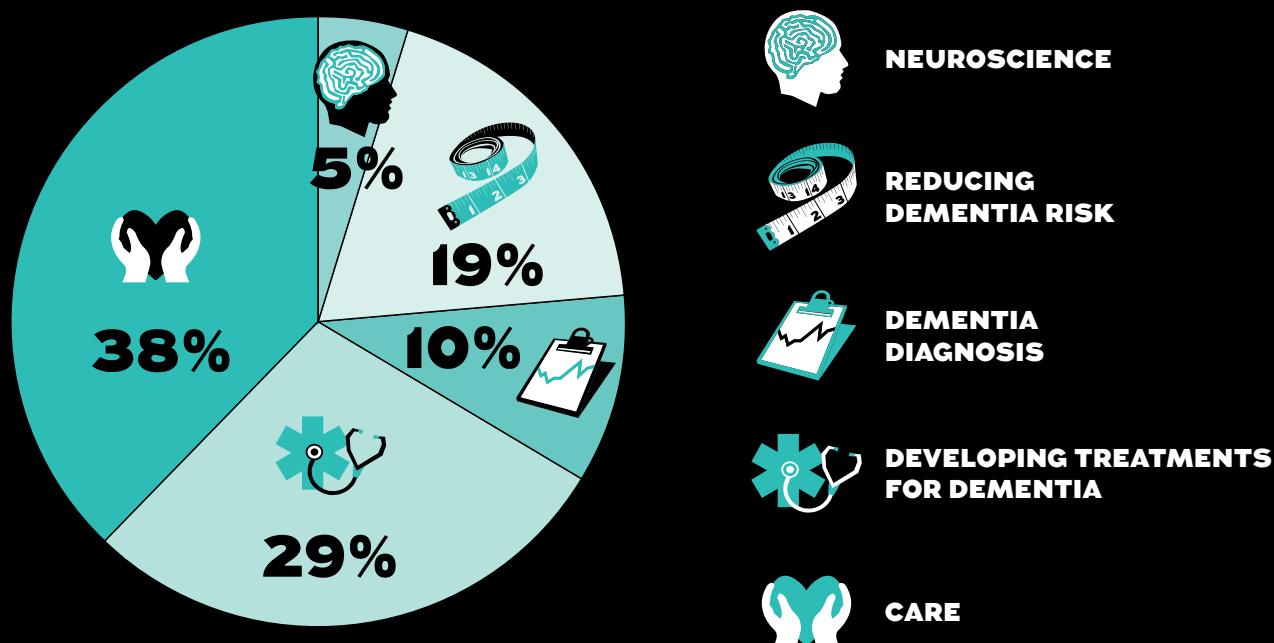
Professor McKellar joined Alzheimer's Australia SA in 1990 after his wife Elizabeth was diagnosed with early stage dementia. Over the years Professor McKellar has served on a number of Boards and Committees including the Alzheimer's Australia SA Board (President, 2000-2012), Alzheimer's Australia National Board (Vice-President, 2001-2004) and the Alzheimer's Australia SA Carer Advisory and Advocacy Committee (Chair, 2001-2009).

Professor McKellar is currently the Deputy Chair of the Rosemary Foundation, Deputy Chair of the National Board of the Order of Australia Association (and Chair of the South Australian Branch) and Deputy President of the Adelaide Universities Regiment Association.

Together with Professor Brodaty, and with almost 50 years of experience between them, Professor McKellar has made a significant contribution to the Foundation and has helped establish the AADRF as a substantial funder of new and emerging dementia researchers.

# 2015 DEMENTIA GRANTS PROGRAM: OUR RESEARCHERS

## 2015 DEMENTIA GRANTS PROGRAM BREAKDOWN



Through the 2015 Dementia Grants Program, 20 of Australia's best and brightest early career dementia researchers shared in almost \$1 million to conduct ground-breaking dementia research. The AADRF also partnered with researchers from the Queensland University of Technology, The University of Queensland and The Australian National University on a successful ARC Linkage Grant exploring the links between cognitive changes and financial decision making in older adults.

Although the AADRF supports research into the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of dementia, the majority of projects funded through the Dementia Grants Program for 2015 focused on ways to improve the care of people living with dementia and the support that families and carers receive.

## NEUROSCIENCE



**DR SHELLEY FORREST is a Post-doctoral Researcher at the Discipline of Pathology, Sydney Medical School, The University of Sydney.**

**Award:** The Rosemary Foundation Travel Fellowship

**Project Title:** Development of staging criteria to distinguish preclinical tauopathies from primary age-related tauopathy (PART).

**Project Snapshot:** The Rosemary Foundation Travel Fellowship will enable Shelley to present her research at the 10th International Conference on Frontotemporal Dementias in Munich, 2016. She will also spend time in the laboratory of prominent neuropathologist, Associate Professor Kovacs at the Institute of Neurology, Medical University of Vienna.

Associate Professor Kovacs is internationally recognised for his contributions in the neuropathology of normal ageing, diseases characterised by the deposition of a protein called tau such as frontotemporal dementia and Alzheimer's disease and other neurodegenerative diseases. He is a member of an international consortium that recently developed harmonised classification criteria for two novel tau-depositing pathologies.

Both of these newly classified tau pathologies have implications for defining 'normal' age-related changes in the brain, and tau-related mechanisms in frontotemporal dementia versus Alzheimer's disease. Visiting the Kovacs laboratory will provide Shelley with the opportunity to gain first-hand experience in the identification and characterisation of these novel pathologies, and broaden her knowledge of better-established tau pathologies.

## REDUCING DEMENTIA RISK



**DR NASSER BAGHERI** is a Research Fellow at The Australian National University (ANU), recipient of an Australian Research Council DECRA Fellowship and leads a spatial epidemiology team in the Department of Health Services Research and Policy, ANU.

**Award:** BB & A Miller Research Grant for the Lifestyle Prevention of Dementia

**Project Title:** Hotspots of dementia risk in Australian communities: An approach to better targeting preventive interventions.

**Project Snapshot:** Chronic illnesses such as dementia, diabetes and cardiovascular disease are predicted to rise significantly in Australia over the next few decades, posing challenges that will need to be met by effective preventive medicine strategies and health services planning.

This project will develop and apply new methodologies to identify hotspots of dementia risk in local communities using general practice records and spatial analysis techniques. This will allow interventions to be targeted at the right place, at the right time, and to the right people.

It will also examine the possible link between hotspot areas and built environment characteristics and lifestyle. It is hypothesised that dementia risk hotspots will be highly clustered in environments with higher densities of fast-food outlets, lower socio-economic areas, and fewer green spaces that support physical activity.

This work will provide an innovative tool to help address the predicted dramatic rise of dementia in Australian communities and the technique can be used for other chronic diseases.



**DR JENNI ILO MAKI** is an NHMRC Early Career Fellow working at Monash University, Centre for Medicine Use and Safety.

**Award:** AADRF Project Grant

**Project Title:** How do people with and without dementia use anticoagulants? Systematic literature review and analyses of PBS data.

**Project Snapshot:** Oral anticoagulants are medicines used to prevent stroke, heart attack and other blood clots. People with dementia are less likely to be prescribed anticoagulants than people without dementia, although they are equally likely to experience stroke. The most commonly prescribed anticoagulant is warfarin. Warfarin may cause serious adverse effects including bleeding in gastrointestinal tract or brain.

Newer direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs) offer potential advantages to people with dementia as they don't require a regular blood test, have fewer interactions and have more convenient dosing. However, the safety of DOACs has not been established for people with dementia. People with dementia were excluded from participating in clinical trials of DOACs. This research will investigate how anticoagulants are being prescribed to Australians with dementia. This will help to target interventions to minimise the risks associated with anticoagulant use. This research will assist clinicians to better care for people with dementia.



**MS ISABELLA HOI KEI LEUNG** is currently enrolled as a PhD candidate at The University of Sydney.

**Award:** AADRF - Dementia Collaborative Research Centre Half-funded PhD Scholarship

**Project Title:** Computerised cognitive training in insidious late life cognitive decline.

**Project Snapshot:** A randomised clinical trial is currently being conducted at the Brain and Mind Centre, The University of Sydney. The Trajectories trial will examine the efficacy of computerised cognitive training in reducing the rate of decline in memory and other cognitive abilities (Phase I). Trajectories will also examine whether booster doses of the computerised cognitive training are able to maintain cognitive gains in the long-term (Phase II).

Recruited individuals are those aged 60 and over with clinical memory decline (but do not meet the diagnostic criteria for dementia and free from other neurological and psychological disorders). Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), neuropsychological testing and behavioural outcomes will be measured at baseline and each time point of the trial (at baseline, after phase I and after phase II). Further, this trial will investigate whether baseline qualities (brain volume, gene expressions) may determine for whom computerised cognitive training benefits most i.e. baseline predictors of response.



**MR MITCHELL MCMASTER** is currently completing his PhD at the Centre for Research on Ageing, Health and Wellbeing, The Australian National University.

**Award:** AADRF - Dementia Collaborative Research Centre Half-funded PhD Scholarship

**Project Title:** Body, Brain, Life Project for Mild Cognitive Impairment (BBL-MCI): A randomised controlled trial of multidomain dementia prevention for mild cognitive impairment.

**Project Snapshot:** Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) is a condition in which there are problems in memory, thinking, planning and/or language, as diagnosed by doctor. These problems are not severe enough to be diagnosed with dementia, however people with MCI have a high risk of developing dementia in the future. BBL-MCI is a 12-week program to educate participants about dementia and make lifestyle changes to diet, physical exercise, brain exercise and improve overall health to lower dementia risk.

## DEMENTIA DIAGNOSIS



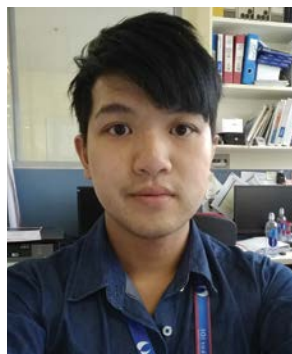
**MS FLEUR HARRISON** is currently enrolled as a PhD candidate in the School of Psychiatry at UNSW Sydney.

**Award:** AADRF - Dementia Collaborative Research Centre Half-funded PhD Scholarship

**Project Title:** Apathy in older community-dwelling persons: Improving assessment, investigating its association with immune markers, differentiating from depression and fatigue and modelling its longitudinal course.

**Project Snapshot:** Apathy, or loss of motivation leading to disability, is experienced by many community-dwelling older people, and is one of the most common symptoms of neurological and psychiatric disorders. People with apathy have poorer functioning, cognition and quality of life, yet it is relatively poorly understood and commonly unrecognised.

There may be underlying biological causes for apathy, which if understood could help in its diagnosis and treatment. This project thus aims to: provide an in-depth synthesis of previously published studies looking at whether apathy may be associated with the presence of biomarkers; investigate whether apathy, depression and fatigue are distinct phenomena, by examining their longitudinal associations with biomarkers such as cytokines using data from epidemiological cohort studies; and compare methods of measuring apathy by interview, questionnaire and experimental tasks.



**MR KEVIN HUYNH** is currently in the second year of his PhD at the Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute in Melbourne, Victoria.

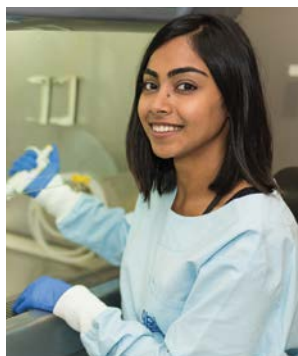
**Award:** AADRF Half-funded PhD Scholarship

**Project Title:** The role of plasmalogen and other lipids in Alzheimer's disease.

**Project Snapshot:** Early diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease is believed to offer the best outcomes for patients. However, current methods to identify the disease before symptoms are evident are both expensive and invasive. Lipids (fats) are important molecules that are present in our cells and blood. Previous work has demonstrated differences in how lipids are regulated in Alzheimer's disease. In this project, Kevin will use new technology to measure over 500 lipids in a single drop of blood. We will perform these measurements on 5,000 samples from 1000 individuals to identify lipids which are good markers of the disease. These will be used to develop a method for the early detection of Alzheimer's disease.



## DEVELOPING TREATMENTS FOR DEMENTIA



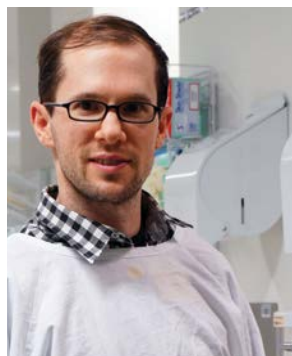
**DR MARIE LOU CAMARA** is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland.

**Award:** AADRF – Cromwell Property Group Foundation Project Grant

**Project Title:** A novel approach to enhance cognitive function and promote synaptic plasticity.

**Project Snapshot:** Alzheimer's disease (AD) is a severe burden on the Australian health care system and affects about 30% of the population over 65 years of age. While Marie Lou's team has made significant advances in understanding the mechanisms of AD pathology, they are yet to develop an effective therapeutic that tackles not only the issues of memory loss but also the underlying brain neurodegeneration, such as the degeneration of the basal forebrain cholinergic neurons.

Marie Lou's lab has generated a cell permeable peptide (c29) that enhances the signalling potential of the low reserves of growth factors, a feature of the brains of people with AD, as well as promoting neuronal survival. This project will make new versions of the c29 peptide to improve its drug-like properties and will test the ability of c29 to enhance cognitive functioning in mice, with the aim of demonstrating the promise of this molecule as a therapeutic to treat AD.



**DR ARNE ITTNER** is a Post-doctoral Research Associate at the Dementia Research Unit, University of New South Wales.

**Award:** AADRF – Yulgilbar Foundation Project Grant

**Project Title:** A novel neuroprotective mechanism in Alzheimer's disease.

**Project Snapshot:** Alzheimer's disease is characterised by loss of memory because of dying brain cells and brain atrophy. In addition, proteins deposit in the brain tissue forming amyloid plaques. The amyloid plaques contain short protein fragments that are toxic to brain cells, causing them to die, a process called 'amyloid toxicity'. Recent discoveries have shown that the toxic signal of amyloid is caused by changes of brain cell molecules (i.e. components that make up the cell). However, it remains completely unknown whether there are also molecules that can inhibit or even block these toxic signals. During his fellowship, Arne will assess a novel molecule, which may protect brain cells from amyloid toxic signals. Arne aims at finding out how exactly this molecule protects brain cells from amyloid toxic signals. His project will close a gap in knowledge of protective components in brain cells and will provide part of the understanding needed to design new ways for treating Alzheimer's disease.





**DR DONEL MARTIN is a Post-Doctoral Researcher and a practicing Clinical Neuropsychologist who conducts his research at the School of Psychiatry, UNSW Sydney.**

**Award:** BB & A Miller Research Grant for Clinical Prevention of Dementia

**Project Title:** The neural correlates of memory improvement following transcranial direct current stimulation combined with cognitive training.

**Project Snapshot:** There is currently an urgent need for the development of an effective intervention for people at increased risk for dementia. Donel's team has developed a novel intervention for this purpose involving the combination of mild electrical brain stimulation and targeted brain training exercises. The team is currently testing the effectiveness of this intervention for improving memory in people at increased risk for dementia in an ongoing world-first randomised controlled trial.

In this study, Donel plans to use neuroimaging for the first-time to investigate the neural mechanisms associated with memory improvement following this intervention. This will be an important next step in the intervention's development, as the results will help to inform which aspects of the intervention should be modified in order to further maximise memory improvements. If proven effective, this intervention could potentially be completed at home under medical supervision to help maintain memory functioning with normal ageing.



**DR ADAM WALKER is an NHMRC CJ Martin Biomedical Research Fellow at the Department of Biomedical Sciences, Macquarie University.**

**Award:** AADRF Project Grant

**Project Title:** Neuroinflammation in frontotemporal dementia: The role of microglia in TDP-43-related disease.

**Project Snapshot:** The brains of patients with frontotemporal dementia (FTD) show inflammation in affected regions, where neurodegeneration has occurred. In the brain, immune cells known as microglia are the main cell type that controls this inflammatory response. Microglia provide a protective surveillance function in the brain to allow rapid response to injury or disease but they can also take on toxic properties that drive neuron death. In FTD, it remains unclear whether inflammatory microglia are protective or toxic to neurons. In this study, microglia and inflammatory molecules will be analysed over time in recently-developed genetically-modified mice that develop disease similar to human FTD, and these mice will be treated with an experimental drug to prevent brain inflammation. Findings from this project will therefore determine if pharmacological alteration of the microglial inflammatory response could be used to modify disease development and progression in FTD.



**DR BRUCE WONG is a Research Officer based at the Florey Institute for Neuroscience and Mental Health.**

**Award:** AADRF Project Grant

**Project Title:** The inflammatory mediator Lactoferrin induces rapid and pronounced amyloidogenic processing of APP.

**Project Snapshot:** The balance of iron and response to inflammation (e.g. through infection) in the cell are closely linked and has previously been implicated in Alzheimer's disease. Lactoferrin, an iron transport protein produced in conditions such as increased inflammation was recently discovered by Bruce to also bind Amyloid Precursor Protein (APP). The binding of lactoferrin to APP promotes the production of  $\beta$  amyloid- the main peptide found in senile plaques within the brains of Alzheimer's disease patients.

At first this interaction may be a way of protecting the body by temporarily locking the iron safely within the cell and out of harm's way, however, more persistent presence of lactoferrin could lead to greater  $\beta$  amyloid levels which is known to cause neuronal death in Alzheimer's disease. By investigating the ability of lactoferrin binding to APP, Bruce hopes to understand the significance of this interaction and identify a potential new drug target.



**MR ALEXANDER WYKES is currently enrolled as a PhD candidate at The University of Melbourne.**

**Award:** AADRF Half-funded PhD Scholarship

**Project Title:** Insights into cognitive neural circuits and treatment of Alzheimer's symptoms.

**Project Snapshot:** A key hallmark of Alzheimer's disease is the loss of neurons in brain regions associated with the control of memory and emotion. Neurons in these areas form complex circuits with other brain regions, sending and receiving chemical messages that orchestrate cognitive activity. In order to increase our understanding of these neural networks, Alexander's research is focused on characterising the function, biochemistry and anatomical connectivity of neurons located in the brainstem area known as the nucleus incertus.

These neurons have been shown to promote memory consolidation and cognitive processes by using the amino acid transmitter, GABA, and the neuropeptide, relaxin-3, to modulate the activity of important forebrain areas including the hippocampus. Alexander's studies will provide further insight into how the relaxin-3/nucleus incertus and related systems function in healthy and Alzheimer's disease-affected brain, and in doing so identify potential therapeutic targets and approaches that may benefit individuals with Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

## DEMENTIA CARE

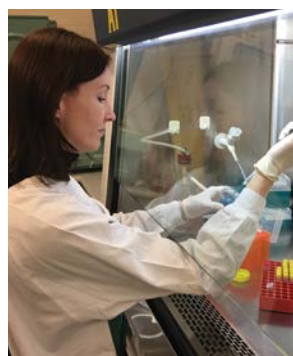


**MS DEBORAH BROOKS** is currently enrolled as a PhD candidate at the Dementia Collaborative Research Centre, Queensland University of Technology.

**Award:** AADRF - Dementia Collaborative Research Centre Consumer Priority Half-funded PhD Scholarship

**Project Title:** Bereavement without death: Improving psychosocial support of family carers of people with dementia who have moved into residential aged care.

**Project Snapshot:** Placing a relative with dementia into residential care has been described by carers as being amongst the most difficult and stressful times of their lives. Many experience a range of feelings such as stress, anxiety, guilt, grief and loss. Some have reported the separation to be 'bereavement without death'. However, most formal supports for carers end once the person has been admitted into care. Although the need for ongoing support for carers has been highlighted by researchers and carers alike, there is currently little research evidence as to what would be most effective. This study aims to: gain an in-depth understanding of the support needs of carers of people with dementia following residential care placement, and develop and test the effectiveness of a psychosocial intervention to improve the psychological health and emotional well-being of family carers during this time.



**DR CAROLINE BULL** is based at CSIRO in Adelaide, as a Research Scientist in the Genome Health and Personalised Nutrition Laboratory.

**Award:** Hazel Hawke Research Grant in Dementia Care

**Project Title:** Psychological and nutritional determinants of telomere and genome integrity in dementia carers.

**Project Snapshot:** Telomeres are regions of DNA that protect the ends of chromosomes from damage, and play a critical role in keeping our DNA healthy. Damaged and unstable chromosomes are associated with increased risk of cardiovascular disease, reduced immune function, neurodegeneration, and cancers. People who experience high levels of psychological stress, such as carers, have shorter telomeres than lower-stress individuals.

This study will investigate telomere length and DNA damage of family dementia carers, together with a panel of psychological, physiological, diet and lifestyle measures. This novel, comprehensive approach will allow us to determine which specific diet and lifestyle factors help protect the genome against stress-related damage in carers.

Findings from this study will help to define practical, effective measures to empower carers to protect their DNA health, reduce risk for chronic disease and improve their overall health and wellbeing.



**DR ELIZABETH CRIDLAND** is a registered psychologist involved in both clinical research and practice and Research Fellow at the Australian Health Services Research Institute (ASHRI), University of Wollongong.

**Award:** AADRF Project Grant

**Project Title:** Investigating the efficacy of an online intervention aiming to increase respite use amongst carers of people with dementia: Roles of motivational enhancement and professional delivery.

**Project Snapshot:** The benefits of respite for both carers and people with dementia are well established. However, research indicates many carers and people with dementia are reluctant to use respite services and strategies. This project aims to understand these barriers and learn more about ways to facilitate carers' use of respite services and strategies by developing and comparing three online programs.

The first program will include motivation enhancing activities, such as developing a 'respite goal', and will be delivered by a health professional. The second program will include motivation enhancing activities in a self-paced format (i.e., not delivered by a health professional). The third program will provide education about respite services and strategies only. By directly comparing the outcomes of these programs, project findings will provide valuable information to inform the design of future online programs to support carers of people with dementia accessing respite services and strategies.



**DR MUIREANN IRISH** is a cognitive neuroscientist and a Research Fellow (ARC DECRA) in the School of Psychology at UNSW and conducts her research at FRONTIER, the frontotemporal dementia research group at Neuroscience Research Australia in Sydney.

**Award:** AADRF-Victoria Project Grant

**Project Title:** "Beauty and the brain" - A novel approach to anhedonia in dementia.

**Project Snapshot:** Try to imagine a world in which you could no longer experience beauty or pleasure in your daily life. Anhedonia refers to a loss of pleasure and has typically been studied in psychiatric disorders. Many of the diagnostic features of frontotemporal dementia, however, suggest the presence of anhedonia, such as social withdrawal, loss of interest in previous hobbies and activities, and apathy.

The implications of anhedonia are stark, yet no study to the knowledge of the research team has systematically investigated anhedonia in younger-onset dementia. Muireann will measure the experience of pleasure in response to viewing pieces of art and listening to music. Neuroimaging analyses will allow the team to determine the association between damage to the brain in dementia and anhedonia. Muireann's study will provide critical data regarding the subjective experience of the individual living with dementia and the utility of music and art to improve overall wellbeing and quality of life.



**DR MICHELLE KELLY holds a clinical research position in the School of Psychology, The University of Newcastle.**

**Award:** Cecilia Margaret Hudson Dementia Research Grant

**Project Title:** Does social competence impact quality of life for people with a diagnosis of dementia?

**Project Snapshot:** The symptoms associated with dementia are many and varied. Until now, much of the research has focused on changes in memory and the ability to perform everyday activities such as cooking and driving. However, many people with dementia and their carers report other subtle changes in behaviour, such as those that occur in social situations and in relationships. Performing well in social situations requires people to be able to pick up on social cues such as facial expressions and subtle vocal and language changes that suggest someone is meaning something else than what they are saying.

Failure to interpret these social cues correctly can be damaging to relationships with caregivers can lead to social isolation. Whilst researchers have been able to show that some people with a diagnosis of dementia do have trouble with social cues (known as social cognition), they have not yet looked at whether problems with social cognition are related to overall quality of life. This project will examine whether impairments in social cognition affect quality of life and the quality of relationships with the caregiver. Results from this project may provide us with the information required to develop management strategies to help maintain relationships for longer.



**DR LINDA SCHNITKER is a Research Fellow based at the Dementia Collaborative Research Centre: Carers and Consumers, School of Nursing, Queensland University of Technology.**

**Award:** AADRF Project Grant

**Project Title:** The development and evaluation of an educational program for the care of older people with dementia in emergency departments.

**Project Snapshot:** Outcomes from this project will contribute to improving the way older people with dementia are cared for in emergency departments (ED). It will enable translating available evidence into clinical practice by developing adaptable educational programs for ED staff. Linda will work closely with experts - people living with dementia and carers and health care professional in emergency medicine and nursing, and dementia care - to develop this program by reviewing the literature and using experts' ED clinical experiences.

The program will enable older people with dementia presenting to EDs to receive guideline-supported care and improved health outcomes. For example, this educational intervention will ensure that people with dementia are screened for delirium and properly assessed for pain (so that pain is identified and managed) in ED. Finally the educational program's implementation in two Australian EDs will occur. Feedback gathered from attendees will be used to further improve the program.





**DR SUSAN SLATYER** is a Research Fellow in the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedicine, Curtin University and Centre for Nursing Research, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital.

**Award:** AADRF Project Grant

**Project Title:** Meeting the support needs of family carers of people living with dementia in the community: Potential translation into practice.

**Project Snapshot:** Family carers of people with dementia can experience significant stress and consequent poor health. The Carer Support Needs Assessment Tool is a questionnaire that is used within the context of a person-centred approach. The approach was developed for use in palliative care to help family carers identify and prioritise their needs and access appropriate support. In a recent trial in home-based palliative care, use of this approach resulted in a significant reduction in carer strain.

This project aims to translate the approach for use in home-based care for people with dementia. Community care coordinators from one aged-care provider are implementing the approach with 35 family carers. Family carers' and care providers' perspectives are being evaluated. If found to be useful, this innovative practice change offers a novel way for community-based health care providers to engage with family carers of people with dementia and empower them to sustain their caregiving role.



**AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL (ARC) LINKAGE PROJECT: Financial decision making in late adulthood.**

**Project Team:**

Queensland University of Technology – Associate Professor Anup Basu and Professor Uwe Dulleck  
The Australian National University – Associate Professor Nicholas Cherbuin  
The University of Queensland – Professor Julie Henry

**Project Snapshot:** This three-year project aims to examine links between cognitive changes and financial decision-making in late adulthood and also assess the preparedness of older people to combat financial risks due to age-related cognitive decline. Further, it will examine how age, education, wealth, health, and other environmental factors influence transfer of financial decision making responsibilities to spouse or others. The research will provide greater understanding of how cognitive functioning and other factors impact older adults' financial capacity and willingness to delegate decision making responsibilities. It will result in better informed policy initiatives to protect older individuals and their family members from the risk of financial mismanagement.

# 2015 DEMENTIA GRANTS PROGRAM: OVERVIEW

AWARD	AMOUNT	DURATION	NUMBER OF AWARDS FUNDED
Alzheimer's Australia Dementia Research Foundation Project Grants	\$50,000	1 year	8
Hazel Hawke Research Grant in Dementia Care	\$50,000	1 year	1
Alzheimer's Australia Dementia Research Foundation – Victoria Project Grants*	\$50,000	1 year	4
Rosemary Foundation Travel Fellowship	Up to \$15,000	1 year	1
Alzheimer's Australia Dementia Research Foundation Half-funded PhD Scholarships	Up to \$15,000 p.a.** plus \$2,500 p.a. research expenses***	3 years	6
Alzheimer's Australia Dementia Research Foundation Partnership Engagement Grant: ARC Linkage Grant with Queensland University of Technology	\$103,804	3 years	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>UP TO \$1,083,804</b>		<b>21</b>

\*The Alzheimer's Australia Research Foundation – Victoria (AADRF-Vic) Awards share a common application process with the Dementia Grants Program, but are subject to eligibility criteria and assessment processes determined by the AADRF-Vic Board.

\*\* For up to three years. Funding provided by the AADRF for Half-funded PhD Scholarships must be matched by the administering institution.

\*\*\* For up to three years. The \$2,500 p.a. research expenses funding for Half-funded PhD Scholarships does not need to be matched by the institution.








# FUNDRAISER AND SUPPORTER STORIES

The AADRF wishes to thank all of our supporters who have contributed to our work this year through valuable awareness and fundraising activities. Every single dollar improves the lives of people with dementia and those involved in their care, and brings us one step closer to finding a cure. Behind every donation is a personal story and some of these stories illustrating the contributions made by our fundraisers are presented here.

 **FUNDRAISING IS NOT JUST GOOD FOR THE CAUSE, IT'S GOOD FOR THE PERSON DOING THE FUNDRAISING. IT IS AN ENRICHING AND FULFILLING EXPERIENCE THAT HELPS WITH THE SENSE OF LOSS AND GRIEF THAT IS EXPERIENCED WHEN YOUR LIFE HAS BEEN TOUCHED BY DEMENTIA IN SOME WAY.**

**IT MAY SEEM STRANGE BUT BY RAISING FUNDS FOR AADRF IT HELPED ME TO FEEL EVEN CLOSER TO MUM. I WANTED TO DO SOMETHING I KNEW SHE WOULD BE PROUD OF. IT HELPED ME TO BE ABLE TO TALK WITH OTHERS GOING THROUGH THE SAME THING.**

**AND TO FEEL THERE IS HOPE AHEAD FOR MY NIECES AND NEPHEWS. AND THAT MY FAMILY, FRIENDS AND I HAD MADE A SMALL CONTRIBUTION.”** LIBBY DAY, MOLLY'S SONG

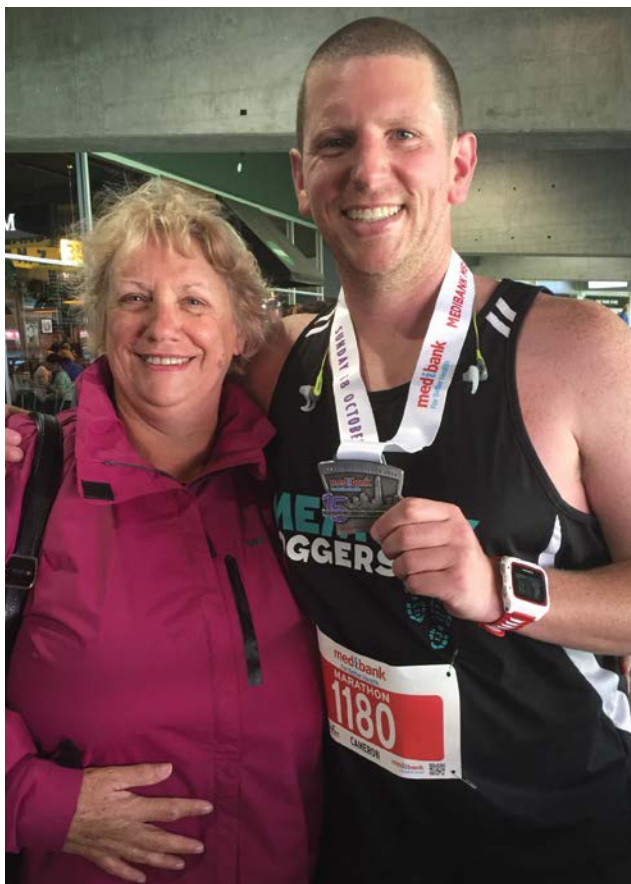
## THE RUNNING CAM

Running for his mother but also for a cure, Cameron Jones AKA 'The Running Cam' has run close to two thousand kilometres and raised over 23 thousand dollars for the AADRf.

Cam began raising funds for dementia research in 2015 when he entered in the 42 kilometre Melbourne Marathon. To train for the event he ran roughly 1,200 kilometres and he hasn't stopped running since.

The 6,000 participants in the Melbourne Marathon entered for a variety of different reasons. Some participants ran for fitness, some ran for charity – Cam ran for his mum who was diagnosed with early onset frontotemporal dementia in late 2013.

"As a family, we are able to help mum navigate her way through this condition on a daily basis. But I struggled for a while to think of a way that I could make a larger impact on more people's lives, something that could make a difference. The idea to raise funds for the field of dementia was a no brainer, but I specifically chose the AADRf because I want to help find a cure," said Cam.



Cam finished the marathon at Melbourne Cricket Grounds with a time of 3 hours, 58 minutes and 27 seconds – 1 minute and 33 seconds inside of his goal of four hours. He said that seeing his mum and dad at the finish line was a very proud moment.

"I was quite emotional. Dad knew exactly what I had just put myself through, he himself running a 42 kilometre marathon in the 80's when he was around my age. And seeing mum so excited was amazing and made it all worth it," he said.

Cam has ambitious plans to raise significant funds for the AADRf again in 2017.

"Until we can find a cure, I will continue to do whatever I can to raise funds and support those actively searching for one. I enjoy running, and combining that with a cause gives me added motivation and allows me to push my limits. The more people I talk to, and the more stories I hear, the more important it becomes to me," he said.

Cam would like to thank those who contributed to his fundraising including St Marks Lodge, the Freemasons Public Charitable Foundation, the Grand Directors Society, Swords Society, and his Recar colleagues.

**THE IDEA TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE FIELD OF DEMENTIA WAS A NO BRAINER, BUT I SPECIFICALLY CHOSE THE AADRf BECAUSE I WANT TO HELP FIND A CURE."**  
**CAMERON JONES, THE RUNNING CAM**



## DIANTHUS 'MEMORIES' - PLANTS MANAGEMENT AUSTRALIA CREATES FLOWER FOR DEMENTIA RESEARCH

Research shows that among the five senses, smell has the strongest link to memory. Using this notion, Whetman Pinks UK created a purpose-bred, scented flowering plant - Dianthus 'Memories' - and in collaboration with Plants Management Australia and the AADRF an incredible \$50,000 has been raised towards dementia research in Australia.

A cheque presentation was made on the widely viewed Channel 10 morning program, Studio 10, in August 2015 where Chris Sargent, Managing Director of Plants Management Australia, was joined by one of our PhD scholarship recipients, Ms Monica Cations, to discuss younger onset dementia.

With humble beginnings, Dianthus 'Memories' was created by Carolyn Whetman to honour her father and father-in-law who sadly passed away from Alzheimer's disease, and since then the project has spread around the world.

Dianthus 'Memories' allows Australians to enjoy a slice of the English countryside with a plant bred to suit our harsh conditions. Dianthus 'Memories' celebrates an impressive high intensity fragrance with a stand out repeat flowering habit, perfuming gardens in both autumn and spring.

Naturally compact and extremely hardy to cold and hot climates, 'Memories' the perfect gift, performing equally well in garden beds, containers or as long lasting cut flower displays.

Plants Management Australia Managing Director, Chris Sargent said that he is proud to be able to make a difference in assisting those facing the challenges of dementia and is committed to the partnership with the AADRF by continuing to donate fifty cents from each 'Memories' plant sold to dementia research into the future.

The plant is available for purchase in select retail outlets and nurseries nationally.

As a valued supporter of the AADRF, we would like to thank Plants Management Australia for the generous contribution they have made to the Foundation in supporting research into the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care of dementia. To acknowledge this tremendous achievement, the AADRF awarded the "Plants Management Australia – Whetman Pinks Project Grant" as part of the 2016 Dementia Grants Program.





## A HUGE THANK YOU TO MOLLY'S SONG

After over seven years of raising funds for the AADRf under the banner of Molly's Song, Libby Day is taking a much needed "fundraising sabbatical" and is making the move from the Sunshine Coast to Victoria to be closer to family.

Libby founded Molly's Song in honour of her mother, Molly, who passed away from Alzheimer's disease in 2014. A number of fundraising events were hosted in Libby's home-town of Noosa, bringing people together to enjoy performances and fine food.

Molly loved music and Libby has seen first-hand the wonderful impact that music has on people with dementia. Consequently, music and song have been a focal point of Libby's fundraising events. But in September 2014, Libby took her fundraising efforts to a new level by completing an eight day, 859km cycle "Ride to Remember" from Melbourne to Canberra.

Libby has worked tirelessly with a dedicated group of volunteers to raise awareness and over \$40,000 in funds for dementia research. In an article in the local newspaper, Noosa Today, Libby thanked her family, friends and the local Noosa community for their generous support and joining forces to host such wonderful occasions.

"I am writing to you to say a huge thank you from the bottom of my heart. Thank you so much for all your support over the years," Libby said.

In thanking her supporters, Libby acknowledged her mother, Molly.

"My beautiful Mum Molly who I think of everyday with a full heart and such fondness and gratitude would have been very proud of you all. Let's hope there will soon come a time when all the much loved Mums and Dads can continue to sing, dance and laugh to their hearts content."

As a valued supporter of the AADRf, we would like to thank Libby for the enormous contribution she has made to the Foundation in supporting research into the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care of dementia. We wish Libby all the very best.

## FATHER ATANASIO GONELLI BAY WALK

The Father Atanasio Gonelli Charitable Fund supports projects that directly benefit members of the community who are in need of assistance. Funds raised by the charity are used to assist individuals with a disability, older people, children with learning difficulties and other associated projects.

The AADRf was honoured to be chosen as the recipient of donations raised from the Community Bay Charity Walk hosted by the Father Atansio Gonelli Charitable Fund in September 2015. Starting in Leichhardt Park, the walk around the bay was an opportunity for the Italian association to engage with their wider community and promote the work and support they provide. Over 250 volunteers, walkers and local businesses participated on the day.

The Community Bay Charity Walk raised \$15,000 for the AADRf; the generous donation was presented to the AADRf at the Italian-Australian Community Commemorative Charity Lunch in March 2016.



# RESEARCH COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## NATIONAL DEMENTIA HELPLINE

**ALZHEIMER'S AUSTRALIA OFFERS SUPPORT, INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND COUNSELLING. CONTACT THE NATIONAL DEMENTIA HELPLINE, AN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE: 1800 100 500.**





## ABC RADIO NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS DEMENTIA RESEARCH DURING MENTAL AS WEEK

### DIAGNOSING DEMENTIA - WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

In the lead up to National Science Week (15-23 August 2015), the AADRF with the support of The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health and the CRC for Mental Health, organised a dementia research panel discussion in Melbourne titled "Diagnosing Dementia – What Does the Future Hold?"

Paul Barclay from ABC Radio National led the expert panel on a discussion of the significant progress that has been made towards techniques that could accurately diagnose Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia 10-20 years before symptoms occur. Work is being done to develop better and simpler diagnostic tools for doctors to use in diagnosing dementia, so a diagnosis can be made earlier and hopefully before disease in the brain causes too much damage.

Panellists included:

- Professor Graeme Samuel AC – National President, Alzheimer's Australia.
- Professor Ashley Bush – Deputy Director, The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health and Chief Scientific Officer, CRC for Mental Health.
- Dr Rachel Buckley – Alzheimer's Australia Dementia Research Foundation Post-doctoral Fellow, The University of Melbourne.
- Dr Shaun Frost – Research Fellow, Preventative Health Flagship, CSIRO
- Ms Jenny Lloyd – living with a diagnosis of dementia

For Jenny Lloyd, who is living with dementia, one of the most vital things you could do if there were concerns about dementia is to get a diagnosis.

**GO AND GET A DIAGNOSIS ASAP, FIND OUT EXACTLY WHAT IS GOING ON AND YOU CAN WORK WITH IT. DON'T PRETEND AS IF NOTHING IS GOING ON, BECAUSE THIS CAN MAKE IT WORSE FOR EVERYONE ELSE."**  
**JENNY LLOYD**

This event had the media support of the ABC who broadcasted the discussion on ABC Radio National on 5 October 2015, as part of Mental As Week. This extended the reach of the event across Australia and we are very grateful to the ABC and in particular the Big Ideas program for their support and publicity of this event, and for helping the AADRF promote further awareness of this very important topic.

For those of you who could not attend the event or missed the broadcast, the discussion may be listened to or downloaded at any time via this link: <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/bigideas/dementia-diagnosis/6816862>



# CONGRATULATIONS

The AADRF supports Australia's best and brightest new and early career dementia researchers.

Capacity building has always been the major focus of the AADRF; we reason that our best return on investment is to entice and support new researchers to focus their intelligence and energy into dementia. This year, we saw our efforts come to fruition with a large number of our researchers securing significant research support through various fellowships and awards. Many of our grant recipients have gone on to achieve career and personal milestones in their fields. Postgraduate scholars have completed their PhDs, books and papers have been published, and prestigious fellowships, grants and roles have been obtained.

We congratulate all of our grant recipients on their achievements.



## AADRf RESEARCHERS AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS NHMRC-ARC DEMENTIA RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIPS

The AADRf would like to congratulate our many researchers who were awarded the highly coveted NHMRC-ARC Dementia Research Development Fellowship, commencing from January 2016.

<b>Dr Scott Ayton</b>	The Florey Institute for Neuroscience and Mental Health
<b>Dr Amee Baird</b>	Macquarie University
<b>Dr Prashant Bharadwaj</b>	Edith Cowan University
<b>Dr Belinda Brown</b>	Edith Cowan University
<b>Dr Rachel Buckley</b>	The Florey Institute for Neuroscience and Mental Health
<b>Dr Shantel Duffy</b>	The University of Sydney
<b>Dr Julia Gilmartin</b>	Monash University
<b>Dr Mitchell Goldsworthy</b>	The University of Adelaide
<b>Dr Mojtaba Golzan</b>	University of Technology Sydney
<b>Dr Fiona Kumfor</b>	University of New South Wales
<b>Dr Yen Ying Lim</b>	The Florey Institute for Neuroscience and Mental Health
<b>Dr Christopher Moran</b>	Monash University
<b>Dr Moyra Mortby</b>	The Australian National University
<b>Dr Loren Mowszowski</b>	The University of Sydney
<b>Dr Lyn Phillipson</b>	The University of Wollongong
<b>Dr Sarah Rea</b>	University of Western Australia
<b>Dr Ashleigh Smith</b>	University of South Australia



## FELLOWSHIPS CONTINUE THE WORK OF AADRF GRANT RECIPIENTS



### **Dr Kim Kiely – Recipient of an NHMRC Early Career Fellowship**

The AADRF congratulates Dr Kim Kiely, who commenced an NHMRC Early Career Fellowship in December 2015 to extend the work conducted during the tenure of his AADRF Post-doctoral Fellowship awarded in 2013. Kim's research focuses on the social, functional and cognitive impacts of sensory loss in late life. Recent findings include showing how vision and hearing impairment increase the risk of neuropsychiatric symptoms among people living with a neurocognitive disorder. Current work is focusing on elucidating causal pathways between sensory loss and cognitive decline. Kim was also awarded the Australian Association of Gerontology (AAG) RM Gibson Award in January 2015.



### **Dr Muireann Irish – Recipient of the L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science Australia Fellowship**

Dr Muireann Irish was awarded the L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science Australia Fellowship, to the value of \$25,000, in September 2015. Muireann's work has shown that people with dementia do not just lose the ability to remember the past but they also lose the ability to envisage the future. Muireann has identified which parts of our brain are essential to imagine the future, ranging from simple things like "I must remember my keys and my wallet when I go out," to imagining complex events such as "my next holiday". Muireann will use her award to better understand how dementia affects this cognitive function; her work will inform the development of activities for people living with dementia that will improve their quality of life and reduce the burden faced by caregivers. Muireann, a cognitive neuroscientist and a Research Fellow based at UNSW, received an AADRF-Victoria Project Grant in 2011 and again in 2015.

## AADRf RESEARCHERS RECEIVE AWARDS IN THE THEIR FIELD OF EXPERTISE



### **Dr Scott Ayton – 2016 Young Researcher of the Year**

The Bethlehem Griffiths Research Foundation awarded the 2016 Young Researcher of the Year Award to Dr Scott Ayton, in recognition of his work in the dementia field. Having already attracted \$3 million in grants and fellowships, Scott is well on his way to becoming one of Australia's leading medical researchers. Scott's current research is focused on trying to understand the role of iron in the development and progression of Alzheimer's disease, and the influence that an individual's genetic make up has on the disease process. Scott, an NHMRC-ARC Dementia Research Development Fellow with The Florey Institute for Neuroscience and Mental Health, received a Half-funded Post-doctoral Fellowship in 2014.



### **Dr Susan Slatyer – 2016 Nurse of the Year**

Dr Susan Slatyer was named 2016 Nurse of the Year and winner of the 2016 Excellence in Research Award in the Western Australian Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards held in Perth in May 2016. Susan, a Research Fellow in the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedicine, Curtin University and Centre for Nursing Research, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, received an AADRf Project Grant in 2015.



### **Dr Victor Anggono – Young Scientist Award**

Dr Victor Anggono received the Young Scientist Award during the 14th Federation of Asian and Oceanian Biochemists and Molecular Biologists (FAOBMB) Congress in Hyderabad, India, in November 2015. Victor is currently a Senior Research Fellow at the Clem Jones Centre for Ageing Dementia Research within the Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland. He received an AADRf Project Grant in 2014 to map the neuronal proteins that regulate communication between nerve cells to determine those that are rendered inactive after treatment with amyloid-beta (a toxic plaque involved in Alzheimer's disease). The overall goal of this research is to identify pathways for the development of new therapeutics, as well as novel biomarkers for the accurate diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease at its earliest stage.

## PHD SCHOLARS FIND RESEARCH SUCCESS

### Mr Phillip Ward

Phillip, who received an AADRf PhD Scholarship in 2012, placed first at the Faculty of Information Technology Innovation Showcase at Monash University in October 2015 for his poster on 'Enabling Non-Invasive Vein Imaging'.

### Mr Mustafa Atee

Mustafa was a finalist in the LESANZ Innovators Pitch night in Perth in October 2015. He was also the winner of Aging #30in30in30 Pitching Event, Sydney, in October 2015 and finalist in the Aging2.0 AgedTech Expo Global Start-up Showcase, San Francisco, in November 2015. The #30in30in30 is a global program of events, in partnership with Google for Entrepreneurs, designed to discover, showcase and support aging-focused entrepreneurs around the world via 30 start-up pitch events in 30 cities in 30 days. Mustafa presented his work on an electronic Pain Assessment Tool (ePAT) that uses face recognition software to capture and analyse in real-time short videos for the presence of facial expressions associated with pain. Mustafa, a Research Fellow in the School of Pharmacy at Curtin University, received a Viertel PhD Scholarship in 2012.

### Mr Sicong Tu

Sicong received the CCD Excellence in Research Student Award in 2016 for his work developing a novel tool to objectively assess spatial disorientation in Alzheimer's disease and frontotemporal dementia. Sicong's work led to the development of a Virtual Supermarket Task that objectively measures a person's ability to maintain a correct sense of direction. His findings indicate that the task significantly improves differential diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and frontotemporal dementia. His research was also recognised by the International Neuropsychological Society in 2015 where he received an award for outstanding scientific contribution by a PhD candidate. Sicong received an AADRf PhD Top-up Scholarship in 2012 and was awarded his PhD by the University of New South Wales in 2016. He received an NHMRC CJ Martin Early Career Research Fellowship in 2016 and is currently continuing his research at the University of Oxford, UK.

### Mr Kevin Huynh

Kevin was awarded best poster entitled 'Plasma lipids are associated with perceptual speed performance in healthy adults' at the 2016 ANZMET Metabolomics conference, Melbourne, in April 2016. Kevin received an AADRf Half-funded PhD Scholarship in 2015.





# GOVERNANCE

The AADRF would like to acknowledge the significant contributions made by our Directors who retired from their positions on the Board during the 2015-16 financial year: Scientia Professor Henry Brodaty AO (Chair); Professor John McKellar AM ED (Vice Chair); Mr David Nathan (Treasurer); Dr Sean Maher; Dr Ron Sinclair; and Dr Andrew Watt.

We would also like to thank our continuing Directors and welcome our newly appointed Directors to the AADRF Board.





## OUR BOARD

### **Professor Graeme Samuel AC LLB (Melb), LLM (Monash), FAICD Chair**

Professor Graeme Samuel AC is a Vice Chancellor's Professorial Fellow in Monash University's Business School and co-director of the Monash Business Policy Forum. He is President of Alzheimer's Australia, a Commissioner of the National Rugby League Commission, a Councillor of the Australian National University and Chair of its Finance Committee, Chair of the South Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network, member of the National Health and Medical Research Council and Chair of its Health Innovation Advisory Committee and the National Institute for Dementia Research and a member of the Aged Care Financing Authority.

Graeme was Chair of the Commonwealth Government's Panel of Review of Australia's Independent Medical Research Institutes, advisor to the Commonwealth Department of Health in relation to its review of private health insurance and a member of the Review Panel of Australia's Wool Selling Systems.

Graeme has held a number of roles in public life including former Chair of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, Associate Member of the Australian Communications and Media Authority, President of the National Competition Council, Chair of the Melbourne and Olympic Parks Trust, Commissioner of the Australian Football League, President of the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chair of Playbox Theatre Company and Opera Australia, Trustee of the Melbourne Cricket Ground Trust and Chair of the Inner and Eastern Health Care Network.

Until the early 1990s, Graeme pursued a professional career in law and investment banking.

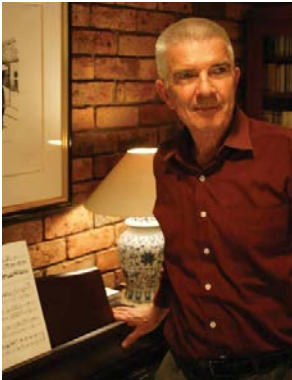
He was appointed a life member of the Australian Football League and an honorary life trustee of the Committee for Economic Development of Australia. He was awarded an Australian Sports Medal for services to sport and a Centenary Medal in recognition of his service as president of the National Competition Council.

Graeme was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1998. In 2010, he was elevated to a Companion of the Order of Australia "for eminent service to public administration through contributions in the area of economic reform and competition law, and to the community through leadership roles with sporting and cultural organisations". Graeme joined the AADRF Board of Directors in 2016.



### **Mr John Morrison BCom (UNSW), CPA, CTA, FTIA, FAICD Treasurer**

Mr John Morrison is an experienced consultant and practitioner in tax and finance, secretarial practice, corporate governance and risk management. John has been a Board Member of Alzheimer's Australia NSW where he served as Vice Chair for a number of years and Honorary Treasurer from June 2003 to July 2006. Although no longer on the Board, he remains a member of the Audit and Risk Management Committee and the Investment Advisory Committee for Alzheimer's Australia NSW. John joined the AADRF Board of Directors in 2010.



**Professor Don Aitkin AO**  
**MA (Hons I), PhD, Honorary Doctorates from UNE and UC, FASSA, FACE and FAPI**

Professor Don Aitkin is Alzheimer's Australia ACT's Patron/Ambassador and has extensive experience in national research policy and management. He also has extensive experience in chairing and being a member of a range of boards and committees. Don holds a degree in history and a PhD in political science. He completed post graduate placements at Oxford and the University of Michigan. In 1971, Don worked at Macquarie University as its foundation Professor of Politics and in 1980, returned to the ANU as the head of the department in which he had gained his PhD. He then became involved in science, research and higher education policy, as a member of both the Australian Research Grants Committee and the Australian Science and Technology Council, and as Chairman of the Board of the Institute of Advanced Studies at the ANU. In 1987, he became the Foundation Chairman of the Australian Research Council. He was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Canberra, between 1991 and 2002. Since his retirement in 2002, he has made a significant contribution to the Canberra community as: Chairman of the Cultural Facilities Corporation of the ACT, which managed the city's theatres, art gallery and museum, and its historic houses; Chairman of the NRMA/ACT Road Safety Trust for the past 14 years; Chairman of the Canberra International Music Festival for 10 years; and Chairman of the National Capital Authority which was responsible for the management and planning of the national capital aspects of Canberra. Don joined the AADRF Board of Directors in 2016.



**Professor Kaarin Anstey**  
**BA Hons (USyd), PhD (UQ)**

Professor Kaarin Anstey is the Director of the ANU Centre for Research on Ageing, Health and Wellbeing (CRAHW) and leads the NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Cognitive Health and a Dementia Collaborative Research Centre. Her substantive research interests focus on cognitive ageing, dementia epidemiology, the impact of cognitive impairment on everyday function, and dementia risk reduction. She leads the PATH Through Life study, a 16-year population-based study of three cohorts, including over 7000 adults, spanning early to late adulthood. Kaarin is also involved in several interventions to prevent cognitive decline and reduce the risk of dementia and with colleagues developed the first online risk assessment tool for Alzheimer's disease that uses only self-report measures. Kaarin is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia and a member of the AARP and AgeUK Global Council on Brain Health Governance Committee. Kaarin Chaired the AADRF Scientific Panel, from 2010 to 2013, and joined the AADRF Board of Directors in 2014.



**Mr Alan Bevan**  
**BA, DipEd, GAICD**

Mr Alan Bevan is a member of the Alzheimer's Australia SA Board. Alan has held various leadership positions including Chief Operating Officer, General Manager and Project Director for a range of national education technology projects. These roles have required liaison across Australia and New Zealand with Ministers, government departments, crown law, industry and professional bodies. He is experienced in strategic planning, risk management, policy advice, staff leadership and development, and project management. Previously, Alan was Online Services Manager for the SA Department of Education and Children Services and was instrumental in the negotiation of a whole of government contract with Telstra for the delivery of high speed Internet to all SA government schools. He has been a regional adviser within the education department and a successful secondary school faculty head and classroom teacher. Alan joined the AADRF Board of Directors in 2016.

Alan took early retirement in 2010 to care for his partner, Sue, who was diagnosed with younger onset dementia. Sue passed away in early 2014, which has only served to galvanise Alan's commitment to Alzheimer's Australia SA and the AADRF.



**Mr David Guinane**  
**BEc (Hons)**

Mr David Guinane held a position on the Alzheimer's Australia TAS Board for a short period of time with a particular interest in consumer, carer and governance issues. David previously worked for the Department of Health & Human Services in a number of roles including business and risk assessment audit, program consultancy and policy development. He was also an Economic & Business Development Advisor for several local councils. David has served on a number of boards and committees including Lifeline and the Kingston Beach Education Centre, with a particular focus on financial and governance matters. In 2012, David became a full-time carer for his partner, Andrea, who was diagnosed with younger onset dementia. Sadly, Andrea passed away in July 2016. David joined the AADRF Board of Directors in 2016.



**Associate Professor Victoria (Vicki) Krause**  
**MD, DTM&H, FAFPHM**

Associate Professor Vicki Krause has served as the President of the Board of Alzheimer's Australia NT since October 2011. She is the Director of the Northern Territory Centre for Disease Control and Head of the Tuberculous/Leprosy Unit for the Northern Territory Department of Health. Vicki is a current member and past Chair of the Communicable Diseases Network Australia and the National Tuberculosis Advisory Committee. Vicki has served on Technical Research and Advisory Subcommittees of the World Health Organisation's Global Tuberculosis Programme and has previously worked in Papua New Guinea as a specialist physician with a particular interest in piloting treatment protocols, in the USA with an interest in migrant and refugee health and with the Indian Health Service. Vicki joined the AADRF Board of Directors in 2016.



**Dr Michael Preece**  
**BHSc (Nursing), GradDipHSc (Risk Mgt), GradDipHRM, MBA**

Dr Michael Preece is a registered nurse and has 20 years' experience in strategic, operational and senior management positions within the health care industry. Michael's experience includes Director of Nursing, Executive Officer, National Risk and HR Manager, Business Development, GP and Radiology practice management, Health Insurance funding management, and management of residential aged care facilities. He is currently the Chief Executive Officer for Maurice Zeffert Home. Prior to moving into health care Michael was a maintenance engineer in the RAAF for 13 years. Michael currently holds the position of Secretary of Alzheimer's Australia WA. Michael joined the AADRF Board of Directors in 2016.



**Mr William (Swain) Roberts**  
**BCom, LLB (Hons), GradDipEd, GradCertBus (Philanthropy&NpSt)**

Mr Swain Roberts is a lawyer and governance professional with more than 20 years legal experience nationally and internationally, with significant experience in the areas of social infrastructure and philanthropy. Swain is currently working as the Senior Legal Officer with the University of the Sunshine Coast and has experience in providing advice on commercial agreements, funding structures and tax related advice, policy and regulation advice, including statutory analysis and developing and implementing governance structures. Swain has served on a number of boards and committees including: Director of the Buderim Foundation and Chair of its Fund Development Committee; Council Member of St. Johns College, University of Queensland; Chair of the QLD chapter of Social Investment Measurement Network Australia; and Director of the Australia Singapore Business Association Queensland. Swain has been a member of the Alzheimer's Australia QLD Board since 2014. Swain joined the AADRF Board of Directors in 2016.



**Mr Neil Samuel**

Mr Neil Samuel is the former Managing Director of Dryen Australia Pty. Ltd., one of Australia's largest domestic linen importers and wholesalers servicing Australian and overseas retailers. He has been actively involved in the day-to-day management of the business for over 40 years with an emphasis on finance, administration, sourcing and procurement. Neil has served in leadership positions in various organisations in the not-for-profit sector for many years, specialising in governance and finance. Neil has served on the board of Alzheimer's Australia VIC since 2003 and is the current Chair. Between 2007 and 2013 Neil served on the board of Alzheimer's Australia Inc. as Vice President. Neil has been on the Board of AADRF-Victoria since 2012 and joined the Board of AADRF in 2014. Neil's passion for Alzheimer's Australia was born out of family experience with dementia.



## COMPANY SECRETARY

**Ms Maree McCabe**  
**RN, PMHN, MBA, MAICD**

Maree McCabe is the National Chief Executive Officer of Alzheimer's Australia. Prior to her appointment to this role she was Chief Executive Officer of Alzheimer's Australia VIC, since 2010. She was appointed as Company Secretary by the AADRf Board of Directors in 2016.

During Maree's six years leading Alzheimer's Australia VIC she successfully oversaw substantial increase in staff while securing funds to grow and expand critical dementia support services in regional Victoria which have been realised in the establishment of multi-disciplinary regional hubs in Geelong, Ballarat, Drouin and Shepparton.

Maree led the team in the transformation of the Alzheimer's Australia VIC office in Parkville to a showcase of a dementia-friendly environment that includes the Perc Walkley Dementia Learning Centre – a world first multisensory immersive environment for experiential learning.

Maree's direction administered the development of the ground breaking dementia risk reduction smart phone and tablet application, BrainyApp, which was recognised as a Gold Winner at the Victorian Public Healthcare Awards in 2012 and has been downloaded more than 300,000 times globally. Other innovative technology programs include the multi award winning Virtual Dementia Experience, the Dementia Friendly Home App and the Virtual Forest. Maree has also directed the development and expansion of vital early intervention services and programs for people living with younger onset dementia and their families, carers and friends.

Maree's career background has involved senior executive positions across the mental health and aged care sectors, including Executive Operations for TLC Aged Care, Director of Clinical Resources at The Melbourne Clinic, General Manager of Hospitals for St John of God Healthcare and Surveyor for the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards. Maree has a Post Graduate Diploma in Mental Health Nursing, Master of Business Administration and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Maree is a passionate advocate for improving the lives of people impacted by dementia.



# OUR SCIENTIFIC PANEL



**“ IT HAS BEEN SO ENCOURAGING TO HAVE BEEN PART OF A LARGE AND GROWING COMMUNITY OF RESEARCHERS IN THE AGEING AND DEMENTIA SPACE. AUSTRALIA LEADS THE WAY IN SO MANY ASPECTS OF DEMENTIA RESEARCH.**

**PROFESSOR GLYNDA KINSELLA, AADRF SCIENTIFIC PANEL MEMBER AND LEADING AUSTRALIAN DEMENTIA RESEARCHER.**



**Professor James Vickers**  
**BSc(Hons), PhD, DSc**  
**Chair**

James Vickers is Professor of Pathology at the University of Tasmania and Co-Director of the Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre. His research interests include neurodegenerative disease (particularly Alzheimer's disease) and dementia prevention. James also has a strong interest in educational programs in dementia. James has been a member of the AADRF Scientific Panel since 2006, and held the position of Chair from 2014 to 2016.



**Professor Elizabeth Beattie**  
**RN, PhD, FGSA**

Elizabeth Beattie, Professor of Aged and Dementia Care, School of Nursing, Queensland University of Technology, is a psychogeriatric nurse educated in Australia, the UK and the US who has been involved in dementia-focused clinical practice, education and research for 30 years. She directs the Dementia Collaborative Research Centre Carers and Consumers and the Queensland Dementia Training Study Centre. Elizabeth has an international nursing leadership profile and a sustained record of competitive research funding and publication. Her research is focused on improving the quality of care and quality of life of people living with dementia and those who support them. Elizabeth joined the Scientific Panel in 2012.



**Mrs Christine Bryden AM, PSM**  
**BSc(Hons), Grad Dip Past Couns, MBA**

Christine Bryden was a research scientist for a major pharmaceutical company in the UK, before working in scientific publishing in Holland, the UK and Australia. She then joined the CSIRO, working with researchers and industry to deliver outcomes for the mineral, energy and aerospace industries. She was appointed head of the Office of the Chief Scientist, advising the Prime Minister on Science and Technology, as well as administering the Cooperative Research Centres program. After diagnosis with dementia in 1995 she became an author, advocate and speaker. She was an elected member of the Board of Alzheimer's Disease International from 2003 to 2006, and a founding member of the Alzheimer's Australia Consumer Dementia Research Network from 2010 to 2014. She is a member of the Steering Committee of Queensland's Statewide Dementia Clinical Network Steering Committee, and of the Cognitive Impairment Advisory Group of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. Christine was made an Ambassador for Alzheimer's Australia Queensland in 2014. She joined the AADRF Scientific Panel in 2014.



**Professor Lindy Clemson**  
**BAppSc, MAppSc, PhD, WAIT, DipOT, NSWCoIIOT**

Lindy Clemson is Professor of Occupational Therapy and Ageing and Director of the Ageing, Work and Health Research Unit in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Sydney. Her research focus includes the physical environment, functional capacity and adaptation, daily life activity, enabling participation and preventing falls with older people. She has been a member of the AADRF Scientific Panel since 2013.



**Professor Elizabeth Coulson**  
**BSc(Hons), PhD**

Professor Elizabeth Coulson is a neuroscientist and Group Leader of the Nerve Cell Survival Laboratory at the School of Biomedical Sciences and the Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland. Her research interests include investigating how the degeneration of cholinergic neurons of the basal forebrain contributes to cognitive decline in Alzheimer's disease and the role of neurotrophins and their receptors play in this process. Elizabeth has been a member of the AADRF Scientific Panel since 2013.



**Professor Glynda Kinsella**  
**DipPhysio, MSc, PhD**

Professor Glynda Kinsella is Coordinator of Postgraduate Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology, in La Trobe University's Department of Psychology and Counselling. Her research focus is the neuropsychology of mild cognitive impairment in older age and the evaluation of interventions for these changes. Glynda has been a member of the AADRF Scientific Panel since 2013.



**Professor Ralph Martins AO**  
**PhD**

Professor Ralph Martins AO is the Inaugural Chair of Ageing and Alzheimer's Disease at Edith Cowan University as well as the Director of Centre of Excellence for Alzheimer's Disease – Research and Care. Ralph's current research interests are focused on understanding the mechanisms and factors leading to the abnormal release and deposition of  $\beta$ A4 in Alzheimer's disease. In 2016, he accepted a part-time professorial position at Macquarie University working closely with Roger Chung, Professor of Neuroscience and Associate Dean, in the Department of Biomedical Sciences. Ralph has been a member of the AADRF Scientific Panel since 2010.



**Professor Wendy Moyle**  
**RN, DipAppSci, BN, MHSc, PhD**

Professor Wendy Moyle is a Program Director in the Menzies Health Institute Queensland at Griffith University. Her research expertise includes quality of life, complementary and alternative medicine, dementia care and behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia (BPSD), social robotics and family involvement in care. Wendy has been a member of the AADRF Scientific Panel since 2012.



**Professor Velandai Srikanth**  
**MBBS, PhD, FRACP**

Velandai Srikanth is the Professor of Medicine, Peninsula Health, Melbourne. He is a specialist geriatrician who conducts substantial research into chronic conditions affecting ageing individuals such as dementia, cerebrovascular disease and its risk factors, frailty and mobility impairments. He has clinical expertise in the care of older people, particularly in the fields of dementia and stroke. He completed his PhD in the study of post-stroke dementia at the National Stroke Research Institute, University of Melbourne in 2003. Velandai was responsible for the formation of the successful and multidisciplinary Stroke and Ageing Research Group at the Monash Health Translation Precinct, Monash Medical Centre. Velandai has been a member of the AADRF Scientific Panel since 2012 and will take up the position of Chair in January 2017.



**Dr Jane Thompson**  
**BSc(Hons), MSc, PhD**

Dr Jane Thompson is a past carer of her husband who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in early 2004 at the age of 69. She cared for him at home until a few months before he died in November 2007. Jane is very keen to contribute to improving the experiences of carers of people with dementia, particularly for close family members. Jane holds a BSc with Honours in Zoology, an MSc in Biochemistry and a PhD in Zoology, and before retirement worked in a variety of research roles, with her most recent research interests focusing on women's postnatal health. She was a member of Alzheimer's Australia's former Consumer Dementia Research Network from its inception in 2010, and has been a consumer member of a range of dementia research project and program steering and advisory committees, including the Dementia Collaborative Research Centres Coordinating Committee. She has been actively involved in the work of the NHMRC Cognitive Decline Partnership Centre including as a member of the Guideline Adaptation Committee which developed the Australian Clinical Practice Guidelines and Principles of Care for People with Dementia and its Consumer Companion Guide. She is currently a member of the Board of the NHMRC National Institute for Dementia Research. Jane joined the AADRF Scientific Panel in 2014.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## FUNDRAISING

Our fundraisers continue to amaze us with their persistence, courage and strength to undertake astonishing challenges all in the name of supporting the AADRF and the Hazel Hawke Alzheimer's Research and Care Fund. We thank everyone who has supported us over the past year. Our fundraisers have, on many occasions, put their bodies on the line to raise money and awareness for dementia research and that means the world to us.

These fundraisers are individuals, families, schools, businesses and community and interest based organisations. They support us in a number of innovative ways including: participation in marathons, charity walks and other physical challenges; hosting of sporting events; holding fundraising days through social and special interest events; staff morning teas; community raffles; school cake stalls; garage sales; and contributions through donation programs.



## STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

We would like to thank everyone for their support over the past 12 months. We are humbled by the generosity shown by individuals and organisations. In particular, we would like to thank the following supporters:

- The Australian Government for their support of dementia awareness, dementia risk reduction and dementia services delivered through Alzheimer's Australia.
- The Hazel Hawke Alzheimer's Research and Care Fund and the family of Hazel Hawke for their continued support of research to improve dementia care.
- Professor James Vickers (Chair) and Members of the AADRF Scientific Panel.
- Members of the Consumer Dementia Research Network (now the Alzheimer's Australia National Dementia Consumer Network).
- Alzheimer's Australia National, State and Territory organisations.
- The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health and the CRC for Mental Health for organising the dementia research panel discussion.
- The many dedicated researchers who assisted our Scientific Panel by reviewing applications to the Dementia Grants Program and providing expert feedback.

We also thank the following organisations who have supported specific projects that were undertaken during the 2015-16 financial year:

- Alzheimer's Australia Dementia Research Foundation – Victoria
- The Dementia Collaborative Research Centres
- The Petersen Family Foundation
- Cromwell Property Group Foundation
- The Yulgilbar Foundation
- The Rosemary Foundation
- Resthaven Inc.
- The Sylvia and Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation

## WORKPLACE GIVING PARTNERS

We are also proud to be supported by a wide range of staff who generously provide donations to the AADRF through their internal workplace giving schemes. Our contributors include:

- Alcatel-Lucent Australia
- Macquarie Bank
- The Australian Charities Fund
- Veda Advantage

## DONORS AND COMMUNITY FUNDRAISERS

We are grateful to all of our donors who have assisted us in working towards our goal of a world without dementia. Many of our donors make contributions in memory of loved one and wish to remain anonymous. Some of our organisational and individual donors include:

- Bruce and Joy Reid Trust
- Cameron Jones – Marathon Run
- Camilla Trenerry – To Chop or Knot
- CommInsure Community (CBA)
- Collaborate for a Cause Charity Auction
- Cromwell Property Group
- Debra Tindall – When I See Grandma
- Forever Diamond – Libby King
- Fr Atanasio Gonelli Charitable Fund Bay Walk
- James Schofield Cycle
- Libby Day – Molly's Song
- Lucy Taylor – Through Their Eyes
- Mayger Family
- Mount Hope Community Association
- MRS Property
- National Seniors Foundation Trust
- Oatlands Golf Club
- Overgrove Pty Ltd
- Port of Brisbane
- Plants Management Australia – Dianthus 'Memories'
- Sandhurst Trustees Fundraiser Team
- Taylor Robinson
- Tweak Fitness
- The Trust Company, part of Perpetual
- Ute Shutes

Our fundraisers also support us by raising awareness and funds through their own social media and fundraising pages on Good2Give, Give Now, MyCause, Go Fundraise and Benevity.

# 2015 - 2016 FINANCIAL REPORT



## TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial statements for the 2015-16 financial year have been audited by Hardwicke's Chartered Accountants, who have issued a Qualified Audit Report. The Qualified Opinion relates to the financial assets which represent more than 20% of the company's net assets that are managed by an investment service provider. Since there is no audit opinion provided for the managed investments, the auditors are unable to obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence about the ownership of the assets and whether the income has been fairly reported. The auditors state in their Independent Audit Report that except for the managed investment, the financial report of the Alzheimer's Australia Dementia Research Foundation Ltd has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, gives a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2016 and of its performance for the year ended on that date and they comply with required Australian Accounting Standards. A full copy of the Audited Financial Statements are available on request from the Foundation and filed as required with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) upon signing by the Directors of the Company.

The operations of the Alzheimer's Australia Dementia Research Foundation Ltd for the 2015-16 financial year resulted in a deficit of income over expenditure in the amount of \$519,756 (\$1,520,277 2014-15).

Total income for the 2015-16 financial year was \$1.72m (\$1.26m 2014-15), an increase of 36.5%. The increase in income was largely as a result of an increase in donations and bequests of \$517,000.

Total expenditure for the 2015-16 financial year was \$2.2m (\$2.8m 2014-15), a decrease of 21.4%. The reduction in expenditure was largely due to a reduction in research grant payments from \$2.4m in 2014-15 to \$1.96m in 2015-16.

The retained earnings of the Alzheimer's Australia Dementia Research Foundation Ltd at 30 June 2016 were \$3.9m (\$4.4m 2014-15), represented by working capital of \$3.1m (\$3.7m 2014-15), a current ratio of 9.85 (8.43 2014-15) and a quick ratio of 8.64 (7.83 2014-15). Accordingly, the Alzheimer's Australia Dementia Research Foundation Ltd is in a position to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

The Alzheimer's Australia Dementia Research Foundation Ltd approved a responsibly small deficit operating budget for the 2016-17 financial year, including a conservative \$600,000 of donation and bequest income. Ongoing planning and budgeting is in process to ensure that the operations of the Alzheimer's Australia Dementia Research Foundation Ltd is financially viable and supported by appropriate structures and operations beyond the 2016-17 financial year.



**John Morrison**  
**Alzheimer's Australia Dementia**  
**Research Foundation Ltd**  
**Treasurer**

A full copy of the financial statements, including notes to the financial statements and audit opinion, can be obtained free of charge from the ACNC website at [www.acnc.gov.au](http://www.acnc.gov.au) or upon request from:

Alzheimer's Australia Dementia Research Foundation Ltd.

PO Box 4194  
Kingston ACT 2604  
E: [foundation@alzheimers.org.au](mailto:foundation@alzheimers.org.au)  
T: (02) 6278 8900

## STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

OPERATING ACTIVITIES	2016 (\$)	2015 (\$)
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>1,717,591</b>	<b>1,262,815</b>
Auspice fee	(200,000)	(219,727)
Grants issued	(1,956,721)	(2,437,349)
Other expenses	(80,626)	(126,016)
<b>Loss before income tax</b>	<b>(519,756)</b>	<b>(1,520,277)</b>
Income tax expense	-	-
Loss for the year	(519,756)	(1,520,277)
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>(519,756)</b>	<b>(1,520,277)</b>

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2016

	2016 (\$)	2015 (\$)
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	3,014,746	3,900,912
Trade and other receivables	327,526	223,695
Current tax receivable	52,795	37,213
Other assets	41,952	35,912
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>3,437,019</b>	<b>4,197,732</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		
Financial assets	817,564	726,037
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<b>817,564</b>	<b>726,037</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>4,254,583</b>	<b>4,923,769</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	183,592	330,522
Other current liabilities	165,000	167,500
Total Current liabilities	348,592	498,022
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>348,592</b>	<b>498,022</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>3,905,991</b>	<b>4,425,747</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Retained Earnings	3,905,991	4,425,747
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>3,905,991</b>	<b>4,425,747</b>





**ALZHEIMER'S  
AUSTRALIA  
DEMENTIA  
RESEARCH  
FOUNDATION**

Information about Alzheimer's Australia Dementia Research Foundation Ltd. can be found on our website:

[www.dementiaresearchfoundation.org.au](http://www.dementiaresearchfoundation.org.au)

For more information about Alzheimer's Australia:

[www.fightdementia.org.au](http://www.fightdementia.org.au)

National Dementia Helpline: 1800 100 500