

WESLEY MEDICAL RESEARCH

THE WESLEY HOSPITAL | ST. ANDREW'S WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
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Media Release
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Wesley Medical Research recognises distinguished neurology researchers

Ten researchers specialising in the treatment and management of neurological diseases have been awarded for their contribution to improving the care and quality of life of patients at the **Wesley Medical Research Neurology Achievements Function** on Thursday 2 March.

The neuroscientists were awarded for researching new therapies and management techniques that may slow the progression of neurological diseases.

Emeritus Professor Mervyn Eadie AO was presented with a Lifetime Achievement award.

Wesley Medical Research Chief Executive Officer and Director of Research, Professor David Paterson, said Professor Eadie was an internationally-respected researcher and physician in neurology, especially in the treatment of conditions like epilepsy and migraines.

“Professor Eadie has continued researching and teaching in the neurosciences since his retirement in 1997, adding book chapters, research papers and journal articles in medicine utilisation and treatment for epilepsy, migraines and headaches to his vast output of work,” said Prof David Paterson.

“He is very well-known for encouraging and inspiring PhD students who are working within the neurosciences, and has been a global leading figure in clinical neurology.”

Professor Paterson said Professor Eadie has contributed to neuroscience research for over 50 years.

“Apart from displaying a lifetime dedication and commitment to neurological research, and is continuing to influence neuroscience research in Queensland as the current Chair of the WMR Neuroscience Research Committee.”

Dr Susanna Mantovani, who was recognised as one of the Emerging Leaders in Neurology Research, is comparing the sleep patterns of neurodegenerative patients with the healthy population to find ways to slow the progression of neurological diseases like Motor Neuron disease (MND).

“Two people die from MND each day in Australia. With no known cure or effective treatment, research into ways for improving the care, outcomes and quality of life for patients with these devastating conditions is definitely one of our top priorities,” said Professor Paterson.

Mr Lyn Brazil and Mrs Bobbie Brazil from the Brazil Family Foundation presented Senior Research Fellowship awards to Professor Pamela McCombe, Professor John O'Sullivan, Professor Rob Henderson and Dr Noel Saines.

Dr Richard Gordon, Dr Trent Woodruff, Dr Shyuan Ngo and Dr Frederik Steyn were awarded as Emerging Leaders in Neurology Research.

The Neurology Achievements Function followed on from the daytime **Wesley Medical Research Neuroscience Symposium 2017**.

Over 20 leading neuroscientists from Queensland presented recent research developments in slowing the progression of and management techniques for neurodegenerative diseases at the collaborative Symposium, sharing knowledge in Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's Disease, Motor Neurone Disease and Sleep Research.

For further information on speakers and presentations, please see the program here:
<http://www.wesleyresearch.org.au/events/neuroscience-symposium/>

Attached: Motor Neurone Disease Fast Facts (one page), with thanks to MND Australia

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Interviews can be arranged with winners of neurology achievement awards during the day under embargo ahead of the evening announcements and presentations.

Interviews can be arranged with MND patient and author Wayne Patterson, FA patient and research advocate Terry O'Hanlan, Shake It Up Australia founder Clyde Campbell, Lincoln Hopper, CEO of MS Queensland, WMR CEO Professor David Paterson, and specialist researchers.

Motor Neurone Disease: Fast Facts

With thanks to MND Australia (www.mndaust.asn.au)
<< Please credit MND Australia when quoting figures >>

MND is the name given to a group of progressive degenerative neurological diseases affecting the motor neurones or nerve cells under voluntary control.

The most common form of MND is amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and this is the term used in the United States (US) and other parts of the world to describe MND.

- MND is a progressive, terminal neurological disease.
- MND can strike anyone
- There is no known cure and no effective treatment for MND
- There are no current treatments available that stop or reverse the progression of MND
- Each day in Australia two people die from MND
- Each day in Australia two people are diagnosed with MND
- People with MND progressively lose the use of their limbs and ability to speak, swallow and breathe, whilst their mind and senses usually remain intact
- Average life expectancy is 2.5 years*
- More than 2,000 people have MND in Australia of whom 60% are male and 40% are female*
- Mean time from onset to confirmation of diagnosis is 10 to 18 months*
- Prevalence of MND in 2015 was 8.7 per 100,000 people or 1 per 11,434 Australians*
- Approximately 58% of people with MND are under the age of 65*
- The total cost of MND in Australia was \$2.37 billion in 2015. This equates to \$1.1 million per person*
- For every person diagnosed with MND, it is estimated that a further 14 members of their family and their friends will live with the effect of MND forever

*Source: Deloitte Access Economics report *Economic Analysis of MND in Australia* -
[https://www.mndaust.asn.au/Influencing-policy/Economic-analysis-of-MND-\(1\)/Economic-analysis-of-MND-in-Australia.aspx](https://www.mndaust.asn.au/Influencing-policy/Economic-analysis-of-MND-(1)/Economic-analysis-of-MND-in-Australia.aspx)