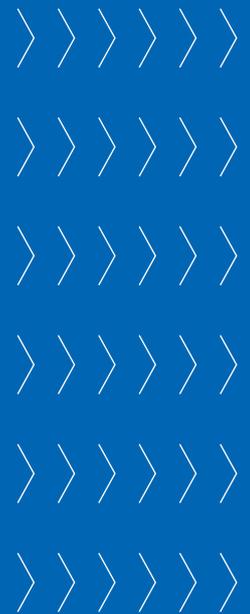




# Philanthropy Report 2021/22



The Royal  
Melbourne Hospital  
Foundation



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# Welcome

## On behalf of The Royal Melbourne Hospital Foundation, I am pleased to present our 2020/21 Philanthropy Report.

As the Victorian community and the RMH have begun to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, it has never been more apparent how valuable support from the community is to advance healthcare for everyone, every day.

Through the generosity of more than 10,000 supporters, the RMH Foundation received donations and revenue of \$29.4 million for the period of July 2021-June 2022.

Generosity from a range of individuals and organisations enabled us to invest in our talented workforce, enhance person-centred care models, embark upon ground-breaking research and improve our infrastructure to meet the growing demands on the RMH and its services.

We are excited about the depth and breadth of research and investment in healthcare workforce that philanthropy has enabled over the past year. Some of the highlights include:

- Pressure from pent-up demand following COVID-19 has challenged the RMH. To identify innovative solutions, philanthropic funds were rapidly deployed to establish a new program to investigate Health Service Improvement initiatives across the RMH to improve our patient flow and experience.

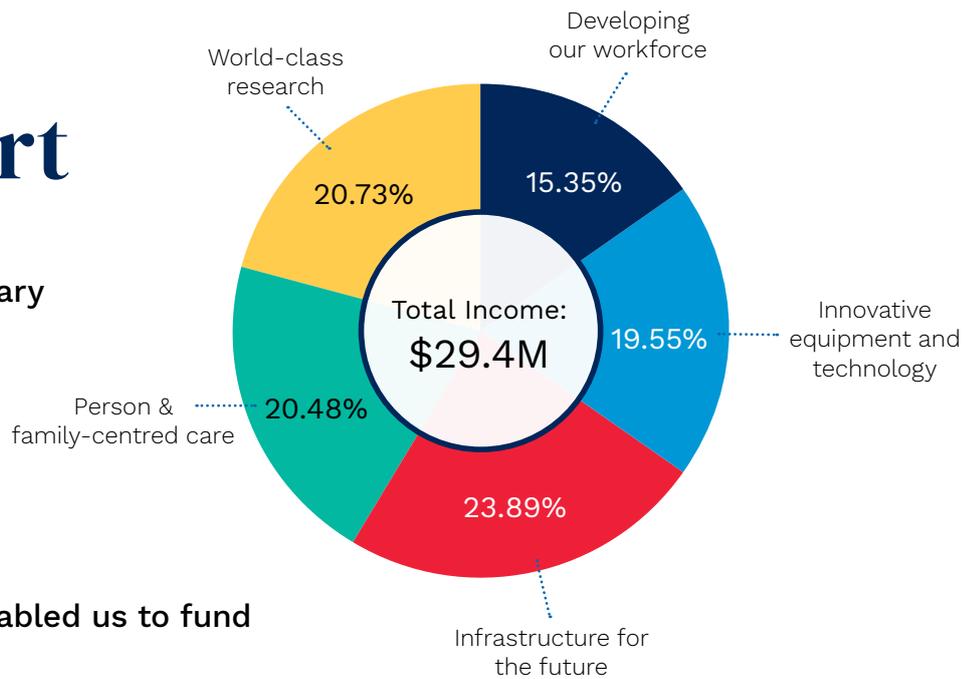
- While we hope the COVID-19 pandemic is behind us, philanthropy has helped to fund the development of a more faithful model for the human nose to test new treatments. Beyond the pandemic, this 'mini nose in a dish' will help speed up the process of developing new treatments from the benchtop to the bedside.
- The RMH Department of Neuropsychiatry will embark on a new two-year research project with the Ramsay Hospital Research Foundation to determine if a simple blood test can more quickly determine whether a person is suffering from a neurological condition or a mood disorder.
- Thanks to the generosity of the Honig Family, we will explore the possible links between diabetes and pancreatitis as potential early warning signs for pancreatic cancer risk.

While government funds the RMH to be a good hospital, philanthropy and fundraising further enhance our health service as we strive for excellence together. Thank you for your support and we look forward to celebrating our 175th anniversary with you in 2023.

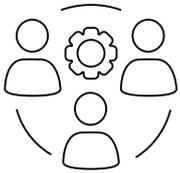
Ed Smith  
**Director**  
Royal Melbourne Hospital Foundation

# Your support

## 2021/22 Financial Year Summary

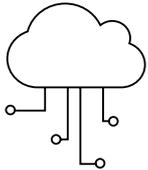


### In 2021/2022 your support enabled us to fund



#### Developing our Workforce

- 100 nursing scholarships to retain and invest in our talented workforce
- A new PhD scholarship in Dermatology
- Two Emerging Research Leader Fellowships



#### Innovative Equipment and Technology

- Implementation of an Adult Genomics Testing service
- Upgraded resuscitation trollies for medical emergencies
- A new wide-field retinal imaging camera for Ophthalmology



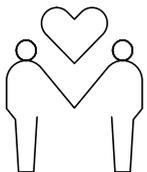
#### Infrastructure for the Future

- The refurbishment of the Emergency Department (ED) waiting room
- Completion of the third Cardiac Catheterization Lab
- Revitalization of residential aged care accommodation



#### World-Class Research

- Established a joint RMH-La Trobe University Allied Health academic leadership role
- World-class Neuropsychiatry research
- Growing mini-noses to enable COVID research



#### Person and Family Centred Care

- The Social Work Samaritan fund to assist our most vulnerable patients
- Expanded exercise physiology in mental health
- A new grant program to explore new ways to improve our health service



Kingsley with members of the RMH team who helped him during his recovery from GBS

## Person and family-centred care

### The Royal Melbourne Hospital Home Lottery – Kingsley’s Journey

In 2021, the RMH Home Lottery sold over 250,000 tickets for a chance to win the grand prize, a \$4.2M luxury home in Camberwell.

Part of the proceeds from this lottery went to support our Allied Health Department and patients like Kingsley.

Kingsley, a young father of two, collapsed at home and was rushed to the RMH Emergency Department where he was diagnosed with Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS), a rare neurological condition paralysing his body.

In the space of days, Kingsley lost his ability to move, swallow, and breathe. He was placed on a ventilator in the Intensive Care Unit for the next two months.

Thanks to an amazing team of expert allied health professionals who rallied around him, Kingsley has relearned how to eat, drink and breathe independently once again.

Kingsley’s progress has been truly remarkable. In 2022, he walked back into the Intensive Care Unit to thank the incredible staff that looked after him.

Thank you to everyone who purchased a ticket in the RMH Home Lottery. Your support helps us to advance healthcare for everyone, every day.

**“The Royal Melbourne Hospital is a special place. The staff have become like my family. With the help of my healthcare team I can get back to living my best life,” said Kingsley.**

## Going Dry in July

The RMH's Dry July ambassador, Natasha, was busy running her own business and managing a family with two young children. Life was go, go, go. But in March 2022, she had been feeling run down.

One day, at her son's Taekwondo class after a couple of star jumps, she could feel her heart racing. She decided it was time to see her doctor who phoned later that day and said, "The Emergency Department is waiting for you, you need to get there right away." She burst into tears.

Within an hour of arriving at the hospital, Natasha heard the three words nobody ever wants to hear, "you have Leukaemia." Natasha was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukaemia – she didn't return home for 31 days.

"The doctors were amazing, they really helped me understand my diagnosis and gave me so much help and advice and talked me through the process. Within one day I was told about clinical trials I could participate in," she remembers.

### “The care and attention I received was amazing,” Natasha says.

Once home and in remission, Natasha told her children about her cancer diagnosis. It was hard, but the RMH provided support about having these conversations. "It was heartbreaking because my youngest Tommy didn't understand and he was very angry, but we managed to work it through together. They were so brave," says Natasha.

Natasha has a new perspective on life now – before her diagnosis she would be living life at 100mph, often working until late at night. Today, she values every day with her kids doing the simple things like enjoying the sunshine and having picnics with her family in the garden.

"Take time in life to take a breath and be kind, don't forget to appreciate the good things in life," she says.

"I was so happy to participate in Dry July - it's part of the journey. Not drinking is good for my health, so I enjoyed the challenge, involving my friends and raising money for the RMH."

Natasha added "This condition is horrible and I wouldn't wish it on my worst enemy. If they can cure it, and find out why it happens then nobody has to go through this - that would be my dream."

Since 2009, the Dry July Foundation and the RMH Foundation have partnered to raise funds for patient care projects and equipment at the RMH. We are extremely grateful to the Dry July Foundation for their support in ensuring the RMH can continue to provide cancer patients with the highest level of care and comfort every day.

A special thank you to Natasha and Professor Nathan Lawrenchuk, the Director of Urology at the RMH for serving as our ambassadors. We also could not do this without our fabulous supporters including the 7B Haem Dream Team, past ambassadors and everyone in the community who took part in Dry July and helped us raise \$43,705 – thank you!



RMH Dry July Ambassador, Natasha



Ron Forsyth

## Impact of gifts in Wills: Remembering Ronald Forsythe

Ron Forsythe was born in Port Melbourne in 1942 and grew up in Newport. After leaving school at 14, he worked as a labourer and studied horticulture at night school to become a nurseryman working at local councils.

Ron enjoyed photography, reading, music, current affairs, following the Western Bulldogs AFL team, tennis and cycling events, travel, camping, bushwalking, lapidary, wildflowers and gardening. He travelled extensively across America, Europe and around Australia, where he developed a deep love for the outback.

Ron liked to photograph wildlife, wildflowers, orchids, autumn colours and landscapes. Many of the wardrobes and drawers in his house were filled with boxes of the photos he took over the course of his life. He spent most of his spare time in his home garden, which was his pride and joy.

Ron met his wife, Marian, whilst working at the Moreland City Council, and they made their home in the northern suburbs of Melbourne in Hadfield.

Ron and Marian lived a full life and material possessions had little value to them. As a result, they were in the fortunate position of being able to help others with charitable bequests upon their passing.

When drafting his Will, Ron thought of issues that were important to him and of others who were less fortunate than him, and didn't have access to adequate housing and medical care. As Ron had suffered from problems with his eyesight and had complications after an eye surgery, he knew what it might be like for someone to lose their independence if they could no longer see or had limited vision.

The family and friends Ron cared most about suffered from a range of conditions, including anxiety, breast cancer, bowel cancer, heart disease, kidney cancer, skin cancer, arthritis and auto-immune conditions. Keeping this in mind, Ron wanted to leave bequests to organisations that conduct research and provide medical treatment and support for these conditions.

The RMH is deeply grateful to Ron for his foresight and generosity in leaving a gift in his Will. His legacy lives on through the ground-breaking research, medical treatment and care delivered at the RMH.

## Treasure Chest supports the Combined Breast Service

Treasure Chest is a charity run by incredible volunteers, committed to raising funds to increase the capacity of the Combined Breast Service of the Royal Melbourne Hospital and the Royal Women's Hospital. Their goal is to provide total care for people with breast cancer.

In March, after a two year hiatus due to COVID, Treasure Chest hosted its annual Gala Ball and raised over \$70,000 - a wonderful achievement! Funds raised from the event will provide additional clinical psychology support for cancer patients across the Combined Breast Service.

Thank you to the many corporate partners, donors and the community members who purchased tickets and tables for the event. Your support helped make the event a great success.

Ed Smith, Director of the RMH Foundation said, "We are so grateful for the vital and continued support of Treasure Chest and for raising \$70,000 for the Combined Breast Service. On behalf of the both the RMH and the thousands of people impacted by breast cancer, I would like to thank Pratika Lal, Paige Quartermain and the wonderful Treasure Chest Committee Members."



The Treasure Chest Committee at their 2022 Gala Ball



RMH Project leads, Professor Dennis Velakoulis, Director of Neuropsychiatry Research, and Dr Dhama Eratne, Consultant Neuropsychiatrist

## World-class research

**A simple screening blood test to help in the early identification of neurological and neurodegenerative disorders in people with mood and anxiety disorders.**

The Ramsay Hospital Research Foundation (RHRF) has awarded The Royal Melbourne Hospital's (RMH) Neuropsychiatry team \$750,000 for research into the clinical utility of the brain protein neurofilament light in people with mood and anxiety disorders.

This novel work will be in collaboration with Ramsay Health Care psychiatrists Professor Malcolm Hopwood (Ramsay Clinic Albert Road) and Professor Philip Mitchell (Ramsay Clinic Northside).

"Accurate diagnosis in mental health is a key part in improving our care," said Professor Hopwood.

This research explores a real opportunity to identify those patients with depression and brain injury or neurodegeneration earlier and avoid unhelpful or inappropriate treatment.

Research partnerships like this one are clearly the way to progress and it's great the RHRF have provided this opportunity."

The project led by RMH Director of Neuropsychiatry Professor, Dennis Velakoulis, is aimed at developing a blood test to help distinguish neurological and neurodegenerative illnesses from psychiatric illnesses.

The Markers in Neuropsychiatric Disorders (MiND) program of research aims to identify whether a blood marker called neurofilament light (NfL) can help address this important question. Neurofilament light is a brain cell protein which maintains the structure of brain cells and is released into the cerebrospinal fluid and blood when a brain cell is damaged.

"When we see it elevated in the spinal fluid or blood, it indicates that there's been some brain injury and the brain cells have died," Prof Velakoulis said.

Crucially, the levels of neurofilament light is not elevated in patients with mental illness, meaning this test could differentiate between those people with mental health disorders and those with neurological disorders such as dementia.

"The main aim of this work is to reduce the time taken to diagnose dementia. People who have dementia in middle age will often have seen their doctors with depression, anxiety or other mental health disorders years before the diagnosis of dementia

is made. A test such as neurofilament light may help in the earlier detection of dementia, could reduce the need for unnecessary expensive and time-consuming investigations, and improve outcomes for patients and their families,” Prof Velakoulis said.

Challenges to the translation of biomarkers into clinical practice have been their high cost, patient access and reliance on invasive techniques. Blood-based biomarkers don't require invasive techniques or costly equipment, and present an opportunity to close a gap regarding clinical implementation models that could mitigate existing health care disparities.

Chief Investigator, Research Fellow and Neuropsychiatrist at the RMH, Dr Dhamidhu Eratne, says having a test so widely available to general practitioners and specialists will dramatically alter clinical care.

**“In the same way a General Practitioner performs simple blood tests such as thyroid function tests to exclude thyroid problems as a cause for depression or cognitive symptoms, a blood NFL test could alert the GP to a neurological or neurodegenerative cause, rather than a primary psychiatric illness,” Dr Eratne said.**

The RHRF grant will enable the Neuropsychiatry team's work to extend into the private setting through the mood and anxiety disorders programs at Ramsay Clinic Albert Road and Ramsay Clinic Northside.

## A “mini-nose” grown in a dish is an ideal model to test medical countermeasures to combat COVID-19

Co-funding from the Victorian Medical Research Acceleration Fund and the RMH Foundation is enabling researchers at the Victorian Infectious Diseases Research Laboratory (VIDRL) to develop an innovative organoid-based SARS-CoV-2 infection model into a high throughput neutralisation assay.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the global race to develop vaccines and antivirals has highlighted an unmet need for faithful models of human disease. Traditional tissue culture cell lines developed in the 1960s are now recognised as inappropriate pre-clinical models, because the cells do not reflect human infection.

To address this issue, VIDRL has established a primary human nose epithelium culture system that replicates key features of the human nose. This program has the potential to improve the success rates of Phase I clinical trials, reduce costs associated with therapeutic development and expedite the development of drugs from discovery to approval.

Professor Elizabeth Vincan says, “Our priority is to develop the ‘go-to assay’ to rapidly progress COVID-19 medical countermeasures from discovery and development to the clinic. We anticipate the use of our models will fast-track pre-clinical testing to meet regulatory requirements in vaccine and drug development and reduce the use of animal models. We are confident our assay can become the new ‘gold standard’.”





## A new approach to diagnose and treat Chronic Kidney Disease

Congratulations to Associate Professor Edward Smith, who was awarded a Clinical Investigator Award from the Sylvia and Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation. A/Prof Smith's research aims to validate a new screening test that will identify people who are at higher risk of developing an irreversible condition, Vascular Calcification (VC), in people living with Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD).

CKD is an under-recognised public health epidemic that exacts an enormous financial toll on the healthcare system and a devastating health burden on affected patients. In Australia, 1 in 10 people have evidence of CKD, and the numbers are climbing. CKD disproportionately affects individuals from low socioeconomic backgrounds and Indigenous adults, where the prevalence rises to 1 in 5. Each year more than 3,000 Australians progress to end-stage kidney disease (ESKD) requiring life-sustaining dialysis. Sadly, 20% of people with ESKD will die in the first year of treatment and only 50% survive to 5 years.

Some people with decreased kidney function see their arteries begin to calcify, resulting in a much higher rate of heart disease and premature death when compared to the general population.

Existing imaging tools, such as X-ray or CT scans, aren't sensitive enough to

distinguish dynamic changes in calcifying arteries. New tests are urgently needed to help identify patients at high risk for developing vascular calcification prior to the onset of this irreversible condition.

A new test could provide the answer. The test measures the likelihood of calcium phosphate crystallising in blood serum.

A/Prof Smith's Clinical Investigator Award will enable him to investigate whether measuring certain particles could function as new diagnostic tool and a new modifiable target for therapeutic intervention to mitigate development of vascular calcification in patients with chronic kidney disease.

By validating this screening test to identify people at high risk of developing VC, we can help improve outcomes for people who are at risk of developing cardiovascular disease and other conditions as a result of CKD.

The results will have important implications for clinical care of patients with CKD and for the design of future research studies aimed at reducing the burden of vascular calcification in this high-risk population.

The Sylvia and Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation was established by Charles Viertel to benefit medical research into diseases along with the alleviation of hardship of the aged and the sick. We are grateful to the Sylvia and Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation for making this research possible.





Magdalena and her husband, Tobias Honig

## The Magdalena Honig Pancreatic Cancer Fellowship

[A personal letter from Dennis and Katy Honig, proud children of Magdalena Honig](#)

Our mother Magdalena was a refined, gracious, kind and generous woman. Even though she endured challenges in her lifetime, she never complained. She had a heart of gold and was a selfless woman, putting family first. In fact, our mother always managed to look at challenges head-on and work out the best possible outcome.

At the age of 16, Magdalena was the sole Holocaust survivor of her immediate family. However, she was fortunate to have met her lifelong partner, our father, after the Second World War and they had a wonderful, loving marriage. We had a special family unit shrouded with much love and affection.

Having experienced loss at a young age, this gave our mother the incentive and determination to always be mindful of those less fortunate. Our mother's nurturing qualities not only extended to our family, but also to the elderly within the confines of their homes, and those in aged care facilities with whom she was involved for over 25 years. Magdalena was much loved by all those fortunate to know her, as she had a humbleness and quiet disposition which drew people towards her and her calm presence. Our mother filled a void in the hearts of many that had no one to care for them.

In 1995 our mother was diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer - Adenocarcinoma (the most common deadly type), but she had such determination and maintained a positive attitude. She wanted to explore every possible avenue to fight this deadly disease, even if it meant treatment overseas. Sadly, her disease would prove to be fatal, as it has been for so many others.

**“Philanthropy plays a pivotal role in driving forward discovery in health and medical research. We are deeply grateful to the Honig Family for their generous support which we hope will take us one step closer to understanding the potential link between diabetes, pancreatitis and pancreatic cancer. It is an honour to carry out this research in memory of Magdalena Honig.” – A/Prof Andrew Metz, Head of Endoscopy & A/Prof Spiros Furlanos, Director, Department of Diabetes and Endocrinology**

Interestingly, our mother had no history of diabetes, but she would be diagnosed with Diabetes in her final weeks. In the 27 years since our mother passed away, we have always questioned whether there is a link between diabetes and Pancreatic Cancer, and whether there was any research being undertaken in this space.

We reached out to the RMH and were fortunate to meet and have several discussions with A/Prof Andrew Metz, Head of Endoscopy, about our interest in Pancreatic Cancer Research and this led to meeting A/Prof Spiros Furlanos, Director of Diabetes and Endocrinology.

We are extremely excited to assist in this collaborative research project looking at Type 3c Diabetes and Pancreatic Cancer. Our hope is that this research will help to improve outcomes for other people faced with a Pancreatic Cancer diagnosis.

Our mother, Magdalena, was the ultimate “giver” and always had an ear for those in need. She was extremely humble, but we would be remiss not to acknowledge how she gave of her time, love and devotion to people in need. Now is the time to recognise these qualities she had, and in her legacy, as her children, we would like to continue to help others in establishing The Magdalena Honig Fellowship for Pancreatic Cancer.

Our mother was not given the opportunity to reach her twilight years and enjoy life with her loved ones, but we hope through this research, others diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer have this opportunity to also enjoy life, and access treatments that will be discovered. The science is in the research and without research, the medical fraternity are no wiser.

Wishing each and everyone a healthy life.

Dennis & Katy Honig

# Our significant supporters

The Royal Melbourne Hospital recognises and is deeply appreciative of the generous support received from individuals, including Royal Melbourne Hospital Board Directors and staff, families, businesses, trusts, foundations, community groups and organisations. It gives us great pleasure to acknowledge these contributions below:

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Johnson & Johnson Medical Pty Ltd  
KLS Martin  
LEO Pharma Pty Ltd  
Maurice Blackburn Lawyers  
McDermott Richards Lawyers  
Medtronic Australasia Pty Ltd  
Melbourne Recital Centre  
Mykonos Restaurant Bar  
NAB Docklands Branch  
OPTUS Enterprise  
Outsource Financial  
PACCAR Australia  
Powercor Australia Ltd  
PwC Australia

Randles Cooper & Co Pty Ltd  
Right Brain Insights  
Ritchies Stores Pty Ltd  
S O Asher Consultants Pty Ltd  
Westward Investments Pty Ltd  
WTFN Entertainment Pty Ltd  
Wormald Pty Ltd

### **Community Fundraising**

Mr Alexandros Koniditsiotis  
Cardillo Builders  
CFMEU  
Country Women's Association  
Umina (Toorak) Branch  
Mr Nathan Burley  
Ms Candice Bigham  
Ms Annette Chaitman  
Ms Melissa Chen / Mills Kitchen  
Family & Friends of:  
Don Brown  
Judex Edouard Henri  
Neeaamuthkan  
Jon (Han) Tan  
Ms Georgie Gall  
Ms Mikka Hendra & Mr Jonathan Hallinan  
Ms Katie Hudson  
Mr Myk Lievchuk  
Lodge Marshall Royal Antediluvian  
Matty's Soldiers  
Mrs Gina Mifsud  
Otway Districts Football Club  
Mr George Ramsey  
Mr Deane Reynolds & Mrs Maxine Quinlan  
Ms Barbara Rozenes OAM  
Ms Eliza Strauss  
Mrs Sara Taji  
The Hive Gallery  
The Rangers Foundation Inc  
Treasure Chest

### **Friends of the RMH**

Ms Audrey Cheah  
Mrs Barbara Haynes OAM  
Mrs Diana Frew  
Mrs Joan Montgomery AM, OBE  
Mrs Marian Lawrence  
Mrs Susan Sherson  
Mrs Patricia Weickhardt



# Developing our workforce

## Emerging RMH Physiotherapy Researchers win Felice Rosemary Lloyd Trust Scholarships

The RMH's young investigators in physiotherapy, Julia Gheller and Jonathan Tomkins, were awarded scholarships in the highly competitive Felice Rosemary Lloyd Trust 2022 funding round.'

The purpose of the Felice Rosemary Lloyd Trust is to further the development of the physiotherapy profession in Victoria through research and education, by providing annual grants that enable recipients to travel and study in Australia and overseas.

The Felice Rosemary Lloyd Trust was established in 1985 by Brian Lloyd, in memory of his late wife. Felice was born in 1926, grew up in Melbourne and began studying physiotherapy in 1943. Following graduation in 1946 she worked at Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital and then in private practice.

In 1949 Felice travelled to England, with the intention of travelling around Britain and Europe to gain overseas postgraduate qualifications and experience. In 1951 Felice married Brian Lloyd in Cambridge, England. Sadly, Felice died shortly afterwards in London in 1954 at the age of 27.

Since 1985 the Trust has awarded scholarships that enable recipients to travel and study overseas, with the same intention Felice had pursued in her career—the development of the physiotherapy profession in Victoria through research and education.

This year we congratulate two scholarship recipients from the RMH:

Julia Gheller for her project *Discharge planning with tracheostomy: hospital to home*

Jonathan Tomkins for *Optimising physical activity participation early after stroke by improving interventions and education in the acute hospital setting*

## Empowering our ICU Nurses through Don's legacy

In life you never know what tomorrow will hold.

Don Brown had recently retired when he was struck by a car while riding his scooter in February 2021. He was cared for in the RMH Intensive Care Unit (ICU), but tragically, Don passed away a week after his accident.

In his memory, Don's family has created the *Don Brown Conference Fund* to provide access to educational courses and seminars for RMH ICU nurses.

"This is something my family and I are so happy and proud to have been able to make become a reality and it will leave a legacy for a great man," Don's son Tommy said. "The hospital was fantastic while we were there. It was probably the most horrible thing you could go through, but the staff were so gentle and made it as easy as possible."

"Just after Dad passed away we were getting a lot of flowers, which in the end won't have as lasting impact," Tommy said. "So, we asked people instead of sending flowers, could they donate money to the hospital?"

Family and friends in Victoria and the UK have rallied and raised funds for the *Don Brown Conference Fund* through a number of fundraising activities, including knitting stalls and running half marathons!

ICU Nurse Unit Manager, Michelle Spence, said, "All funds raised in memory of Don will be used to support the professional development and training of RMH ICU nursing staff. As a major referral centre for Melbourne, the RMH ICU prides itself on development and training programs for all critical care staff to provide world's best practice in intensive care. These funds will support our team to attend the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society and Australian College of Critical Care Nursing. The skills, updates and connections formed at this annual conference inspire our staff to continually develop."

Michelle continued, "The RMH ICU staff feel grateful to have cared for Don and his family during a very difficult time. We are humbled by the family and the community who have rallied to raise funds for the *Don Brown Conference Fund*. Thank you is not enough."

Don Brown's wife, Katie, with grandson, Archie, at their fundraising knitting stall





Professor Andrew Roberts AM, Metcalf Chair of Leukaemia Research and Clinical Haematologist at the Royal Melbourne Hospital

## Investing in the next generation of clinician-researchers

We are pleased to share the establishment of the RMH Emerging Research Leaders program, thanks to the generosity of our donors.

The RMH Emerging Research Leaders program will support two clinician-researchers for a 12-month period to support progress toward their PhD.

We were delighted to announce the inaugural recipients:

- **Dr Asha Bonney** is investigating lung cancer screening with low dose computed tomography, exploring opportunities to optimise disease prevention across a range of health outcomes in Australia
- **Dr Vignan Yogendrakumar** is assessing covert brain infraction in patients with acute intracerebral hemorrhage

Professor Andrew Roberts AM, Metcalf Chair of Leukaemia Research and Clinical Haematologist at the Royal Melbourne Hospital is a generous supporter of the RMH Fellowship for Emerging Research Leaders program.

The RMH Foundation would like to thank Professor Roberts, Dr Jean Low and the other donors whose generous support made this prestigious new award possible.

**“This is an exciting opportunity for promising early career researchers to experience how knowledge generation drives health care forward. The RMH has always been a place where new ideas are born and future leaders thrive,” said Professor Roberts.**

## Medtronic – Supporting the next generation of cardiologists

The RMH Department of Cardiology is a global leader in clinical care, teaching and research. We provide a full range of device implantations, including leadless pacemakers, and also provide care to emergency and elective patients who present with conditions such as heart arrhythmias, adult congenital heart disease, heart failure, valvular heart disease and genetic heart disease.

Each year, the Department of Cardiology treats around 4,000 patients and approximately 2,700 patients will undergo diagnostic or therapeutic procedures in our Cardiac Catheterization Laboratories. Approximately 2,200 patients will attend cardiac rehabilitation after their procedure and we provide care every year to over 13,500 outpatients.

Thanks to generous, ongoing support from Medtronic, a global healthcare technology leader, the RMH has been able to offer an annual Cardiology Fellowship specialising in Electrophysiology and Pacing. The fellowship enables the candidate to become fully trained in the fields of electrophysiology/radiofrequency and cryo-ablation, 3D mapping, implantable cardioverter defibrillators and permanent pacemakers.

Training not only focusses on technical proficiency, but also provides education in all aspects of patient care throughout an individual's long-term recovery journey. The fellow is supervised by Professor Jonathan Kalman, an internationally recognised Electrophysiologist and a highly respected heart rhythm expert.

# Medtronic



## Partnering to extend access to postgraduate nursing education

The RMH is delighted to announce a new partnership with Wormald, a leading organisation in fire protection and security. Wormald has committed to the education of our nursing workforce by funding postgraduate nursing scholarships.

Recruitment and retention of skilled, experienced nurses is a priority for the RMH, not only for the future of the Australian nursing workforce, but also for the delivery of safe healthcare. Nurses are even more highly sought after in the current COVID-19 environment due to new employment opportunities across public screening and vaccination sites. This, along with pandemic burnout, has resulted in a significant shortage of nursing staff at the RMH.

These scholarships will improve financial access to postgraduate nursing education and provide new education pathways into specialty streams, including general surgery, trauma, perioperative, ICU, emergency, orthopaedics, plastics, general medical, infectious diseases, kidney, cardiac care, rehabilitation and aged care.

“Our sincere thanks to Wormald for aligning with our mission to establish postgraduate scholarships for our nursing workforce. We are delighted with this new, innovative partnership and look forward to building a strong and successful partnership into the future.” Kristie Mackenzie, Director – Nursing Education and Simulation.

**“The Royal Melbourne Hospital Foundation is truly grateful for Medtronic’s ongoing commitment and support to educate our next generation of specialist Cardiologists. We look forward to building this collaborative partnership for many years to come”.**  
**Ed Smith, Director, Royal Melbourne Hospital Foundation.**



RMH clinical assistants demonstrate the benefits of a new motorised transport chair

## Innovative equipment and technology

### A gift to help lighten the load

The team in Radiology are absolutely thrilled with the new Motorized Bariatric Transport Chairs funded by a grateful patient turned generous donor. Patrick Hines, Senior Patient Flow Coordinator, said the chairs are a game-changer for the Clinical Assistants who use them to transport patients across the hospital.

Patrick estimates the team transfers approximately 120 patients per day, equating to at least 240 individual transfers, and likely more if people have various imaging requirements. The Clinical Assistants love the new chairs, which can be operated with as little as one finger, and can facilitate weight up to 250kgs.

These chairs will be used across the hospital, with three dedicated to Radiology, one in Nuclear Medicine, one in the Transit Lounge and the remaining chair located in the newly-established Central Equipment Library. Housing one in the central equipment library will allow the chair to be deployed across the hospital as the need arises, and to track its movements.

Patrick stressed how appreciative the Clinical Assistants were of the opportunity to provide their advice and input into which chairs were ultimately purchased, based on their extensive experience transporting patients safely. They are sincerely grateful to the donor for this generous donation, which is making their jobs more efficient and less strenuous.





From left to right – Georgie Gall, the first feature artist of the month; Dr Jean Low, generous donor and art enthusiast; and Karen Spreadborough, Director of The Hive Ocean Grove.

## The Art of Vision

A new exhibition series launched at The Hive gallery in Ocean Grove will raise vital funds to support ophthalmology at the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

The Hive launched the 'Feature Artist Program' in April 2022 and over 12 months, a series of artists will display their work at The Hive, with a portion of the sales of their exhibited work going towards a Wide-Field Digital Imaging Camera.

This camera will provide a high-definition image of the eye and will enhance diagnostic accuracy and improve the management and health outcomes of eye-patients at the RMH.

The RMH provides a broad range of services for complex eye conditions and supports over 9,000 ophthalmology patients every year.

As the leading state provider of eye care, the RMH strives to stay at the forefront of technology and innovation.

The Hive's Curator and Director, Karen Spreadborough, said she was proud to support the RMH.

"There are going to be several different artists over the course of the program, which will give our visitors the chance to enjoy lots of different and beautiful artwork," she said.

"If they see something they like, they can take it home knowing they are supporting a very worthy cause at the same time."

The first featured artist was Georgie Gall, herself a long-time supporter of the RMH, who recently donated artwork for the waiting room of the RMH Intensive Care Unit.

The RMH Foundation Director, Ed Smith, said the support of Karen, Georgie and the other featured artists was deeply appreciated.

"It is so wonderful that art and health have come together, and I really hope visitors and art enthusiasts enjoy this initiative," Ed said.

The Hive Gallery Feature Artist Collaboration will run until April 2023.

**“It is so wonderful that art and health have come together, and I really hope visitors and art enthusiasts enjoy this initiative,” said Ed Smith, Director, RMH Foundation.**



## PACCAR – Helping transform neurosurgical healthcare

In 2016, the RMH Foundation and PACCAR established a major partnership to support the Department of Neurosurgery. PACCAR Australia is a subsidiary of PACCAR Inc, a Fortune 500 company and global technology leader in the design and manufacture of trucks under the nameplates Kenworth, DAF, Peterbilt and Leyland.

PACCAR has contributed an incredible \$402,000 over the past five years to enable the RMH to purchase the latest neurosurgical equipment and technology. This has enhanced patient treatment, care and outcomes at the RMH.



In 2021, PACCAR Australia funded the purchase of an infusion pump guard. During brain surgery a patient may need to have an Intraoperative Magnetic Resonance Imaging (iMRI) procedure, which is a scan that generates images of the brain. Neurosurgeons rely on iMRI technology to create accurate pictures of the brain that guide surgeons when removing brain tumours and other abnormalities during operations.

Anaesthetists use powered infusion pumps to precisely and continuously administer fluid or medication to a patient during surgery. Unfortunately, these pumps are

not compatible with iMRI technology because the magnetic field interferes with the pump's functionality, which in turn, impacts medicine flow to the patient.

The infusion pump guard funded by PACCAR Australia shields each pump from electromagnetic disturbances and can be seamlessly used in the iMRI room. This infusion pump has improved theatre time efficiencies and, most importantly, enhanced patient safety.

In addition to the infusion pump guard, PACCAR has also funded state-of-the-art ultrasound technology, which provides real time imaging to enhance surgical navigation and accuracy when removing brain tumours.

“My sincere thanks to PACCAR’s Managing Director Andrew Hadjikakou and everyone at PACCAR, for once again providing vital funding that have allowed us to continue to give our patients state-of-the-art care. We highly value our partnership with PACCAR and this support ensures we can enhance best practice healthcare in every surgery we do.” Professor Kate Drummond AM, Director – RMH Neurosurgery (pictured left).

# PACCAR





RMH fundraisers and supporters, Georgie Gall, Melissa Chen and Monique Johnson-King

# Infrastructure for the future

## Giving Residential Aged Care a new look

The RMH looks after some of our most vulnerable community members, often with very complex conditions and many without a history of secure housing.

A longtime friend of the RMH, Melissa Chen's latest philanthropic goal is to help transform our residential aged care facilities, Boyne Russell House and Cyril Jewell House.

Raising funds to refurbish the interiors of RMH residential aged care is a simple and powerful way to communicate to our

residents that their community supports them and they are not invisible or forgotten. It is also a wonderful reminder for staff that the excellent care they provide to residents is appreciated.

"Everyone deserves to have a beautiful space to call home," Melissa recently told a group of supporters.

Melissa has worked tirelessly since 2021 hosting private fundraising dinners, presenting to philanthropic foundations and working with her friends and design colleagues to create warm and welcoming spaces for residents.

The refurbishment of Boyne Russell House will be completed this year, and fundraising will commence for Cyril Jewell House in 2023.

This is Melissa Chen at a Mill's Kitchen event



We are proud to be the grateful beneficiary of Melissa's fundraising activity and design expertise. A special thanks also go to the Johnson Family Foundation, MRB Foundation, Nicole Hopkinson, Cameron Comer, and all of the generous supporters of Melissa's fundraising work for the RMH.

## Mobile Mental Health Service: A mental health outreach response for people experiencing homelessness in inner Melbourne

With support from the Spencer Gibson Foundation, William Angliss (Victoria) Charitable Fund and OPTUS Enterprise., an ambulance-style Mobile Mental Health Clinic will take mental health outpatient care to Melbourne's streets, parks, laneways and squats to treat Melbourne's homeless in their lived environments.

People with severe and persistent mental illness, such as schizophrenia or psychosis, are overrepresented in Melbourne's long-term and chronic homeless, with reduced life expectancy of 20-30 years. Mental illness, when poorly treated, impedes pathways out of homelessness, impacting planning, impulse control and social relationships.

"This initiative has been a priority for mental health services at the Royal Melbourne Hospital for a number of years," said Peter Kelly, Operations Director for NorthWestern Mental Health. "Lack of private space for confidential mental health consultation and medications administration leaves 'on foot' outreach clinicians to deliver 'laneway consultations'."

"A growing body of literature supports Mobile Health Clinics as a successful and cost-effective model of healthcare delivery, uniquely positioned to address the needs of vulnerable and underserved populations. While mobile mental health

outreach clinics have been successfully used overseas, this will be the first time this approach will be trialled for mental health outreach in Australia," said Mr Kelly.

The Mobile Mental Health Service will provide support to people who experience severe and enduring mental illness and have a history of repeated homelessness, with a focus on rough sleepers, homeless women and individuals who have repeated episodes of care with mental health services. The team will work with consumers living in Melbourne's CBD and Inner West to provide a mental health outreach response, and a pathway to better health, secure housing and increased social and economic engagement.

The purpose-built mobile mental health vehicle will offer a private and safe clinical space to administer medications and deliver clinical healthcare. Aiming to overcome access barriers to treatment for homeless populations where other approaches have failed, the clinic will use assertive outreach to build trust with vulnerable people in their lived environment, be it public spaces, squats, or emergency accommodation.

Thank you to the Spencer Gibson Foundation, Jayco and OPTUS Enterprise for their support of this innovative mobile service.

Brendon, Manager of the RMH Consumer Lived Experience Workforce





## Corporate Partners help improve Emergency Department waiting area

As one of the busiest Emergency Departments in Australia, RMH emergency clinicians treat and care for over 80,000 patients every year.

Our facilities are open 24/7, 365 days per year, and due to such high patient and family throughput, wear and tear on our facilities is inevitable. Worn out by hundreds of thousands of patients visiting our ED waiting room over the past nine years, the current waiting room seating, facilities, layout and aesthetic is no longer fit-for-purpose in delivering modern emergency medicine and person-centred care.

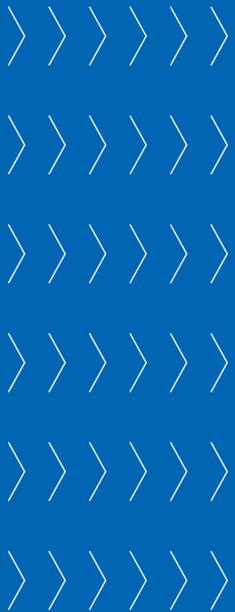
As part of an upcoming major refurbishment of the ED waiting room, SO Asher, Nelson Alexander's Carlton North office and WTFN Entertainment have provided much-needed funding to successfully deliver this project to refurbish the space to create a more welcoming, calmer and more comfortable waiting room. It will also include new furnishings such as comfortable seating, modern bathroom facilities and new technology such as TV screens and device charging stations.

Our ED is often the first interaction a patient and their loved ones will have with the RMH and we want that first impression to be positive. We extend our thanks to SO Asher, Nelson Alexander Carlton North and WTFN Entertainment for their generous contributions.

**“A big thanks to our corporate partners for the enormous support they have provided to the RMH Emergency Department. These valuable investments help us to continue providing the best healthcare experience to our community.” – Associate Professor Mark Putland, Director, RMH Emergency Department**



RMH ED team members



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