"BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH IS A GLOBAL ENTERPRISE INVOLVING A NETWORK OF WORLDWIDE COLLABORATIONS"
**HEART FACTS**

- **TO LUNGS AND BACK TO THE HEART**
  - 1990: First single lung transplant
  - 1992: First bilateral lung transplant

- **HEART BEATS SEVENTY TIMES PER MINUTE**
  - 76.6

- **UP**
  - 12,469
  - 76.6

- **3,700,000**
  - Heart beats seventy times per minute
  - Three point seven million

- **STRIKES THE YOUNG AND OLD**
  - 1990: First single lung transplant
  - 1992: First bilateral lung transplant

- **100,000**
  - Heart contractions per day
  - One in three

- **70-100**
  - People who died from coronary heart disease in Australia
  - Number of Australian women who died from coronary heart disease in 2000

- **70-100,000**
  - Three million

- **THE RELIEF OF PAIN AND SUFFERING AND THE PROMOTION OF WELL-BEING, THROUGH AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE FUNDAMENTAL MECHANISMS OF CARDIOVASCULAR BIOLOGY IN HEALTH AND DISEASE.**

**MISSION STATEMENT & CONTENTS**

The relief of pain and suffering and the promotion of well-being, through an understanding of the fundamental mechanisms of cardiovascular biology in health and disease.

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**AWARDS AND SEMINARS**
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**MISSION STATEMENT & CONTENTS**

The relief of pain and suffering and the promotion of well-being, through an understanding of the fundamental mechanisms of cardiovascular biology in health and disease.
The Worldwide Web of Heart Research

More than ever before, science progresses as an open-ended, network of human activity. The private curiosity, drive, insight and even genius of individual scientists are still at the core of this activity. However, the ability to communicate freely through email and other electronic means, and through the worldwide web to access virtually all of the published literature as well as websites hosting large data sets, has revolutionised the way science is conducted. Ideas now circulate more freely instead of being buried away in obscure books and journals, and can be seized upon, filtered and extended very rapidly by others, much in the same way as cultural ideas and trends pervade the community. Adding to this, the technology of experimental science has changed dramatically.

The scale of our endeavours, aided by computers, is simply mind-boggling. Genes provide the heritable code for proteins and RNA, which are the enzymes and structural elements that make up the cells of our bodies. Accidental changes in genes or how they are regulated cause disease, or contribute to the severity of disease, including heart disease.

Virtually overnight, we moved from an ability to analyse single genes at a time, extrapolating wildly about the behaviour of the whole cell, to one in which we can interrogate all of the 40,000 or so genes in the human genome in a single experiment. Robots have also allowed us to do hundreds of thousands of manipulations that a single researcher could not possibly contemplate. The data sets we generate are huge, and there is a strong expectation in the community that these be made publicly available for other scientists to analyse. As a result, a new generation of scientists skilled in information technology who help us sift through these large data sets for their hidden secrets, has emerged. Because of the need for a greater range of expertise and technologies, collaborations between laboratories and the sharing of reagents are now vital parts of our work. Science is conducted as a human network spread across the globe.

The Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute is committed to making important discoveries in cardiovascular biology and medicine. Its scientists are very much embedded in the worldwide web of heart research. They collaborate widely with researchers internationally, and these collaborations lead to important discoveries, as can be seen by the high impact of our publications. This impact is as much related to how those discoveries pervade back through the worldwide information network and are used by others, as the discoveries themselves. These are exciting times, and the brief profiles and stories provided in this VCCRI Annual Report speak not only of the individuals and their achievements, but also of the web-like organism of science and how it impacts our daily lives.
During its 15th year, the Institute was able to reflect on how far it has come. It has established an international reputation in understanding the heart and the mechanisms that make it work. Each member of our faculty is recognised worldwide for their work and it is because of them that the Institute has been able to be recognised as one of the world's leading research institutes.

In fact, I’m very pleased to report that the 5-year review of the Institute conducted by our Scientific Advisory Board has been completed very recently and has borne out this assessment of the standing of the Institute. As you might know, the Advisory Board is made up of six of the world’s most eminent scientists.

We will provide a very detailed account of the Scientific Advisory Board’s review later, but I would like to quote just a few preliminary words from its initial findings. It found that, quote, “Under the leadership of Professor Graham the Institute has developed to be one of the best-funded and most highly respected medical research institutes in Australia and has an international reputation for its cardiac research.”

“The Victor Chang Institute has survived, indeed thrived, through the global financial crisis and has managed a complex building and relocation program, recently moving into the Lowy Packer Building which provides world-class facilities.”

In summary, it found that, and I quote, “The Victorian Chang Institute has developed admirably and is at the most exciting point in its 15 Year journey. There is a realisation among the leadership, strongly endorsed by the Scientific Advisory Board, that this is the right time to take a deep breath and plan strategically for the next phase of the Institute’s development.”

I don’t think we could hope for a more powerful endorsement of the work we are all undertaking here, and it gives Bob and his team great encouragement for the future. Ladies and gentlemen, each of the past 15 years has been marked by at least one major discovery in a wide-ranging area of heart disease biology. These discoveries range from studies showing the benefits of lowering cholesterol to studies that explain how the severity of a disease can differ even between identical twins. Our researchers have also discovered that diseases can be exacerbated by a defect in the activity of a gene that is turned on in the heart—part of a new field called epigenetics.

We have had breakthroughs in understanding the cause of heart defects in babies and finding that mouse hearts can regenerate. We have developed a novel procedure that more than doubles the time a heart can remain healthy after being removed from a donor and before transplantation into a heart failure recipient. This is an enormously important advance, especially in Australia where large distances limit the availability of hearts to a region within four hours traveling time. Indeed, this advancement has worldwide ramifications where the same limitations apply and often means that a patient with heart failure dies before they can get a safely matched donor heart.

In a recent landmark study our researchers identified a gene which can lead to permanent kidney damage when there are not enough resources provided to a baby in the womb—another major discovery that kidney disease often leads to high blood pressure and heart failure.

All of these breakthroughs, and many more, are detailed in the published work of the Institute which is one of the most important measures of the Institute’s reputation. It has established an international reputation in understanding the heart and circulatory diseases that affect one Australian every 11 minutes. More than 700 people attended the annual Heart to Heart Ball in support of heart research. And heard a landmark speech from James Packer about the enormous challenge of finding new and better ways to fund medical research.

We will provide a very detailed account of the Institute’s development. ”

For our success.

We look forward to sharing the next 15 years with you to bridge the gap between heart failure and cure, and in the next 20 years to accelerate the eradication of heart disease—a reality.
Directors report

Professor Robert M. Graham
AO, FAA, MBBS(Hons), MD, FRACP, FACP, FAHA

Overview
Since its establishment in 1994, the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute (VCCRI) has been committed to unlocking the mysteries of heart disease. Despite the disruption of moving into the new Lowy Packer building at the end of 2008, we have been able to maintain our momentum, with continued strong progress and many discoveries in 2009. Of course this new facility is much needed and gives us the opportunity to now move ahead at an increased and by expanding our research team. In this 16th year of operations, I am pleased to report that an independent survey by the Australia National University ranked the VCCRI 6th out of Australia’s top 37 medical research institutes. The report also showed that we have established a strong international reputation with researchers and fellowships garnered by our faculty and trainees. Some of the highlights from the last two years include of course the prestigious Australia Fellowship awarded to Professor Richard Harvey. In addition, Monique O’Hanian who, whilst at high school, won the VCCRI Science Award and then went on to win the University of Western Sydney Dean’s medal for her honours project conducted jointly with the VCCRI. Monique has now commenced her PhD with us. James Chong was awarded the inaugural Newcastle Fellowship. In 2008 and 2009, two world renowned researchers, Professor Richard Hengerson from the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge and Professor Andreas Zeiher from the University of Frankfurt spoke at two further international symposia that the Institute organised – these symposia also featuring many acclaimed scientists and clinicians.

Awards and honours
Further evidence of the Institute’s scholarship is the many awards and fellowships garnered by our faculty and trainees. In 2009, PhD degrees for work carried out at the institute, in conjunction with the University of NSW Faculty of Medicine, were awarded to Alfred Hing and Jacqueline Lynne Johnson. Carol Mark was awarded First Class Honours in bioinformatics. Other happenings
For the past year I have held the presidency of the Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes, the peak lobby group for independent institutes including the VCCRI. Modern medicine is founded on scientific discoveries. I am working to ensure that scientists have a strong voice in improving our health care system to ensure that research into heart disease, cancer, and other major diseases is funded as an important component of improving Australia’s health care and hospital system into the future.

Education
In 2009, PhD degrees for work carried out at the institute, in conjunction with the University of NSW Faculty of Medicine, were awarded to Alfred Hing and Jacqueline Lynne Johnson. Carol Mark was awarded First Class Honours in bioinformatics. The VCCRI continued to hold weekly tours of the institute for the public, to give them an insight into the research we are conducting. The tours have proved to be very popular with Probus, Rotary, Lions and View Clubs. Our researchers were also invited to speak about the institute’s work and heart disease to various community groups. We again participated in the Science in the City Expo, and Science Exposed, which is aimed at school students.

Symposia and lectures
The VCCRI believes in creating an environment that encourages collaboration and communication among researchers, clinician scientists and students. In addition to our regular seminars, we host a yearly international Princesses’ Lecture. In 2008 and 2009, two world renowned researchers, Professor Richard Hengerson from the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge and Professor Andreas Zeiher from the University of Frankfurt were our Princesses’ lecturers and spoke at two further international symposia that the Institute organised – these symposia also featuring many other nationally and internationally acclaimed scientists and clinicians.

Community activities
The VCCRI now has 100 schools participating in its School Science Awards program and will expand into the Illawarra and South East Region in the near future. The program was developed to foster and encourage an interest in science among secondary school students, with the view to promoting careers in science and biomedical research. This year’s winners came from schools in the Penrith, Blacktown, Bankstown and Campbelltown areas.

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Thanks
It would not be possible to conduct our important research without the generous support of our friends – the many people who give so generously to support our work. This year, for example, we unveiled a new confocal microscope, which was made possible by a generous bequest from the estate of the late Herbert Sydney Smith. This vital piece of equipment allows our researchers to see the tiny particles inside a living cell, but also to ‘slice’ it very finely so all the components of the cells can be visualised individually.

My most sincere thanks also to our Board, headed so ably by Mr. Steven Lowey, AM, our Appeals Committee, chaired by Mr. John McGuan, our Finance Committee, headed by Mr. John Keen, the Sisters of Charity, and all of our scientific and administrative staff.

Robert M. Graham, AO, FAA, MD
Epidemiology, Research.
The Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute (VCCRI) lost one of its most treasured employees on May 5, 2009. Our Finance Manager Mrs. Monica O’Loughlin, wife and mother of 5 died suddenly from a heart attack whilst visiting her mother in Taree.

Monica joined the VCCRI over eight years ago, initially on a part-time basis, but then soon became a full-time employee looking after the Institute’s finances which was a massive task especially during the construction period of our new building. Coping with full-time work and the demands of a large family weren’t enough for Monica, in her spare time she managed to get a diploma in psychology and had started an honours degree at the time of her death.

Monica was always quick to volunteer to help at any fundraising events and embraced all the ‘special’ holidays with great enthusiasm. Monica was much loved by the Institute and her death has had a great impact on us all. Her family remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Healer of Hearts

Victor Chang (Yam Him) was born in Shanghai of Australian born Chinese parents. He came to Australia in 1953 to complete his schooling at Christian Brothers College, Lewisham, and then moved to medical training at Sydney University. Graduating in 1962, he became an intern and later a registrar in cardiothoracic surgery at St. Vincent’s Hospital.

After completing additional training in England, and then at the prestigious Mayo Clinic in the US, he returned to St. Vincent’s Hospital in 1972 to join the elite St. Vincent’s cardiothoracic team that already included Harry Windsor and Mark Shanahan.

A pioneer of the modern era of heart transplantation, Victor Chang established the National Heart Transplant Unit at St. Vincent’s Hospital in 1984. During the 1980’s he became widely known as a man of vision, as a caring surgeon, as a researcher and as an ambassador for Australia and the people of South East Asia. During this time he nurtured a vision to establish an internationally recognised cardiac research centre at St. Vincent’s and to this end, in 1990 he and others launched the “Heart of St. Vincent’s Appeal”.

VICTOR CHANG (1936-1991)

VALE

Monica Frances O’Loughlin
February 2, 1958 – 5 May, 2009

—

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John Patrick Joseph Baker
February 23, 1929 – August 15th, 2009

—

When John Baker entered a room he certainly made his presence felt. If it wasn’t his colourful attire, matching shirts, socks and braces that got everyone’s attention, it was his grand entrance. He had the knack of turning a stressful meeting into a fun event making everyone laugh with his witty comments and, at times, risqué jokes. He was an integral part of the Victor Chang Ball committee and even at the tender age of 80 still did his bit to ensure the event was a great success.

The perfect guest, John was a gentleman through and through. He garnered friends from around the world and kept in touch with each and every one of them. He never forgot birthdays or special occasions and sent the most fitting cards. He sent postcards from wherever he was visiting. The only problem being his writing – it was appalling – he’d be home before you could decipher the few words he had written on the card!

John Patrick Joseph Baker died on August 15 at St. Vincent’s Hospital. We loved him and we miss him. But he has left us with a legacy of many happy memories.
History

With his tragic and untimely death in Sydney on July 4th, 1991, efforts to realise Victor Chang’s dream accelerated, resulting in generous donations from the Federal Government, the late Mr. Kerry Packer, AC, and the Australian public.

With these funds St. Vincent’s Hospital established the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, which was launched on February 14, 1994 by the then Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon. Paul Keating, with the late Mr. Kerry Packer, AC as its Patron and Professor Robert Graham as its Executive Director.

On February 27th 1995, the Institute was incorporated as an independent research facility with the Hon. Neville Wran, AC,QC as its Chairman, and on November 1, 1996 the late Diana, Princess of Wales opened the Institute in its then new premises in the Garvan Building. In 2004, Mrs. Ann Chang became a Patron of the Institute, in 2005 Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Mary of Denmark, an Honorary Life Governor and in 2006 the Hon. Neville Wran, AC, QC, our inaugural Chairman retired and became a Patron.

Royal Opening

Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Mary of Denmark officially opened the Lowy Packer Building on Wednesday September 3, 2008 in front of 250 guests. That night both their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Frederik and Crown Prince Mary attended a celebratory dinner in the building.

The $80 million purpose-built facility, together with the existing Garvan Building, houses the St. Vincent’s Research Precinct, the largest biomedical hub in NSW comprising the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute (VCCRI), the St. Vincent’s Centre for Applied Medical Research and the Garvan Institute of Medical Research.

The Lowy Packer Building was built with funds kindly provided by the NSW State Government and Australian Federal Government, as well as generous donations from The Atlantic Philanthropies, the Lowy and Packer families, the National Australia Bank, ANZ Bank and Citigroup, along with many other generous donors.

Her Royal Highness unveiled a plaque and a bronze life-sized sculpture of the late esteemed cardiac surgeon Dr. Victor Chang, which sits in front of the building. The opening was also attended by the then Premier of New South Wales, the Hon. Morris Iemma, MP and the building was blessed by His Eminence, George Cardinal Pell.

The new building will allow the VCCRI to expand its research and develop vital ancillary core facilities, such as X-Ray crystallography and will provide increased opportunities for research training of students undertaking BSc (Hons), MSc, MD or PhD degrees as well as training postdoctoral students.
2009 marked the 15th Birthday of The Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute. Our researchers are passionate, dedicated and committed to finding a cure for heart disease.

**Molecular structure, function, and signaling.** Major review of the family of proteins on the surface of cells that allow adrenaline, released at times of stress, to regulate heart function.

**1997**

Quenching of red blood cells results in changes that can be observed non-invasively with an electrocardiogram and used to diagnose patients with an increased risk for blood clots and strokes.

**1998**

Landmark study demonstrating the far-reaching benefits of lowering cholesterol regardless of how high it is before treatment.

**1999**

An entirely unexplained but important phenomenon – in identical twins disease severity can vary markedly. In one twin may have very severe disease, the other is only mildly affected or normal. Given that such twins have identical genes, the differences is not in the genes themselves but differences in how their genes function.

**2000**

When both copies of the gene Nkx2.5 are not functioning, the heart fails to develop but if only one of the genes is defective, this results in a higher rate of hole in the heart, the commonest form of heart disease present at birth.

**2001**

Since the human gene has been sequenced we now know the order of millions of DNA bases. What cannot fully be predicted from this sequence is where all the genes lie material. For the first time the precise location of thousands of genes that are active in the developing embryo which is critical for reading our genome map has now been discovered.

**2002**

Muscle is composed of two types of fibres – fast twitch provides strength and slow twitch is required for endurance. Previously unidentified signals have been discovered that control the development of slow twitch muscles in zebrafish. The findings should be directly applicable to our understanding of human muscle development and physiology, and muscle diseases.

**2003**

A breakthrough discovery in understanding heart problems in babies by addressing origin of heart defects and discovering that certain types of congenital heart problems occur at a much earlier stage in the development of a baby then ever expected.

**2004**

Major advance in the understanding of adult stem cell biology and in the application of adult stem cells to treat cardiac disease.

**2005**

Breakthrough discovery showing how dietary choices in pregnancy affect children for at least two generations. In an international first, our researchers reported that the diet of pregnant mothers can affect, not only in the children, but in their grandchildren as well.

**2006**

Groundbreaking evidence showing how dietary choices in pregnancy affect children for at least two generations. In an international first, our researchers reported that the diet of pregnant mothers can affect, not only in the children, but in their grandchildren as well.

**2007**

1. Breakthrough discovery in understanding heart problems in babies by addressing origin of heart defects and discovering that certain types of congenital heart problems occur at a much earlier stage in the development of a baby than ever expected.

2. Interactions between inherited gene changes and stress or dilation of the low pressure upper chambers of the heart, the atria, may be important in the onset of atrial fibrillation, which is the most common heart rhythm abnormality in our community and is a major risk factor for heart failure and stroke.

3. Abnormalities in a cardiac gene (TBX3) is a member of the T-box family of genes that regulate how other sets of genes are turned on and off in the embryo which are responsible for heart malformations in children identified.

4. Patients with severe heart disease may soon have access to a simple injection to help manage their symptoms and reduce their need for large amount of pain relief.

**2008**

Researchers find that the embrionic mouse heart has an astounding capacity to regenerate, a phenomenon previously observed only in non-mammalian species.

**2009**

1. A world-first technique has been developed that will almost double the available time donors can be transported to transplant centre and is a major step forward in providing the best care and support for patients requiring heart transplants.

2. Circumstantial evidence shows that placental insufficiency may also affect renal medullary growth which could account for cases of unexplained renal medullary dysplasia and for abnormalities in renal function infants which had experienced intrauterine growth retardation.

3. A new technique has been developed that will allow greater scope to accept a variety of donors, including those from interstate and overseas.

4. Researchers say the technique will give greater scope to accept a variety of donors, including those from interstate and overseas.
The successful operations of The Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute are heavily reliant upon the dedication, commitment and vision provided by the Board of Directors and subsidiary committees.

Mr. Steven Lowy
AM (Chairman)
Steven Lowy was appointed managing director of Westfield Holdings in 1997 and currently serves as group managing director of the Westfield Group. Mr. Lowy holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) degree from University of NSW. Prior to joining Westfield in 1987, he worked in investment banking in the US. Mr. Lowy is President of the Board of Trustees of the Art Gallery of New South Wales; a director of the Lowy Institute for International Policy; a member of the Prime Minister’s Business-Government Advisory Group on National Security; and Chairman of the Board of Management for the Associate Degree of Policing Practice (ADPP).

Dr. Gary H. Weiss
LLB (Hons); LLM
Gary Weiss is chairman of Coats AM (Chairman)
Perry Investments Limited, the Westfield Group and Tag Pacific Limited, the Westfield Group and Tag Pacific. He has both an accounting and legal background, leading to senior positions at Pricewaterhouse and then Baker & McKenzie. He has served on the boards of a number of public and private companies, and maintains an active involvement in charitable and civic organisations. In addition to serving as a Director of the VCCRI, he is Chairman of its Appeals Committee.

Jill Margo
BA (Honors)
Jill Margo is a contributing journalist on The Australian Financial Review. She has won 17 international and national media awards, including two Walkleys. Since 2003, she has been a member of working parties charged with developing clinical and consumer guidelines for the management of prostate cancer. In 2006 Jill was awarded an Order of Australia for services to journalism and cancer. She holds a BA (Honours) in English literature, is a best-selling author and biographer.

Mrs. Ros Packer
Mr. John McGuigan
LLB
John McGuigan is a co-founder of Hunter Bay Partners, a private investment company with investments in the Energy and Food sectors. He has both an accounting and legal background, leading to senior positions at Pricewaterhouse and then Baker & McKenzie. He has served on the boards of a number of public and private companies, and maintains an active involvement in charitable and civic organisations. In addition to serving as a Director of the VCCRI, he is Chairman of its Appeals Committee.

Professor Robert M. Graham
AD, FAA, MBBS (Hons), MD, FRACP, FACP, FAHA
Professor Graham is Executive Director of the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute and a member of its Executive Management, Appeals and Finance Committees. He is the Des Renford Professor of Medicine, and Professor of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences, University of NSW, and Professor (adjunct) of Physiology and Biophysics, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Cleveland, Ohio. He is Fellow, Australian Academy of Science, and a member of the American Association for Clinical Research, the American Society for Clinical Investigation, the American Heart Association, and the National Heart Foundation of Australia (NSW Division).

Mr. David Craig
BEC, FCA, CTIP
David Craig commenced as Chief Financial Officer of the Commonwealth Bank in September 2006. David has over 30 years of experience in financial management, strategy, mergers and acquisitions. Prior to joining the Bank, David was Chief Financial Officer for Australand where he was responsible for leading the finance, treasury, IT and investor relations functions.

Mr. John Kean
FCA, FAICD
John Kean is Executive Chairman of Pinpoint Pty Limited. He joined the company in July 1996, 6 months after the channel’s inception. Before joining Australian News Channel, he held positions at British Sky Broadcasting, the Nine Network and Prime Television Carribean.

Professor Leslie D Field
LLB, PhD
Professor Field was appointed to the Chair of Gene Expression at the University of NSW on 29 March 2005. His main areas of research are organellar chemistry, catalysis, and NMR spectroscopy. He is the author of more than 170 scientific papers and 4 text books. He was recipient of the Organic Chemistry Medal of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute in 1994 and was elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science in 1996.

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Mr. Chum Darvell
BA, FPH, FAICD
Chum Darvell was appointed Chief Executive Officer Deutsche Bank Australia and New Zealand in June 2002. He joined the bank in September 1994 as Director of Treasury, managing the money market, swaps and foreign exchange units and group funding. In early 1998, he became Head of Global Markets responsible for all financial market-related activities. Chum was also part of the management group responsible for the integration of the New Zealand operation of Bankers Trust with Deutsche Bank in 1999. He is a current council member for the Business Council of Australia and sits on a number of Boards.

Past Board Members
Mr. Kerry James, AM
Mrs. Ann Chang
Mr. John Kean
Dr. Tina Clifton
Mr. Paul Kelly
Mr. John Lowes, OBE
Mr. Malcolm Irving, AM
Mr. Sam Chisholm
Mr. Paul Kelly
Dr. Tina Clifton
Mr. John Lowes, OBE
Mrs. Barbara Matthews
Mr. Craig Chisholm
Mr. Mark Johnson, AO
Mr. Cameron Chapman
Mr. Malcolm Irving, AM
Mr. Sam Chisholm
Mr. Sam Chisholm
Mr. Cameron Chapman
Mr. Malcolm Irving, AM
Mr. Sam Chisholm
Mr. Ian Dawes
BSc, DPhil (Oxon)
Professor Ian Dawes is Scientia Professor of Genetics in the School of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences. He is also Director of the Ramaciotti Centre for Gene Function analysis and an ARC Professorial Fellow as well as a University medallist and Rhodes Scholar.

Sr. Anthea Groves
AO, MBBS (Hons), MD, FRACP, FACP, FAHA
Sr. Anthea is a member of the Council of the National Gallery of Australia (NSW Division).

Dr. Leslie Field
BSc, PhD
Professor Leslie Field was appointed to the Chair of Gene Expression at the University of NSW on 29 March 2005. His main areas of research are organellar chemistry, catalysis, and NMR spectroscopy. He is the author of more than 170 scientific papers and 4 text books. He was recipient of the Organic Chemistry Medal of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute in 1994 and was elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science in 1996.

Sr. Paulina Pilkington, AM, RSC
The Late Sr. Claire Nolan, RSC
Mrs. Anna Kasteng
Mr. Mark Johnson, AO
Mr. Sam Chisholm
Appeals Committee

The Appeals Committee consists of a group of volunteers & institute staff who are responsible for the Institute’s fundraising events to raise the vital funds needed by the Institute to conduct its groundbreaking research.

Members include:
- Mrs. Ann Chang
- Mrs. Barbara Matthews
- Professor Robert Graham, AO
- Mr. John McGuigan (Chairman)
- Mrs. Linda Duncombe
- Mr. John Kean
- Sr. Paulina Pilkington, AM
- Mr. Michael Renford
- Mr. John Shim
- Mrs. Antoinette Ogilvie
- Mr. Russell Felen
- Ms. Bernie Connolly
- Mr. Peter Homan
- Ms. Jan Savage
- Mrs. Stephanie Hughes
- Mr. Rob Tranch
- Mr. Alan Crouch
- Ms. Anne-Marie Allgrove
- Mr. Robert Ryan
- Mrs. Louise Di Francesco
- Mr. Ross Kosarchsky
- Mr. Das Manon
- Mr. Kerry James, AM

Intellectual Property and Commercialisation Committee

The Intellectual Property & Commercialisation Committee (IP&CC) is responsible for the oversight and management of the intellectual property and commercialisation activities of the Institute. The Committee meets formally twice a year, and on a “needs to” basis at other times.

Members include:
- Professor Robert M. Graham, AO
- Ms. Mhairi Donohoe
- Ms. Anne-Marie Allgrove
- Dr. Trevor Davies
- Professor Joan Dawes
- Ms. Britt Granath
- Dr. Melissa McBurnie
- Mrs. Carla Northam
- Mrs. Monica O’Loughlin was a member of the Finance Committee until her death in May, 2009.
Medical scientists have successfully trialed a new combination of drugs extending the time a donor heart can spend in transit, from the current four to five hour limit, up to 14 hours.

A world-first technique has been developed by Australian scientists at the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute (VCCRI) and St. Vincent's Hospital (SVH) that will almost double the life of donor hearts being transported for transplant surgery.

"The longer a donor heart lives outside the recipient, the more it will deteriorate, increasing the risk of injury or even death during transplantation, due to restricted blood flow," said Professor Bob Graham, Executive Director of the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute.

"If we can successfully preserve the donor heart for a longer period, we will reduce deterioration and therefore allow the heart to function more quickly and effectually after surgery," added Professor Graham.

"This is a major issue given the vast size of countries like Australia and the time it can take to transport a heart from a donor to a recipient."
ACHIEVEMENTS 2008

AWARDS AND

Dr Catherine Suter
Received funding from the Cure Cancer Australia Foundation as well as being selected for the 2008 Macquarie Group Foundation Fellowship.

Dr Merrilee Wouters
Awarded International Travel Grant at the Joint 52nd Annual Meeting of Biophysical Society and 16th IUPAB International Biophysics Congress at Long Beach California, February 2-6 2008.

Professor R M Graham, AO
Elected as a 2 year term as President, Australian Association of Medical Research Institutes in November 2008.

A/Professor Sally Dunwoodie
Won the inaugural Australian & New Zealand Society for Cell & Developmental Biology (ANZSCDB) Young Investigator Award.

Lauren Ng
Has received the D.I. McCloskey Prize for Physiology/Pharmacology Honours.

Dr Arie Jacoby
Received a Network in Genes and Environment in Development (NGED) Conference Participation Award to attend the 2008 Santa Cruz Developmental Biology Meeting June 26-29 at UC Santa Cruz.

Monique Ohanian
Received the Loma Byrne Public Speaking Trophy for Best Honours thesis presentation, School of Natural Sciences, University of Western Sydney.

Leah Cannon
Awarded the Cardiac Society Australia & New Zealand (CSANZ) Travelling Fellowship to attend the American Heart Association Scientific Sessions in New Orleans in November 2008.

Professor Richard Harvey
Elected as an Associate Member of the European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO).

Dr Rob Bryson-Richardson
Received a travel award from the NGED, which allowed him to be an invited instructor at the European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO) practical course on 3D Developmental Imaging in Lisbon, Portugal.

Paul Korner Seminar Series 2008
Adam Hill was the winner of the 2008 Paul Korner Seminar Series with Traude Belfurz runner up and the Staff Choice Award being presented to both Leah Cannon and Lawrence Lee.

Wendy Saad
Awarded the John Yu Scholarship by the Royal Alexandra Hospital (Children's Hospital at Westmead) to complete her Honours degree in B Medical Science through Sydney University.

Jacque-Lynne Johnson
Received an NGED conference participation award to attend the 2008 Santa Cruz Developmental Biology Meeting June 26-29 at UC Santa Cruz.

Monique Ohanian
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ACHIEVEMENTS 2009

AWARDS AND

Professor Robert Graham
Awarded an AO in the Queen’s Birthday Honours for service to medicine, particularly through stewardship of the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute and research in the field of molecular cardiology.

Lawrence Lee
Awarded the “Best Poster/Oral Paper” for his presentation “The structure of the torque-generating ring of the bacterial flagellar motor and the molecular basis for the rotational switching at the 2009 East Coast Protein Meeting”.

Alastair Stewart
Awarded the “Best PhD Student Talk” for his presentation “Molecular Architecture of the Thermoplasma Acidophilum A-ATPase Stator Complex”.

Christiana Leimena
Received The Miltenyi Biotech Molecular Biology President’s Medal and Oration (presented at Combio 2009).

Cheryl Lith
Awarded best oral presentation from a student at the Annual Epigenetics Conference in Melbourne.

Degrees Awarded

— Marco Nousch
Awarded his PhD at the University of New South Wales, School of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences.

— Milena Furtado
Awarded PhD, University of New South Wales (Faculty of Medicine).

— Edwin Kirk
Awarded PhD, University of New South Wales (School of Women’s and Children’s Health, Faculty of Medicine).

— Ishtiaq Ahmed
Awarded his PhD at the University of Durham (Faculty of Biological and Biomedical Sciences).

— Lawrence Lee
Awarded the 2009 Paul Korner Seminar Series with Sharon Chih and James Chong the runners up. The Staff Choice Awards were presented to both Chris Blair and Liz Yeo.

— Cheryl Lith
Awarded best oral presentation from a student at the Annual Epigenetics Conference in Melbourne.

— Adam Hill
Elected NSW State Representative for the Australian Society for Biophysics.

 Degrees Awarded

Alfred Hing
Awarded his PhD at the University of New South Wales (Faculty of Medicine). Jacques-Lynne’s project: “The role of the zebrafish scube gene family in muscle development” investigated how this family of three genes interacted with the Hedgehog pathway to specify slow muscle cell fate in the developing zebrafish embryo. Jacques-Lynne showed that all three scube genes were required for slow muscle development and functioned redundantly in slow muscle specification acting upstream of the obligate receptor patched. Jacques-Lynne was awarded an International Postgraduate Award from the University of New South Wales to undertake her PhD at the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute.

Carol Mak
BE Bioinformatics Honours Class.
Paul Körner Seminar Series 2008

Claus Hallwirth
“Investigating the closed-loop model of miRNA translation in eukaryotes”

Arie Jacoby
“Damage and recovery of striatal muscle: why is it so hard?”

Traude Beilharz
“Finding the targets of miRNA mediated repression”

Ling Gao
“Polypharmaceutical Strategies against Ischemia-Reperfusion Injury in Donor Heart Preservation”

Duncan Sparrow
“SNP, SNP, Array for Affymetrix!”

Kylie Lopes-Floro
“Cited2 is required for left-right orientation of LVH due to the R403Q MHC class II allele”

Lawrence Lee
“Unsolved Mysteries of the Rotatory ATPase Enzymes – ‘Mysterious Rotary Engine(s) of the Cell’”

Nick Cole
“Morphogenesis and evolution of vertebrate appendicular muscle formation”

Cheryl Li
“Epigenetic programming in a perturbed intrauterine environment.”

James Chong
“Where did I come from? – A Cardiac Stem/Progenitor Cell Perspective”

Joachim Berger
“sapa, a model for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy”

Stefan Mann
“Electrical transgenesis: a dynamic approach”

Alex Shi
“MicroRNA repression of p53 contributes to survival of embryonic stem cells and neuroblastomas”

David Humphreys
“Contribution of poly(A) tail deadenylatation in miRNA mediated repression”

Mark Perrin
“State Dependent Drug Binding to hERG”

Leah Cannon
“Characterization of a Regulatable Mouse Model of Left Ventricular Hypertrophy”

Robert Bryson-Richardson
“Muscle Specification and Early Onset Myopathies in the Zebrafish”

Merriade Wouters
“Disulphides as Redox Switches in protein Structures”

Paul Körner
“Investigating RNA methylation in a perturbed intrauterine environment.”

Vashe Chandrakathan
“Investigating the function of the bacterial flagellar rotary motor”

Jason Liu
“Getting to the heart of hERG K+ channel gating”

Duncan Sparrow
“Unlocking the gate to potassium channel inactivation”

Stanley Artap
“Cited2 is necessary for determining the left-right body axis and to the development of the placenta in the mouse”

Christopher Leimena
“Epimutation in health and disease”

Jeff Squires
“Investigating RNA methylation with breaths sequencing”

Michelle Holland
“Profiling the transcriptome during cardiac differentiation and other projects”

Munira Keymanian
“Characterization of Scu-1+ / PECAM-1+ (PDGFRα+) Cardiac Stem Cells”

Chris Blair
“Mesenchymal stem cell transplantation for functional recovery following acute myocardial infarction”

Merriade Wouters
“Young 2: A cardiac cell-type with stem and progenitor cell properties in the developing and adult murine heart”

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Merriade Wouters
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Paul Körner
**Professor Bryan Williams**
Director, Monash Institute of Medical Research, Victoria,
“RNAi and Innate Immunity”

**Dr. Julie McMullen**
Cardiac Hypertrophy Lab, Baker IDI, Victoria
“Protective role of the IGF1-PI3K(p110alpha) pathway in the heart”

**Professor Charles Mackay**
Director, Immunology & Inflammation Research, Garvan Institute of Medical Research
“Chemokine receptors and their role in leukocyte migration, inflammation, HIV infection, and cancer”

**Professor Greg Gibson**
School of Biological Sciences, University of Queensland
“Genomic dissection of complex disease in flies and humans”

**Professor David Tremethick**
Group & Genome Biology, The John Curtin School of Medical Research, Australian National University, ACT
“Understanding the link between chromatin structure and function during early development”

**Dr. Rohan Teasdale**
Institute of Molecular Sciences, University of Queensland
“The Dynamic Endosome: A journey through space and time”

**Professor Doug Hilton**
Head Molecular Medicine, Walter & Eliza Institute of Medical Research Victoria
“Genetic Dissection of Blood Cells Formation”

**Dr. Eddy Kizana**
Faculty of Medicine, University of Sydney & Staff Cardiologist, Dept. of Cardiology, Westmead Hospital
“Transfer of Regulatory RNA Molecules via Gap Junctions in Heart Cells”

**Dr. Himanshu Brahmbhatt & Dr. Jennifer MacDiarmid**
Co-founders and Managing Directors EnGeneIC Pty Ltd
“Bacterially-derived nanocells for targeted delivery of drugs or siRNAs to tumors in-vivo”

**Professor David Good**
Director, The Queensland Institute of Medical Research
“Vaccines for the developing world – status of rheumatic fever”

**Glenn King**
Group leader – IMB Chemical & Structural Biology
“Ionomics as a drug discovery platform”

**Dr. Jackie Wilce**
Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences
Monash University Victoria
“mRNA recognition by proteins involved in translation regulation”

**Dr. Ryszard Maleszka**
Molecular Genetics and Evolution Group
Research School of Biological Sciences
“How the interplay between genes and environment generates organismal and behavioural complexity: insights from the honey bee epigenomics”

**Dr. Melanie Bahlo**
WEHI, Bioinformatics Division
“Using high throughput technologies for disease gene identification”

**Dr. Jennifer Gamble**
Professor of Vascular Biology Medicine, Central Clinical School
Centenary Institute of Cancer Medicine & Cell Biology
“Regulation of Vascular Phenotypes”

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**Dr. Melanie Bahlo**
WEHI, Bioinformatics Division
“Using high throughput technologies for disease gene identification”

**Dr. Kevin Pfleger**
Head of the Laboratory for Molecular Endocrinology
Western Australian Institute
“Monitoring G Protein-Coupled Receptor Complexes using BRET”

**Dr. Jennifer Gamble**
Professor of Vascular Biology Medicine, Central Clinical School
Centenary Institute of Cancer Medicine & Cell Biology
“Regulation of Vascular Phenotypes”
We would like to sincerely thank the following companies for supporting our symposiums.

Merk, Pfizer, addex, TGR


52_The VCCRI Annual Report 2008/09

PUBLICATIONS 2009


17_ Murphy RM, O'Rourke MF, Dunwoodie SL. The role of hypoxia in the regulation of mammalian cardiomyocyte terminal differentiation shown through the study of mice with a dominant-negative Hif-1alpha. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2009; 106:814-9.


32_ Delvecchio D, Cordell PA, Williams DE, O'Rourke MF, Dunwoodie SL. The role of hypoxia in the regulation of mammalian cardiomyocyte terminal differentiation shown through the study of mice with a dominant-negative Hif-1alpha. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2009; 106:814-9.


Letters to the Editor


To be used for next Board Meeting

Des Renford Gala Day

On the eve of the new millennium, Australia lost an icon and the Institute lost a dear friend – Des Renford, MBE, OHC. Des lived life to the fullest despite knowing that at any time his fight with heart disease might claim his life. He was an avid supporter of the Institute and had a reputation for not wasting time whilst he was recuperating in hospital. Having had three open heart surgeries and a transient stroke he spent his hospital days visiting fellow patients and selling Victor Chang merchandise.

To celebrate his life an all day tribute commencing with a swim-a-thon in a 25 metre, one lane purpose built pool, erected on the old casino site which at that time had been taken over by Doltone House. Many of Des’ friends came along to swim in his honour - Murray Rose, John Devitt, Barry Rodgers, Guy Leech, to name just a few. As night fell, 600 guests attended a black tie fundraiser to help raise money to establish the Des Renford Chair of Heart Research at the VCCRI. $250,000 was raised that night which was put towards the $1.5 million needed to establish the Chair.

With $750,000 still to raise, Michael Renford, Des’ youngest son, decided he would step into his father’s shoes and take his place on the VC Appeal Committee.

Des had spent many an hour at the Maroubra Aquatic Centre, which was renamed the Des Renford Aquatic Centre in his honour, so an annual Gala Day at the pool for the last ten years has helped raise the additional funds needed to fund the Chair with the help of Des and Michael’s friends and Randwick Council.

Michael, not content with just the Gala Day, has been the inspiration for many other fundraisers to keep the Chair viable. He not only swam across the English Channel but has done the Manhattan Island and Catalina Island swims as well as many other local challenges.

We are very grateful to Michael, his lovely wife Vanessa and his friends especially Errol and Gerry Goldberg, Tony Johnston, Baden Green, Des’ Coffee Club friends, Randwick Council and the staff at the Des Renford Aquatic Centre for their continued support and friendship.

The memory of Des Renford will live on in our hearts and through the Des Renford Chair of Heart Research.
On behalf of everyone at the VCCRI, thank you to all of our donors for your continued support. This is your institute and its success over the past fifteen years is due to your faith in our research.

We hope you are proud of our achievements and we look forward to you working with us as we try to unlock the mystery of heart disease.
The Victor Chang School Science Awards are presented to Year 11 students who are selected by their school as having excelled in their science studies during the year. Awardes are presented with a framed Certificate-of-Achievement at presentation ceremonies and are given the opportunity to visit the Institute for some hands on experience.

The Institute is extending its reach into the community for the good of science.

The Mary Aikenhead Ministries Trustees

Mary Aikenhead Ministries was established by the Congregation of Religious Sisters of Charity of Australia to succeed to, and to carry on and expand, the various ministries conducted by the Sisters of Charity of Australia.

Mary Aikenhead Ministries was granted canonical status as a public juridic person of pontifical right by the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life on 25 April 2008 and officially established on July 1, 2009. Under Mary Aikenhead Ministries the many ministries that have been established and developed by the Sisters of Charity, will be governed by a group of Trustees, consisting initially of members of the Congregation and lay colleagues.

Mary Aikenhead Ministries will invite Sisters of Charity of Australia to contribute their presence, experience, involvement, wisdom and spirituality for as long as Sisters are willing and able.

The Trustees

Sister Linda Ferrington was born in Papua New Guinea and attended primary school there. She completed her education in Sydney and in 1966 moved to Brisbane, where she now resides. In 1974 she was elected to the Congregational Council and has been involved in Governance since 1990. She has served on Education and Health Boards with the Congregation and the wider Church. Linda is a Trustee of the Institute for Mission which is responsible for Adult Faith Formation in the Diocese of Parramatta.

Rowena McNally was born in Papua New Guinea and attended primary school there. She completed her education in Sydney and in 1966 moved to Brisbane, where she now resides. In 1974 she was elected to the Congregational Council and has been involved in Governance since 1990. She has served on Education and Health Boards with the Congregation and the wider Church. Linda is a Trustee of the Institute for Mission which is responsible for Adult Faith Formation in the Diocese of Parramatta.

Richard Harpham lives in Sydney. He has over 36 years experience in the financial services and banking industry within Australia and overseas. The bulk of his career has been in commercial banking with Citibank, Westpac and St. George. He attended St. Ignatius College, Riverview and is a graduate of the University of Queensland. Richard has been involved with the Sisters of Charity for well over 10 years serving on a number of boards and committees relating to health, education and the Congregation’s financial administration.

David Robinson resides in Sydney. He was educated by the Sisters of Charity and the Christian Brothers and is a graduate of the University of Sydney. David is a Chartered Accountant and Company Director. He has been involved with the Sisters of Charity since 1989, serving on education boards and other committees and is currently Chairman of the Congregation’s Advisory Finance Committee.
VCCRI SUPPORTERS

19,000 KILOMETRES

- KILOMETRES PER DAY IN WHICH THE BLOOD TRAVELS AROUND THE BODY
- 1 LIFE CLAIMED EVERY 10 MINUTES
- AUSTRALIAN STROKES PER YEAR
- 70% OF HEART ATTACKS HAVE NO WARNING
- AMOUNT OF WATER IN BLOOD
- 78%
- LIFE EXPECTANCY OF WOMEN
- 82.0
- FIRST HEART TRANSPLANT
- 1968
- FIRST HEART LUNG TRANSPLANT
- 1986

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