



Foundation  
Philanthropy Report  
2018  
19



The Royal  
Melbourne Hospital  
Foundation



## Thanks for all your support!

The Royal Melbourne Hospital was founded upon the generosity of the citizens of Melbourne in the 1840s. Today, more than 170 years on, we continue to serve the Victorian community and to provide the very best care possible, thanks to the generous support of our 8,000+ donors. We are incredibly grateful for the support of each and every one of you.

In the 2018/19 Financial Year, the Royal Melbourne Hospital Foundation received donations and other revenue of \$24.76 million – a healthy increase from the previous year. These funds allow us to do things which wouldn't ordinarily be possible. They support new medical research, equipment, technologies and facilities. And most importantly, these funds help to improve patient care, which is absolutely at the heart of all that we do.

Your gifts also play an incredible role in inspiring our team, who are always thrilled to know just how much the community values their efforts. Our team of 10,400 doctors, nurses, allied health workers and other staff strive every day to treat each patient as if they are a member of their own family, ensuring access to world-class facilities and treatment for all.

As we look ahead to the 2019/2020 Financial Year, there is a greater need than ever for philanthropic support; and so we are looking to grow our outreach.

Our agenda for the year ahead will include:

- replacing old equipment in our Pathology Labs
- purchasing new equipment for Neurosurgery, and for research into blood cancers
- funding new research that aims to reduce the morbidity of head and neck cancers – one of the cruellest in terms of patient impact.
- funding stipends to support early career researchers to get established and become future leaders

- funding research that will improve patient outcomes in areas spanning across Diabetes, Multiple Sclerosis, Cardiology, Autoimmune diseases, Breast Cancer, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Dermatology, Parkinson's disease, Dementia, and much more.

Your donations bring a ray of hope to all that we do at The RMH and we thank everyone who has contributed, from our corporate partners to trusts and foundations, community groups, individuals, staff, alumni, bequestors, grateful patients and their families, volunteers, Friends of the RMH, Home Lottery supporters, and research partners. Our success depends very much on your ongoing support.

We hope you will enjoy reading about how your donations have helped make a difference, transforming the lives of patients in Victoria and beyond.

We look forward to your continued support in 2019/20.

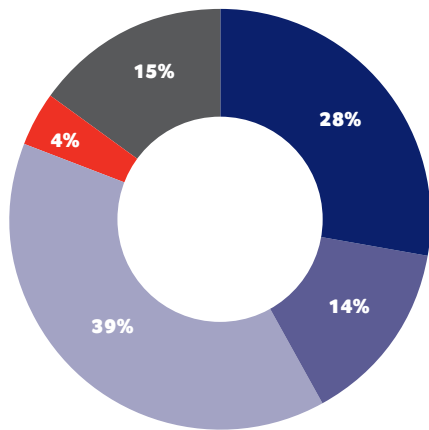
Thank you once again,

**Professor Christine Kilpatrick AO**  
**Chief Executive**  
Melbourne Health

**Mr Ed Smith**  
**Director**  
Royal Melbourne Hospital Foundation

## RMH Foundation financial support

We've funded **\$24.76 million** to various areas of The Royal Melbourne Hospital.



- Research
- Capital projects
- Equipment & technology
- Leadership, education and training
- Patient and family centered care

### IN ADDITION TO THIS, WE HAVE CONTRIBUTED:



\$10 million towards the **new Electronic Medical Records (EMR) system**. This successfully went live in our Emergency Department in May 2019, and the rest of the hospital will follow in May 2020. The new EMR will help facilitate better care and provide better data for research.



\$5.5 million towards the \$9 million cost of **two new operating theatres**, which are now under construction. Expected to open in early 2020, these new operating theatres will increase our number of theatres from 14 to 16. This will enable The RMH to treat the increasing number of patients requiring surgery every year.

### SOME OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS INCLUDE:



Providing \$9.3 million towards the new 31-bed **Acute Stroke and Neurology Ward**, which opened in February 2019. It is truly a world-class facility and has already saved numerous lives.



Continuing to fundraise for Stage 4, the new Cardiac Catheter Lab, the final stage of the fantastic \$8 million **new Heart Rhythm Centre** which will treat Arrhythmia, a leading cause of sudden cardiac arrest deaths and also the cause of many strokes. We still require \$1 million and hope to complete this final stage of the Centre in 2020.



Attracting funding for a **new \$5.4 million Prostate Cancer Research Project** in partnership with the University of Melbourne. This project includes \$4 million of funding from the **Movember Foundation**, as well as support from Janssen and the Australian Prostate Centre. The research aims to develop new prostate cancer tests, and new treatment approaches to high-risk disease that together improves patient outcomes.



Facilitating the purchase of **\$1.4 million of new endoscopic equipment** so that The RMH can test more members of our community for early signs of bowel cancer and other diseases.





*Pictured: Construction team renovating our 2 South East Cardiology space.*

## New Heart Rhythm Centre vital to the health of Victorians

The RMH Foundation is delighted to announce Stage 2 of the new Heart Rhythm Centre was completed in July, and Stage 3 is under construction.

Plans for the build were laid out in four stages. Stage 1 of the project, supported by the Victorian Government, was the eight-bed expansion of the cardiology ward. Stage 2 involved the relocation and modernisation of the 12 bed 2 East Day Cardiology to the newly refurbished 2 South East space in the City Campus. Stage 3 will be the build of the Cardiology Diagnostic Centre, which is steadily progressing and due to be completed by late 2019. The centrepiece of the project is Stage 4, the build of a new Cardiac Catheter Laboratory, expected to be finalised by June 2020.

The Royal Melbourne Hospital's Heart Rhythm Centre will be the only dedicated arrhythmia management and research laboratory in our public health system. In Australia, every 12 minutes, one person dies from cardiovascular disease. In Victoria, the prevalence of heart disease is rising, and to ensure the best possible outcomes for patients, early detection and proper treatment is vital.

An arrhythmia is an abnormal heart rhythm, with atrial fibrillation (AF) being the most common type of arrhythmia affecting an estimated 500,000 Australians. It is caused by disordered electrical activity that targets the upper chambers of the heart, called the atria. Typically, blood is pumped from the muscles in the atria to the lower chambers of the heart, the ventricles. In AF, this flow of blood is interrupted and increases the risk of clot formation. Treatment is usually through medication or surgical ablation that eliminates the heart tissue believed to be responsible.

Professor Jonathan Kalman AO performed the first curative ablation procedure for atrial fibrillation in Australia in 1997, and since then his team have performed 2,000 ablation procedures. Professor Kalman will be leading the new Heart Rhythm Centre and anticipates that this facility will make a significant impact on patient's lives.

"The Heart Rhythm Centre will increase our capacity to treat a higher volume of patients as well as halve waiting periods. It will improve our position as a global leader in the field of heart rhythm management and research, and move us even closer to finding a cure."

There is no question the new Heart Rhythm Centre at The Royal Melbourne Hospital will change lives. Stages 2 and 3 of the build would not be possible without the generosity of numerous RMH Foundation corporate partners and major donors.





*Pictured: Newly completed reception area of 2 South East Cardiology.*

## Long-standing partnership brings additional funding to new RMH Cardiac Catheter Laboratory

Corporate partner, S.O. Asher Consultants Ltd have pledged \$500,000 towards major new projects at The Royal Melbourne Hospital. The first \$200,000 will go towards Stage 4 of our new Heart Rhythm Centre, as well as other upcoming projects in The Royal Melbourne Hospital.

Cardiovascular disease is known as the epidemic of the 21st Century. By 2020, our fully completed Heart Rhythm Centre will be the first of its kind in Australia and save more lives than ever before. The new laboratory for The Royal Melbourne Hospital will be located next to the current two cardiac catheter laboratories. It will be a dedicated electrophysiological cardiac catheter laboratory that supports our growing research capabilities and will enable ever-complex cases to be performed.

Professional services firm, S.O. Asher Consultants have worked on 380 lotteries in the past 41 years across three countries. The RMH Foundation's partnership with S.O. Asher has spanned across 14 years during which our Home Lottery has become one of the biggest in Victoria raising millions of dollars for the hospital each year.

Our current Royal Melbourne Hospital Home Lottery commenced in July 2019. The grand prize is a spectacular fully furnished, two-storey Glenwill home in Brighton. Valued at \$4.2m, it also comes with \$250,000 in gold. S.O. Asher and the RMH Foundation have arranged 15,910 prizes this round, which is an even larger quantity of prizes than previous home lotteries. Part of The Royal Melbourne Home Lottery ticket sales will also be going towards Stage 4 of the

Heart Rhythm Centre. For more information, please visit <https://rmhhomelottery.com.au/>.

The RMH Foundation is very grateful to S.O. Asher for their ongoing partnership, and their dedication towards improving the lives and health of the Victorian community.

*Pictured L to R: RMH Foundation Administration Manager, Dimple D'Mello, RMH Foundation Director, Ed Smith, S.O. Asher Consultants Program Manager, Alex Tanner, Melbourne Health Chief Executive, Professor Christine Kilpatrick AO, RMH Senior Business Analyst, Scott Thompson, S.O. Asher Consultants Marketing Coordinator, Kristin Giannasca and RMH Foundation Deputy Director, Alison Byrne.*



# Non-invasive arrhythmia testing coming to The Royal Melbourne Hospital

Professor Jonathan Kalman AO, Director of The Royal Melbourne's Heart Rhythm Service and his team of Cardiologists and Electrophysiologists were successfully awarded \$50,000 towards a CardiInsight™ 3D Mapping System by the Collier Charitable Fund. This equipment will be used in the new Cardiac Catheter Laboratory to diagnose and manage treatment for atrial fibrillation (AF).

One of the most common cardiac presentations to The Royal Melbourne Hospital's Emergency Department is AF. It is estimated that 25 per cent of adults aged over 40 years will be diagnosed with this condition in their lifetime. Untreated AF leads to structural heart disease and heart failure, as well as increased risk of stroke. Annually, 11,000 strokes occur in Australia due to AF, and some patients show very few symptoms beforehand.

Typically, identifying the cause of an irregular heartbeat has required an invasive procedure that involves inserting a catheter to the heart via an artery. Wire electrodes are attached to the patient, and monitoring equipment is used to measure electrical activity and generate a cardiac 'map' to identify the origin of the arrhythmia.

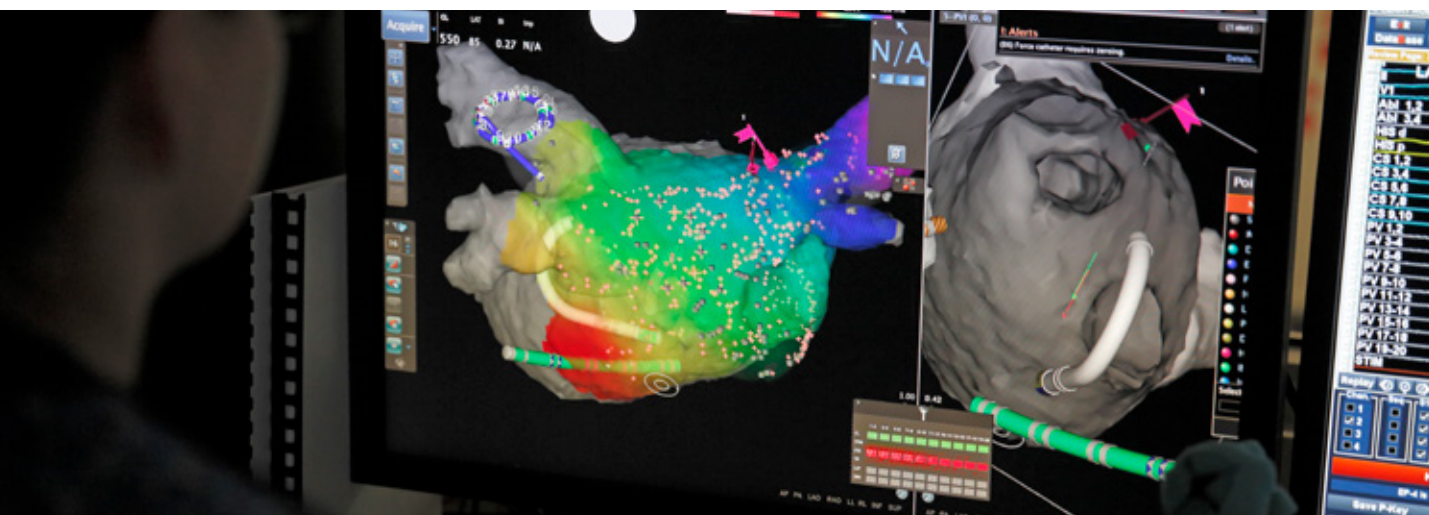
The new CardiInsight™ 3D Mapping System is non-invasive, and can map heart rhythm disturbances using an ECG vest worn by the patient. This alleviates the need for inherently risky and expensive catheter intracardiac mapping, and can better detect where the heart muscle is defective.

For the first time, the new CardiInsight™ 3D Mapping System will provide a unique opportunity to map complex atrial and ventricular arrhythmias from the body surface,

enabling cardiologists to decipher the mechanism of atrial fibrillation. This will enable earlier diagnosis, treatment and long term cure for patients suffering from persistent AF. With the support of the Collier Charitable Fund, this advanced technology together with the new Heart Rhythm Centre will increase our capacity to conduct large scale clinical trials, and will potentially benefit the 500,000 Australians and the 33.5 million people globally affected by this condition.

**“This advanced technology together with the new Heart Rhythm Centre will increase our capacity to conduct large scale clinical trials.”**

*Pictured: 3D Mapping technology helping to identify the origin of arrhythmias.*





# Chinese community giving supports the new Heart Rhythm Centre

The Royal Melbourne Hospital has a strong relationship and history with two major Chinese-Australian community groups.

This year, their generous contributions are moving us closer to the \$1 million target to finalise Stage 4, the Cardiac Catheter Laboratory for the new Heart Rhythm Centre.

The Chinese Masonic Society have been supporting The Royal Melbourne Hospital for nearly 100 years, and this year was no exception. Around 400 people attended their annual dinner at Maxim Saigon restaurant in Springvale, where we were presented with a cheque supporting our new facility.

See Yup Society celebrated their 165th Anniversary at Water Fish Market restaurant in Docklands, and we were honoured again to be a recipient of a donation for The Royal Melbourne Hospital.

We recently conducted tours on the latest progress of the Heart Rhythm Centre, our ICU and the new Stroke ward for both groups. Thank you to the Chinese Masonic Society and the See Yup Society for your continued support of our hospital.

If you know of any community groups interested in raising funds on behalf of The Royal Melbourne Hospital or NorthWestern Mental Health, please contact Sandie Baskin on **9342 9035** or email [sandie.baskin@mh.org.au](mailto:sandie.baskin@mh.org.au).

**“The Chinese Masonic Society have been supporting The Royal Melbourne Hospital for nearly 100 years.”**

*Pictured right: Members of the Chinese Masonic Society with 8B Acute Stroke & Neurology Nurse Unit Manager, Corey Swift, Professor Mark Parsons and Foundation team members, Ed Smith and Sandie Baskin.*

*Pictured below: Members of the See Yup Society with RMH Foundation Director, Ed Smith.*



# RMH's latest neurosurgery platform helps fight the battle against Parkinson's Disease

The RMH Foundation recently funded a new \$70,000 StealthStation platform for the Department of Neurosurgery.

The platform is used for major brain procedures such as deep brain stimulation (DBS). In DBS, an electrode is implanted into the brain to send electrical signals to regulate areas responsible for body movement and emotional and social function. This surgery can transform the lives of patients with symptoms related to Parkinson's disease, dystonia, and psychiatric illnesses.

The Royal Melbourne Hospital is an internationally renowned centre for stem cell transplant research and treatment of Parkinson's disease. Over 50 patients will benefit from this new technology each year. The StealthStation platform integrates MRI or CT images of the brain, taken a day or two before surgery, and produces a 3D image of the brain for surgical planning. Using 3D navigation, surgeons can then target the exact brain locations that are required during surgery with millimetre accuracy. This intuitive technology also facilitates education and training between the members of the neurosurgical and neurology program.

Director of Neurosurgery, Associate Professor Kate Drummond AM, and Mr Girish Nair, Head of Functional Neurosurgery, thanked the RMH Foundation's committed corporate partners and donors whose contributions funded this leading-edge technology.

"Thank you for supporting the work we do. The Department of Neurosurgery cares for people with devastating diseases, which could be rapidly fatal or disabling without treatment. Your donations ensure that we continue to deliver world-class, precision surgery and add to our patients' length and quality of life."

**"...Your donations ensure that we continue to deliver world-class, precision surgery and add to our patients' length and quality of life."**





# New Hi-Tech Operating Table advancing Neurosurgery

The Muriel and Les Batten Foundation awarded \$195,000 to The RMH Department of Neurosurgery for a Mizuho OSI TRIOS Modular Operating Table.



The RMH Department of Neurosurgery runs the busiest program in Australia, providing assessment, treatment and specialised surgery for elective and emergency patients. Led by Associate Professor Kate Drummond AM, the department operates seven days per week and runs a 62 bed dedicated Neuroscience Unit, including an 18-bed High Dependency Unit. The team perform over 3,500 complex surgeries each year.

As patients with many previously rapidly fatal cancers live longer, more and more people are living with cancer that has spread throughout the body. This spread commonly occurs to the brain and spine and frequently occurs in young, otherwise healthy and functioning patients. The RMH Department of Neurosurgery uses the very latest surgical techniques to treat these secondary tumours of the brain and spine. The Mizuho OSI TRIOS Modular Operating Table is comfortable and safe for patients undergoing complex surgery of the spine, providing superior access to all parts of the spine, while minimising operative and post-operative risks. This type of spinal surgery reduces pain and avoids paralysis and severe disability in patients living with their cancer, which is otherwise controlled by new treatments.

Patients requiring complex surgery are referred to The Royal Melbourne Hospital Neurosurgery Department from all hospitals in Victoria to provide timely and world-leading surgery. The accompanying TRIOS Spinal Surgical and Imaging tops are made of carbon fibre which provides radiolucency to enable clinicians to take 360-degree imaging throughout the operation without having to physically move the patient from their original position on the surgical table.

The RMH Foundation is very grateful to the Muriel and Les Batten Foundation for their ongoing funding of state-of-the-art equipment at the hospital.

**“...the department operates seven days per week and runs a 62 bed dedicated Neuroscience Unit, including an 18-bed High Dependency Unit.”**

# Neurosurgery - Impact of corporate philanthropy

The Royal Melbourne Hospital Department of Neurosurgery is at the forefront of brain tumour treatment and complex surgeries in Australia.

As a leading centre for brain cancer and cerebrovascular, spinal and trauma-related surgeries, access to the latest hi-tech equipment is vital to achieving the best possible outcomes for our patients.

In 2018/19, our corporate partners funded the purchase of an Ultrasound Adaptor Array and Ultrasound System for The RMH Department of Neurosurgery. The Ultrasound Adaptor Array is a handheld device that provides real-time images during brain tumour removal and other complex surgeries. This is a critical adjunct to the pre-operative imaging, which becomes less accurate as surgery progresses.

The high-resolution, real-time images provided by the Ultrasound system, assist surgeons to detect if the brain has moved from the images taken pre-surgery. It integrates perfectly with other recently funded technology which has positioned The RMH Department of Neurosurgery as one of the most technologically advanced centres in Australia.

RMH Neurosurgeon, Dr Mohammed Awad, explained how this technology is already improving patient outcomes, and shaping the future of neurosurgery.

“When combined with the Brainlab navigation system, screen imaging is extremely useful to identify residual tumour that may otherwise be missed. Patients benefit from both safer surgery and more complete tumour removal, reducing the likelihood of needing a second operation, and increasing the survival rates in certain cases. In time, our goal is to understand how to translate the intraoperative information to its maximum potential.”

We would like to extend our thanks to the following corporate partners for their ongoing commitment: Optus Business, PACCAR Australia, Plan B Services, Allanby Press & Printers and S.O. Asher Consultants. These life-saving technologies will vastly enhance outcomes and quality of life for patients by alleviating some of the risk associated with brain surgery, and other complex surgeries, and reducing the time patients spend in hospital.

If your business or company is interested in partnering with The Royal Melbourne Hospital or NorthWestern Mental Health, please contact Gareth Scott on **9342 8407** or email [gareth.scott@mh.org.au](mailto:gareth.scott@mh.org.au).

*Pictured: During brain surgery, A/Prof Kate Drummond uses some of the latest cutting-edge technology funded by our corporate partners.*



# Local footy club raises money for Mobile Stroke Unit

Members of the Renegade Pub Football League got together in April to raise money for The RMH Mobile Stroke Unit.

This event marked the opening round of the Renegade Football season. The team wanted to go the extra mile to celebrate their team member, Adam Blake's recovery from a stroke.

On Tuesday, 8th of January, Adam arrived at work like any other day. He was 34 years of age and leading a healthy life. Adam had been contributing to a team meeting and attempted to speak, but just couldn't. He described this as the most terrifying moment of his life. He was consciously experiencing being held hostage by his own body. His colleagues at the Department of Health responded immediately, enacting the Stroke FAST (Face, Arms, Speech and Time) test. The Mobile Stroke Unit team arrived in record time.

Adam is now back at home and work. Adam reflected on his journey to recovery and is forever thankful to his colleagues and The Royal Melbourne Hospital for saving his life.

"The care and attention shown by the medical team headed by Professor Bernard Yan was exemplary. When words are taken away, it reminds me of how important they are, to converse with mates, tell a joke and be understood. I've had to give up playing footy, though to be around my mates and have a laugh, that is enough for me."

The RMH Foundation thanks Adam and the Renegade Pub Football League for their fantastic support in raising \$2,000 for The RMH Mobile Stroke Unit.

**"When words are taken away, it reminds me of how important they are..."**



*Pictured Above: Members of the Renegade Football League held a fundraising BBQ for The RMH Mobile Stroke Unit.*





*Pictured: RMH Foundation Deputy Director, Alison Byrne, Pat LaManna OAM, Helen LaManna and RMH Foundation Director, Edward Smith.*



## LaManna family philanthropic giving

Pat LaManna OAM was born in Italy in 1932, and his family first moved to Colac in Victoria after World War II.

At the age of 20, he purchased his first fruit shop in West Preston and spent the next twenty-five years retailing fruits and vegetables. He then sold the fruit shops and began selling bananas wholesale, going on to become the largest banana wholesaler in Australia with warehouses across Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth.

Recently, Pat and wife, Helen, made philanthropic contributions to The Royal Melbourne Hospital. They wanted part of their donation to fund important stroke research led by Director of Neurology, Professor Mark Parsons.

Pat has always been a strong mental health advocate and requested part of his donation fund depression and mental health research, which is managed by Professor Nicola Lautenschlager. Our Northern Community Care Unit (NCCU) in Preston is currently building a sensory garden for mental health patients. Pat was more than happy to ensure his ongoing funding supported this therapeutic and patient-centred project as well. The sensory garden will be carefully designed to heighten patients' mindfulness of nature through their senses that may sometimes be impaired due to medical conditions. This includes using specially selected plants that are safe to touch or eat, as well as access friendly

and interactive paths, walls, seating and signage. There are numerous recognised benefits that nature can offer to an individual whilst nurturing a sense of calm and relaxation.

The RMH Foundation is humbled to receive ongoing contributions from the LaManna family, who have spent a lifetime spreading kindness and generosity to those less fortunate and facing the challenge of illness.

**“They wanted part of their donation to fund important stroke research led by Director of Neurology, Professor Mark Parsons.”**

# Philanthropic legacy continued within RMH's Nephrology Department

Katy Honig has generously funded a newly created research position within the hospital's Nephrology Department.

The Honig Postdoctoral Research Fellow will examine the kidney's response to metabolic events. Successful completion of this research will provide invaluable insight into kidney function and identify biomarkers of early disease and prognosis, as well as potential therapeutic interventions.

The RMH Foundation was honoured to have Katy Honig share her family story with us. Katy told us that her parents have always been her role models.

"My late mother, Magdalena, was born in Czechoslovakia and my late father, Tobias in Poland. They were both holocaust survivors. My mother was in Auschwitz, and my father was in several concentration camps during World War II. They were lucky to have survived after having lost most of their immediate family."

Her parent's values of hard work and determination to survive were apparent throughout their life. Katy shared how they passed these values on to her.

"My father came from a poor background. At the age of 8, he sold ice-cream on the street corner to help his parents financially. There was no opportunity to fulfil an education before the war. However, he had an innate ability to survive. My parents met after the war and migrated to Australia together in 1950. They were hard-working and never forgot the deprivation they experienced, which continually gave them the incentive to reflect on the lives of others who were less fortunate and in need."

Magdalena volunteered in hospitals and nursing homes throughout her life and took Katy to visit the elderly as a child. Katy remembers how her values of kindness, community and philanthropy originated.

"My mother volunteered at the Alfred Hospital, visiting the inpatients weekly in the 1970s. There was one particular female patient that was scheduled for open-heart surgery. My mother continued her weekly visits stroking the lady's arm and talking to her for the next eight months until she unfortunately passed away following surgery. As a child, I accompanied my mother to a nursing home to visit a blind lady and play chess with a 94-year-old gentleman. My father was a businessman. If customers were ever unable to pay their bills, my father was kind and always told them to pay him whenever they could."

When Katy's brother, Dennis, was born, the family experienced further challenges with his health, but they remained resilient. Katy reflected on key hospital influences within her and Dennis' life.

"My older brother Dennis was born prematurely. The late Dame Kate Campbell was both Dennis and my paediatrician at The Royal Women's Hospital. I was named Kate after Dame Kate Campbell, who saved our lives when my mother had a ruptured appendix in her 8th month of pregnancy. Associate Professor Kathy Nicholls is Dennis's nephrologist today at The Royal

Melbourne Hospital. There are not enough words of appreciation to express my gratitude for her hands-on approach, and wholehearted dedication and care for Dennis. The amazing and skilled Dr Amanda Robertson performed Dennis' renal transplant in September 2011. As you can see, Dennis is surrounded by a lot of strong and talented women, including his beautiful wife Ida, who was also his renal donor. They will be approaching 40 years of marriage, and they continue to have good health."

Katy expressed her gratitude for the care and treatment provided to Dennis and his extended family.

"We are very fortunate to have met the dedicated staff at The Royal Melbourne Hospital. The nephrology team are at the forefront of renal research, and I am very excited to see how this research evolves, with the hope of finding a cure in the future. The reason I have continued my parent's philanthropy is to follow their legacy. They never took anything for granted, and in their memory, I am giving to renal research led by Professor Stephen Holt."

Thank you, Katy, for allowing us to share your family's story. We are in awe of your kindness and generosity. Your desire to give back to nephrology research at The Royal Melbourne Hospital will instill hope and make a difference in the lives of many renal patients in Australia, and across the world.

*Caption: Pictured: RMH Director of Nephrology, Professor Steve Holt, RMH Nephrology Surgeon, Dr Amanda Robertson and Senior Renal Scientist, Associate Professor Tim Hewitson.*



*Pictured: Katy Honig's parents, Magdalena and Tobias Honig*

# Innovative app brings hope to waitlisted organ recipients

The RMH Foundation is delighted to announce that Dr Martin Dutch, Emergency Physician and Medical Donation Specialist from The RMH Emergency Department, has been awarded \$50,000 by the Telematics Trust. The vision of the Telematics Trust is for technology to improve the lives of all Victorians through education and training. Dr Martin Dutch's project is utilising technology to assist patients who need an organ transplant. The Organ Donation Risk Calculation Tool, which will be accessible through a website and available as a downloadable mobile phone application (app), aims to increase organ availability in Victoria. This will be achieved by presenting data in a more accessible way to patients, clinicians, and transplant teams about an available organ, and its risks and benefits.

The number of people needing an organ transplant in Australia is significantly higher than the number of organ donors. Around 1,400 Australians are currently waitlisted for a transplant, and a further 11,000 individuals on dialysis would benefit from a kidney transplant. Waiting times average between six months and four years. The longer the delay in receiving a transplant, the higher the risk of deteriorating health, and mortality.

Currently, estimating transplant risk from elevated risk donors at a patient's bedside, requires extensive access to quantified and integrated epidemiologic data on blood-borne viruses in Australia. Once calculated, explaining and comparing these risks is challenging for clinicians to communicate to patients. This app will be able to quantify the risks in plain language and infographics to facilitate decision making about acceptability, while putting the potential organ recipient at the centre of the decision-making process.

Organ donation is a life-transforming medical process. By increasing the number of kidney donors per year by just three per cent, \$14 million in health system expenditure could be saved nationally. Thanks to the Telematics Trust, this initiative will transform the lives of people needing an organ transplant, by increasing accessibility to transplantable organs from elevated risk donors. The RMH Foundation has been thrilled to be a small part of Dr Martin Dutch's patient centred and technologically advanced project, which will positively impact and save many lives.

*Pictured: Dr Martin Dutch shows off new mobile app 'The Organ Donation Risk Calculation Tool'.*







*Pictured: RMH Foundation Deputy Director, Alison Byrne with the lucky RMH Home Lottery winner, Ryan and his family.*

## April RMH Home Lottery winner

Ryan Evans from Sandringham was the lucky winner of The Royal Melbourne Hospital Home Lottery in April. The grand prize was a luxurious \$4.5 million fully furnished home in Elsternwick.

Ryan's father-in-law was a patient in the old 4 South Acute Stroke and Neurology ward earlier this year. He was so impressed with the excellent care and treatment his father-in-law received that he decided to purchase his first home lottery ticket online. Ryan was in utter disbelief when he received the winning phone call early morning on April 2nd from the Christian O'Connell Breakfast Show on Gold104.3. He had just been made redundant at his job the week before receiving this call.

Alison Byrne, RMH Foundation Deputy Director, presented the family with their keys and invited them for a private tour of the new Acute Stroke and Neurology ward in 8B at The RMH City Campus. Ryan and his family were delighted to hear that last year's lottery funds had contributed to the upgrade of the new \$9.3 million world-class stroke ward. It was indeed an incredible day for a very deserving family.

From all of us at the RMH Foundation, a very big thank you to everyone for your support. Funds from this home lottery have gone towards our Nephrology department who are leading the way in advances in renal care and research.

# Masquerade Ball funds nephrology equipment

The RMH Foundation and RMH Nephrology team had the pleasure of attending the DISHA Masquerade Ball in May.

Indian-Australian Fundraising Committee, DISHA, has been organising an annual themed ball since 2006 to raise money for various hospitals and other causes that have touched the community. In Hindi, Disha means 'direction' and the committee's direction is to serve the Victorian community and make a difference to the lives of patients.

DISHA's contribution will go towards funding a Sonosite iViz ultrasound machine for our Nephrology Department. The device will look at the new kidney artery and veins for a patient after their kidney transplant, so less time is required to administer medication. This results in a more efficient treatment experience and less anxiety for patients. DISHA's donation will also replace a dialysis treatment chair in the 6 West Renal Dialysis Day Centre.

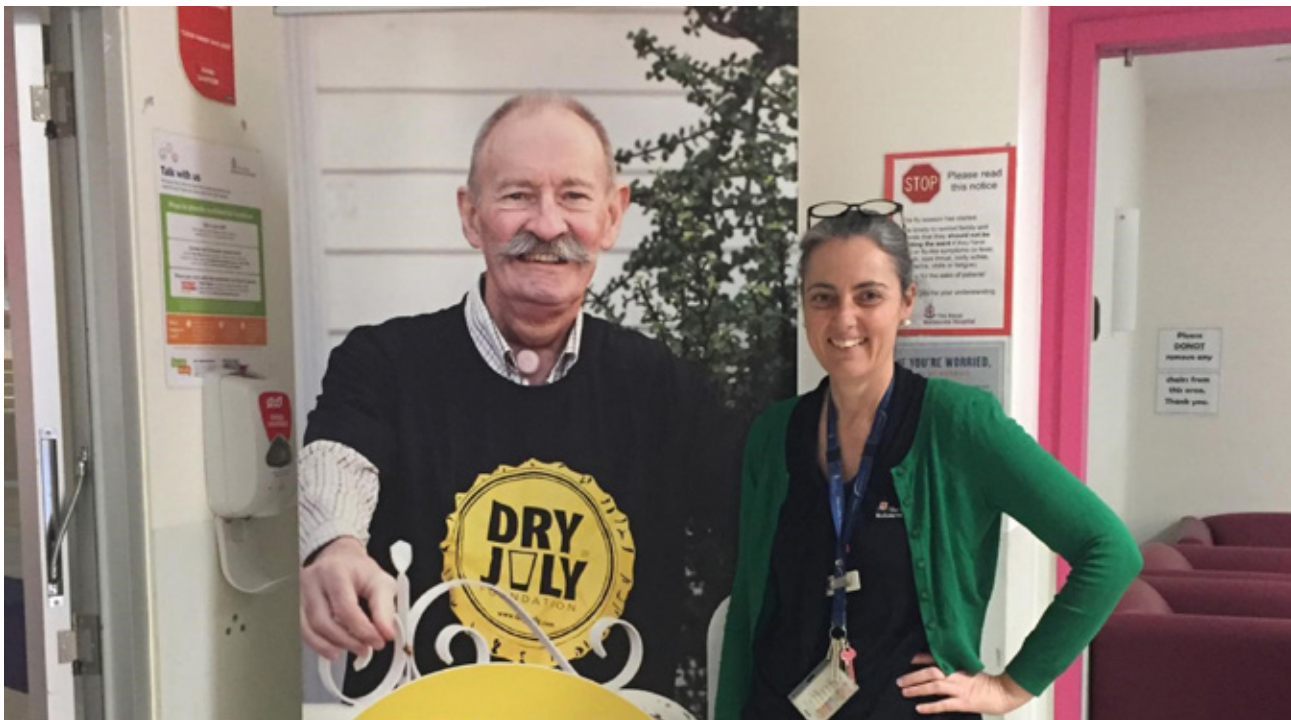
Thank you to the hardworking committee and volunteers of DISHA for putting together these fabulous events that continue to improve patient care at The Royal Melbourne Hospital.

**“DISHA's contribution will go towards funding a Sonosite iViz ultrasound machine for our Nephrology Department.”**

*Pictured: Team members from The RMH Nephrology department and RMH Foundation at the 2019 Disha Ball.*







*Pictured: RMH Head and Neck Oncology Liaison Nurse, Kerrie Treseder, is so grateful to Deane for his support this year.*

## Another great year for Dry July at The RMH

For over nine years, the Dry July Foundation and the RMH Foundation have collaborated to successfully raise funds for patient-care projects and equipment for cancer at The Royal Melbourne Hospital.

In previous years a concrete rooftop space was transformed into a peaceful rooftop garden outside ward 7B. When patients' health deteriorates from their treatment, it's often the simple things that make a difference to their recovery. Items such as a comfortable high back cushioned recliner, a standing hoist or even a beautiful painting make an incredible difference to a patient's experience at hospital.

Our Dry July challenge this year was a great success with over \$48,000 raised for our cancer services. Past patient, Deane Reynolds, from Kensington was our 2019 Dry July ambassador. Deane's experience with cancer began when food started getting stuck in his throat as he ate his meals. His local doctor initially told him that it was reflux. After symptoms persisted, he was sent to a specialist, where he received the diagnosis of head and neck cancer. Deane was shocked to be told he had only a 50 percent chance of recovery.

After long months of chemotherapy and radiotherapy, the weight of his prognosis left him wondering whether he would be able to get through it all. His greatest incentive was to keep going for his wife, Maxine. Deane could no longer eat, but he still cooked dinner for Maxine each night after she returned home from work.

When he finally received the news that he'd beaten his cancer, Deane was overjoyed. Deane wanted to express his gratitude to The Royal Melbourne Hospital and decided to give up alcohol for Dry July while raising money for cancer services.

"The RMH team are the main reason why I am still here today. Thank you for giving me a second bite out of the cherry of life."

Congratulations to Deane and Maxine, who have done a fantastic job fundraising. Together they have raised over \$6,500 for us.

Also, a special thank you to Sean Hayter, who recently finished his last round of chemotherapy and radiotherapy. Sean was diagnosed with head and neck cancer in 2018. He was on his way to recovery when two new tumours were found, and more aggressive surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy was required. His colleagues at work decided to hold a 'pie-throwing' fundraiser on his behalf. The highest bidder could throw a pie at a chosen manager in their workplace. Over \$3,000 was raised from this creative fundraising initiative! Following treatment, Sean is most looking forward to returning to hiking and catching up with his friends over meals.

We are also celebrating the efforts of our top staff fundraisers, Professor Kate Leslie AO, Simone Mangelsdorf, Holly Paxman, as well as Ward 7B who held a delicious fundraising bake sale during Dry July. It has been a tremendous month of participation and fundraising to help improve patient care, comfort and wellbeing within our cancer services.



*Pictured: Chief Executive, Professor Christine Kilpatrick AO and ICU Director, Associate Professor Chris MacIsaac (Photos courtesy of Larry Pitt).*



*Pictured: Over 200 guests attended the RMH ICU Waiting Room Fundraising Dinner.*



# New look for ICU waiting room

Renovations will soon commence for our new Intensive Care Unit (ICU) waiting room with completion expected in early 2020.

This project was made possible due to the overwhelming generosity from guests and sponsors at the RMH ICU Waiting Room Fundraising Dinner organised by Mill's Kitchen founder, Melissa Chen, the RMH Foundation and The RMH ICU team.

The collaborative event was hosted by Red Symons, who was also celebrating his 70th birthday on the day. Guests were treated to a delicious 3-course, Asian inspired, fine dining meal and entertained with music from Channel 9's The Voice star, Annabelle Eve and her band. RMH's Chief Executive, Professor Christine Kilpatrick AO and ICU Director, Associate Professor Chris MacIsaac, shared the important work of the intensive care team and their wish for a supportive space for families of their patients.

The severity of ICU patients' conditions means that their loved ones spend a great deal of time in the waiting room. The families are vulnerable and exhausted, and currently sit opposite strangers, and face blank, white walls and bland furnishings. In 2016, The RMH built their world-class 42 bed ICU. As is appropriate when new departments are built, most of the budget is devoted to equipment and patient care, but the needs of our families are great too. Last year there were 3,000 patients at The RMH ICU, and approximately 10,000 family members used the ICU waiting room.

Melissa Chen began Mill's Kitchen in 2012 after her brother-in-law passed away from a brain tumour at the age of 31. Mill's Kitchen offers people a chance to get together and share Chinese cuisine with their families and friends, as well as learn how to cook Melissa's mouth-watering recipes. The

*Pictured: Mills Kitchen Founder, Melissa Chen*



**“We are not just proud of the quality of care we provide our patients but also the humanity and compassion we bring to the families we care for.”**

ICU waiting room project was Melissa's next venture. Utilising her interior design experience, Melissa designed a space for families to gather and support each other during this time of uncertainty.

Associate Professor Chris MacIsaac explained the quality of care delivered by The RMH ICU places it as a leading ICU across Australia and New Zealand.

“We are not just proud of the quality of care we provide our patients but also the humanity and compassion we bring to the families we care for. Intensive care is a team game. At any time we have 65 doctors, 270 nurses led by Nurse Unit Manager, Michelle Spence, and many allied health staff, clinical assistants, pharmacists, ward clerks and cleaners who all play a vital role in the care of our patients. That is why the new waiting room is vital for our families, to allow them the dignity and space at these times of great challenge.”

Thank you to PwC Australia, Coregas, AV Media, the Atlantic Group, Rotary Camberwell, Spoint Foundation and The Johnson Family Foundation for your invaluable contributions and support. Thank you also to everyone who attended, our committed donors, and staff who made this night possible. Most importantly, thank you to Melissa Chen, whose passion and long-term dedication to philanthropy and The Royal Melbourne Hospital has continued to make a positive impact on patients and their families.

## Did you know?

The RMH ICU also serves as the ICU for the Royal Women's Hospital and the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. By supporting The RMH ICU, you are also helping patients across our Parkville Precinct.



## Leading life-support machine for our RMH ICU

Dairy farmer, Ash was feeding the cattle on his farm when a huge tree branch fell directly on the side of his head and shattered his skull.

Luckily, Ash was found by his neighbour, who called an ambulance straight away. His wife, Narla, received the call from their neighbour as she was having her hair cut after her first round of chemotherapy. Narla had recently been diagnosed with breast cancer.

It took over an hour for the air ambulance to stabilise Ash enough to travel to The Royal Melbourne Hospital. Meanwhile, Narla was already in the car on the way to Melbourne, which was a four-and-a-half-hour drive away. Ash was airlifted to the hospital and rushed into surgery. The surgery was successful, and he spent the next ten days in the ICU in an induced coma on a life support machine.

We are happy to report that Ash is feeling almost back to normal and Narla is now cancer-free. In May, we shared

the story of Ash in our fundraising appeal for a new ECMO (Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation) life support machine. This machine is used when people are so severely injured or critically-ill that their hearts and lungs stop working. This new model that the ICU team needed is more stable, reliable and portable- absolutely essential in a fast-moving emergency.

Thanks to our incredible community of supporters, we have raised \$150,000 towards this cutting-edge machine. This purchase will allow many more patients the chance to recover and return to their lives and families as Ash has done. From the RMH Foundation, Ash and his family, The Royal Melbourne Hospital ICU team and all the patients who will benefit from our donors' kindness- thank you!

## Lifesaving medical equipment purchased from Christmas 2018 Appeal proceeds

Laura McMahon met with a terrifying car accident in rural NSW last year. Her boyfriend, Doug, was driving and turned a bend to find another car, heading straight towards them.

Scans showed Laura had several internal injuries, including a broken back, lacerated liver, and ruptured bowel and spleen. Her right arm was broken in two places, and her ribs were fractured. She also had a blood clot that caused a stroke.

After the accident, Laura's family thought they had lost her. The RMH Trauma team battled to save her life, and after a series of operations, Laura spent eight days on a ventilator.

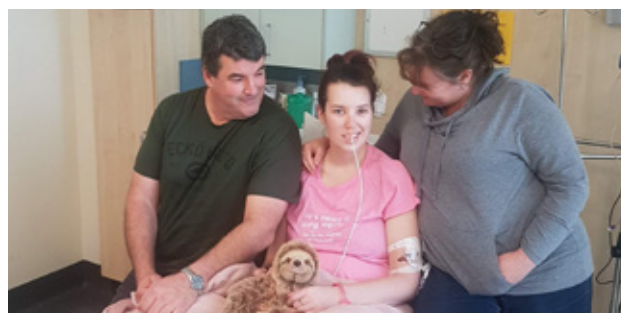
Laura's mum, Jeannine, is so happy to have Laura back home safe and recovering.

"We'd like to say thank you very much to The RMH for saving our daughter's life. It was a very traumatic experience we went through; it is every parent's worst nightmare. The staff looked after our daughter so well and made us feel so welcome. We are forever grateful for everything you've done for us."

Last Christmas, we shared Laura's story with our donors who contributed an outstanding \$125,000 to our Emergency Department for a new ventilator and ultrasound scanner.

These vital pieces of equipment were purchased and continue to give our trauma doctors and nurses the best possible chance to save lives.

Thank you to our generous donors who have made these fantastic lifesaving purchases possible!



*Pictured: Laura McMahon with parents Jeannine and Dean.*





*Pictured: RMH Emergency Clinical Nurse Specialist, Cherylynn Mcgurgan with Mauricio Munoz, his wife, Michelle and children, Imogen and Lex.*

## Half marathon for The RMH Emergency Department

On 13th October 2019, Mauricio Munoz, will be running the Melbourne Half Marathon to raise \$15,000 for The RMH Emergency Department.

Mauricio had a horrific road accident in July 2013, when he was thrown off his bicycle after being hit by a truck. The impact shattered his pelvis, damaged his kidneys and broke his ankle, sternum and six ribs. Mauricio was rushed to The Royal Melbourne Hospital. He had four blood transfusions in the ambulance and was placed into an induced coma on his arrival at the hospital. Over 15 weeks, Mauricio had countless surgeries, ongoing rehabilitation and a challenging battle to regain his independence.

Mauricio expressed his gratitude to The Royal Melbourne Hospital for saving his life, and once again wants to give back to the hospital.

“Since that day, I’ve seen my children become amazing young adults, and I treasure special moments with my beautiful wife. I have much to be grateful for and so much to live for.”

In 2016, Mauricio rode from Melbourne to Adelaide over 6 days (nearly 900km) and raised \$10,000 for The RMH Emergency Department. 2016 was his turning point, and he said he was able to regain a new sense of self with his disabilities, and he’s now ready to push himself to achieve his next physical challenge.

“2019 has become the year to remind myself not to let my physical limitations determine what I can or cannot do.”

“2019 has become the year to remind myself not to let my physical limitations determine what I can or cannot do.”

The RMH Foundation is inspired by Mauricio’s commitment and extremely grateful for his ongoing fundraising for our Emergency Department.

Follow his half marathon training and fundraising journey here: <https://doyourownthing.everydayhero.com/au/mauricio-s-half-marathon-challenge>

To help fundraise for The Royal Melbourne Hospital or NorthWestern Mental Health, please contact Sandie Baskin on **9342 9035** or email [sandie.baskin@mh.org.au](mailto:sandie.baskin@mh.org.au).

# RMH Diabetes Team win Perpetual grant for clinical trial

The RMH Diabetes and Endocrinology team was awarded \$100,000 by the Rowe Family Foundation in the 2019 Perpetual IMPACT Philanthropy program, which is a highly competitive grant round.

Perpetual is the trustee for approximately 1,000 charitable trusts and endowments, managing \$2.7 billion in philanthropic funds.

Each year, The Royal Melbourne Hospital treats an estimated 7,000 inpatients with diabetes. Diabetes impairs immunity and is recognised to be a significant risk factor for hospital acquired infection. During hospitalisation for surgery or acute medical illness, blood glucose often becomes unstable from stress hormone changes related to illness. Currently, the management of inpatient diabetes remains suboptimal due to multiple factors, including inadequate clinical experience in treating the many different forms of diabetes and frequent medication changes. Hospital acquired infection usually occurs within 48 hours after admission to hospital, and in approximately six per cent of inpatients. Other complications can include adverse glycaemia, which can lead to arrhythmia, acute kidney injury, or death. Given these well documented adverse outcomes in people with diabetes, there is a need for proactive models of inpatient diabetes care.

Supported by the Rowe Family Foundation, a randomised clinical trial will be led by Associate Professor Spiros Fourlanos. Utilising a proactive diabetes management plan as an intervention with acutely unwell, non-critical care patients with diabetes, the trial will be conducted over eight months

across 12 non-critical care wards at The Royal Melbourne Hospital. It will utilise networked blood-glucose meter technology, and the 'Melbourne Glucose Alert Pathway', which electronically monitors ward blood glucose measures remotely, and prompts ward health professional staff to escalate for diabetes assistance. The study aims to improve ward staff responses, decrease hypoglycaemia (low blood glucose) and hyperglycaemia (high blood glucose) events, and decrease the incidence of hospital acquired infections.

Congratulations to The RMH Diabetes and Endocrinology team. The RMH Foundation is delighted to have facilitated this grant. Thank you to the Rowe Family Foundation and Perpetual for supporting The Royal Melbourne Hospital to provide quality intervention programs for patients with diabetes, and the opportunity to inform national healthcare guidelines.

**“Each year, The Royal Melbourne Hospital treats an estimated 7,000 inpatients with diabetes.”**



*Pictured: Associate Professor Spiros Fourlanos is thankful to The Rowe Family Foundation managed by Perpetual.*

# Ground-breaking research funded by the Sylvia and Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation

The Viertel Clinical Investigator Awards were initiated by the Sylvia and Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation to assist new and upcoming researchers to establish their research programs.

Five awards of \$85,000 are given annually, and RMH Clinical Immunologist, Dr Charlotte Slade was one of the successful recipients. Her research will focus on understanding the causes of Common Variable Immune Deficiency (CVID) and its complications in implementing targeted treatments.

CVID is one of the most common primary immunodeficiency diseases in Australia. People with CVID are highly susceptible to frequent and recurrent infections from bacteria and viruses, due to a weakened immune system from low antibody levels. Previous studies conducted have identified several families with changes in a gene called NFKB1, now known to be the most common single-gene cause of CVID. However, in several other CVID families, changes in genes that work together with NFKB1 were also found. Dr Slade will study immune cells from these patients to determine its precise cause.

**“People with CVID are highly susceptible to frequent and recurrent infections from bacteria and viruses, due to a weakened immune system from low antibody levels.”**

Currently, treatment for CVID is ongoing antibody replacement, which is useful for preventing infections, but not autoimmune complications. Standard treatments typically suppress the immune system and carry many potential risks for immunodeficient patients. Upon completion of the study, Dr Slade hopes to offer molecular diagnosis to patients and family members. It is expected that this research will result in a better understanding of the mechanisms of immune responses, inform management of the disease and lead to better, more targeted therapies.

The RMH Foundation enjoys working alongside such talented researchers across The Royal Melbourne Hospital and looks forward to hearing about the direct impact Dr Slade's work will bring to CVID patients, and Australian and global healthcare.

*Pictured: Dr Charlotte Slade is excited to conduct new research on CVID.*





*Pictured: Cecilia Irvine, Gretchen Fox and Lora Winter are leading the way in the fight against head and neck cancer.*

## Shedding the stigma around head and neck cancer

In May, the RMH Foundation shared the stories of three inspiring women to raise funds for head and neck cancer services and research at the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

Head and neck cancer usually occurs in older males, and common risk factors include smoking tobacco and drinking alcohol. However, in recent years, an increasing number of people without these risk factors are being diagnosed. Approximately 3,170 men and 1,230 women are affected by head and neck cancer in Australia each year.

Cecilia Irvine had lots of plans for her young family when she was first diagnosed with head and neck cancer at the age of 38.

"It was a busy life, but it was a happy life. I thought for certain that I would never get cancer because I was a healthy person who didn't smoke and hardly drank. I had several appointments trying to work out why I had a tongue ulcer that didn't go away. Eventually, after nine months of symptoms, when they worked out what it was, that was the moment that everything changed."

Lora Winter was on holiday with her family when she noticed an ulcer under her tongue.

"After a couple of weeks, it hadn't healed, and it became a strain to talk. I looked in the mirror one day and noticed a white patch at the base of my tongue. I booked in to see a doctor, and I was lucky that they could begin treatment immediately."

Gretchen Fox was 43 when she was diagnosed and just about to start a new job.

"Despite going to two dentists and two doctors to check an ulcer in my mouth - none of them were able to diagnose it. Finally, the receptionist at the dentist suggested I see an oral surgeon. I went to see an oral surgeon, and was diagnosed in about five or six weeks after my ulcer appeared."

When Cecilia shared her diagnosis of head and neck cancer with others in the community, she began to witness the lack of awareness and stigma surrounding this type of diagnosis.

"I first remember thinking I was going to die of a cancer I'd never heard of before. I started to become aware of a culture of blame around oral cancer, and noticed that people would almost fail to believe that you haven't been a smoker."

Cecilia always kept perfect dental hygiene before her diagnosis. Surgery for Cecilia meant the removal of most of her tongue, followed by aggressive treatment, including radiotherapy, which caused damage to one of her teeth.

"I carry toothpaste everywhere to protect my teeth from decay. It's tough to forget that you've had cancer when you speak the way you speak and when you have to make constant adaptations to your diet. However, I needed to reclaim my life. I do a lot of public speaking for my job, and I'm now doing it better than I did it before."

Cecilia's parents, Margaret and David Irvine, expressed their gratitude to The Royal Melbourne Hospital by making a significant contribution towards head and neck cancer services and research.

"Thank you so much for the wonderful treatment and care provided to our daughter, Cecilia. We are so happy that she is well again."

Our Head and Neck Cancer team, led by Professor David Wiesenfeld, are conducting research in the hope that we will eventually find a cure. They wish for their study to improve doctors and dentists' skills in early detection, as well as changing public perceptions. These three wonderful women have since recovered and are continuing to help shift the narrative surrounding head and neck cancer. An outstanding \$30,500 for head and neck cancer services and research was raised for The Royal Melbourne Hospital. Funds have already been used towards establishing one of Australia's first support groups for women with head and neck cancer. Thanks to our donors' generosity, we can ensure our patients receive the very best in care at The Royal Melbourne Hospital.

# Platinum anniversary for birthday league member

Professor Richard Fox visited The Royal Melbourne Hospital on his 79th birthday with a generous donation.

Professor Fox was signed up to the Birthday League by his school teacher 70 years ago. The Birthday League was introduced in 1922, and each member donated two shillings and a sixpence to keep the hospital running for one minute. Stickers were given to represent the number of minutes a member had supported the hospital.

Professor Fox reminisced about the excitement upon receiving these stickers at school. As a teenager, he had his appendix removed at The Royal Melbourne Hospital and expressed his gratitude for the care received. He later became a Law Professor at Monash University, and his philanthropy continued when he signed up his two Airedale terriers, Hamilton and Harry, to the Birthday League.

Today, funds from the Birthday League support our Music Therapy program headed by Dr Emma O'Brien. This program offers patients guided relaxation, opportunities to write their own songs, learn to play instruments and perform music. Uplifting live music is regularly performed by music therapy staff and volunteers in our main hospital areas and hallways.

Thank you, Professor Fox, for your ongoing support of our Music Therapy program, which is bringing so much joy to patients and visitors at our hospital each day.

## Did you know?

The Royal Melbourne Hospital's first philanthropic gifts were donated in 1845 to help raise funds for the establishment of a hospital. The RMH opened its doors in 1848.



*Pictured: Professor Richard Fox visiting The RMH Birthday Book.*

# Record-breaking results for online auction

The Royal Melbourne Hospital Online Auction for staff, volunteers and their family and friends was an enormous success in December 2018 with over \$22,000 raised towards patient-care items and equipment.

Our charitable partner organisations and businesses donated over 200 incredible prizes and experiences such as VIP music festival tickets, holidays, luxury accommodation packages and restaurant gift vouchers. A special thanks to SAXE restaurant and the many other businesses that donated prizes to the RMH Foundation last year.

Our 2018 Online Auction funding round helped purchase multiple wheelchairs, patient mobility aids such as the 'Sara Stedy', and many more patient-care items. This year's auction will be held over three days online from **Thursday 28th November until 30th November**.

The RMH Foundation thanks all those who participated in the last auction for their overwhelming support. If you are interested in supporting The Royal Melbourne Hospital with a gift voucher or experience for the auction, please contact Michelle Hartnett on 9342 6420 or email [michelle.hartnett@mh.org.au](mailto:michelle.hartnett@mh.org.au)

*Pictured: RMH Radiographer Assistant, Anthony Steward and Senior Patient Flow Coordinator, Patrick Hines.*





*Pictured: The RMH Foundation Team.*

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