

Saturday 25 June 2005

The Wesley Research Institute to receive first Smart State Tissue Bank

Premier Peter Beattie announced during his recent US trade mission that The Wesley Research Institute will receive \$1.42 million from the Smart State Research Facilities Fund to establish a world-class tissue bank that will allow Queensland researchers to study a diverse collection of cancer tissues.

“This is a huge boost to cancer research and an invaluable resource for Queensland researchers,” said Professor Julie Campbell, Director, The Wesley Research Institute.

The Wesley Research Institute Tissue Bank will be located in the grounds of The Wesley Hospital at Auchenflower, Brisbane. The tissue bank will create an invaluable resource for research into the origins and development of cancer and other diseases.

The Wesley Research Institute Tissue Bank will be the first of its kind in Queensland to provide a widely available and diversified collection of ethically consented, clinically annotated cancer tissue using state-of-the-art digital technology.

The tissue bank will provide state and national researchers with greater understanding of breast, ovary, prostate, colon, pancreatic, liver, and kidney cancer. This will assist in the quest to unravel the cause of disease and identify possible treatments.

Funds from the Smart State Research Facilities Fund will be used to build and equip a dedicated laboratory with high-precision equipment for preparation and study of the tissue. The tissue bank will use a digital platform for scanning microscope slides, which will link leading researchers nationally and internationally through ‘virtual’ microscopy. Queensland researchers will have access to specialist technology that would otherwise not be available.

The research outcomes from The Wesley Research Institute’s Tissue Bank will contribute directly to state and national research priority areas of ageing, preventative healthcare, and development of emerging healthcare technologies. Research developments will improve health care outcomes and reduce the financial burden of disease for all Queenslanders.

For more information please contact 07 3232 7264.