

Tribute

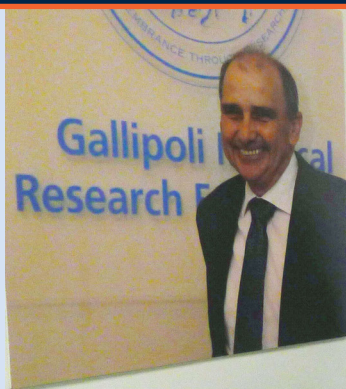


NEWSLETTER OF THE GALLIPOLI MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

VOLUME 13 OCTOBER 2014

"What they're performing here is miracles"

Since the establishment of our Foundation 9 years ago, we have had many patients with liver disease come to us for help. Those who suffer with hepatitis C had endured severe side effects as they fought this cruel disease thought to be incurable...**until now.**



On John's last visit to GMRF, he joins Amanda Mason (GMRF Clinical Trial Coordinator) in thanking you for saving lives by supporting our work.



In April 2014, findings from the SAPPHERE-I clinical trial achieved a staggering 96% virological cure rate for hepatitis C.

John Faccinni, one of our patients who achieved a cure on the trial, was understandably emotional saying, "Before this, I used to think to myself 'you're going to die an early death.'"

After only 3 weeks on the treatment, there had been no virus detected in John's system. The drop was so dramatic that the team in our Clinical Trials Unit (CTU) retested 8 times, just to be sure. John was stunned when he heard the life changing news, "I went out to the car park and cried. They had basically said 'here's another ten or fifteen years on your life.'"

John's treatment on the trial was taken orally for only 12 weeks and he suffered no side effects. In fact, less than 1% of trial participants discontinued due to side effects – encouraging news for more than 230,000 other Australians currently suffering from hepatitis C.

The SAPPHERE-I trial was conducted through 79 sites globally. As a result of our expertise in liver disease and our access to patients, our CTU team were the first site to enrol a patient outside of the USA. Furthermore, the landmark study has now been published in the world renowned New England Journal of Medicine, with the article co-authored by Professor Darrell Crawford (GMRF Director of Research).

In terms of what impact this could have, perhaps John sums it up best: "It's a bloody miracle!"

Liver disease in Australia

30% of adults in Australia suffer from non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), leading to liver cancer, diabetes and heart disease.

Hemochromatosis (iron overload) is the most common genetic disorder in Australia. 1 in 10 individuals carry one abnormal copy of the affected gene.

Read inside to see how your support is tackling these other threats to liver health.

Your liver...

Your liver is the vital 'filter' within your body. It breaks down everything you eat and drink. It then turns this into the energy and nutrients which keep you alive and well. An unhealthy liver can cause a build-up of dangerous toxins in your system.

Thanks to your donations, we can support the great young minds of today on the GMRF PhD Scholarship Program.

Your generosity gives them the resources to work tirelessly to tackle the growing issue of liver disease in Australia.

Together we can find answers for those who need our help.

Please donate today.

Is it in your genes?

Ms Nishreen Santrampurwala

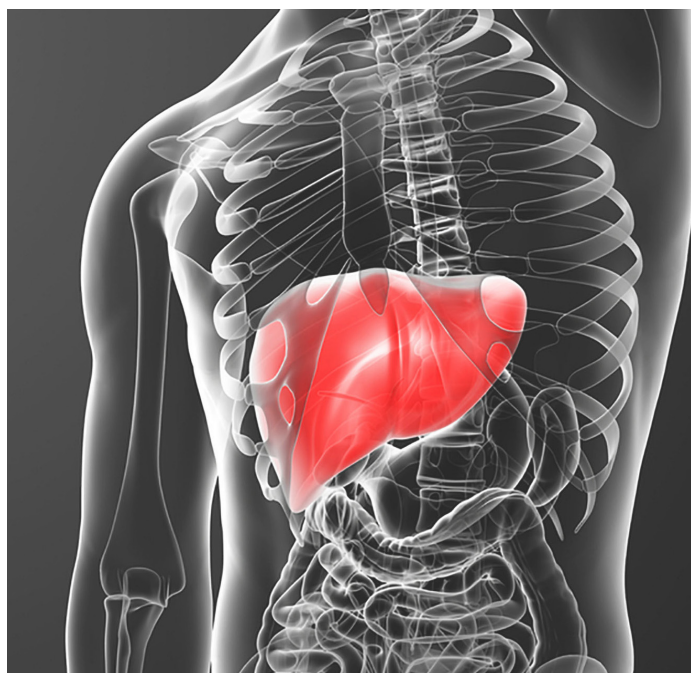


Hereditary hemochromatosis (or iron overload) increases the risk for a myriad of diseases up to, and including, premature death. It is the most common genetic disorder in Australia.

Under the supervision of Professor Darrell Crawford, Nishreen

identified 'genes of interest' thought to be major influencers in regard to iron overload during her first year of research. Now, she is developing a cell culture model which represents the human condition of NAFLD in a patient who suffers from hereditary hemochromatosis. This model will enable Nishreen to perform modifications on these 'genes of interest', which will indicate the role of these genes in disease progression and open up potential venues for treatment.

Nishreen's research is only possible due to the state-of-the-art genetic sequencing equipment in the GMRF laboratories.



If your body is a temple,
your liver is the guardian.

GMRF donors fund a dedicated Liver Clinic Nurse at Greenslopes Private Hospital, in order to give patients the best healthcare education we can.

... your life

It's not all about alcohol

Dr Laurence Britton



Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) is the most common form of liver disease in Australia, affecting 3 in 10 adults. All people with NAFLD have increased risk of: heart attack, stroke, diabetes, liver cancer, and liver failure.

"People think liver

disease is all about alcohol misuse" says Dr Laurence Britton, "but that's not true. NAFLD is the most common form of liver disease and the huge increase in the number of people with this disease is frightening."

"At present the main treatment for NAFLD is diet and exercise. Unfortunately, this approach often fails. Our research is seeking to better understand the reasons that some people and not others develop liver failure with NAFLD. Undoubtedly, a greater understanding of this disease will lead to the development of more effective treatments."

Dr Britton brings a clear understanding of the clinical need for research on NAFLD through his experience as a gastroenterologist. Thanks to GMRF supporters, Dr Britton's PhD project can focus on developing treatment.

Keeping livers alive

Dr Janske Reiling



In 2012, only 50% of patients on the liver transplant waiting list received a transplant. Another 10% of patients sadly died or became unsuitable for transplantation due to their disease progression.

The shortage of healthy available livers is a major issue in transplantation. Dr Janske Reiling is conducting PhD research at the GMRF laboratories which aims to increase the quality of livers (deemed currently unsuitable for transplantation) using a technique called normothermic oxygenated machine perfusion. If this technique can improve liver preservation, it will provide the opportunity for more patients to receive life-saving liver transplants.

To date, Dr Reiling has performed four successful perfusions of up to 24 hours and all four livers have shown good liver function.

Thanks to a generous gift from one of our major donors, we have been able to invest a grant of \$50,000 in this important research.

The Women's Interest Group Society celebrated their 40th anniversary with a special presentation from Dr Jason Steel (GMRF Liver Cancer Unit).



PTSD Initiative – 'Ideas to change the world'

The PTSD Initiative was officially launched in March and has been listed within the Courier Mail's story on QUT's '25 Ideas to Change the World'. The list highlights innovative work which will "prevent the potential for disaster before it occurs, sparing untold pain, cost and lost efficiency"

Our research seeks to identify not only the genetic risks linked to PTSD but also the long term effects on all of the organs in the body, including a comprehensive assessment of liver health. A full liver-screen is included in the pathology testing, as well as an ultrasound and a Fibroscan (non-invasive assessment of liver fibrosis).

In addition, Dr Wendy Harvey is obtaining a thorough history of other factors from each participant such as family history of liver disease.

The goal of this aspect of the PTSD Initiative is to determine whether those who suffer from PTSD are more likely to develop liver disease and what steps they can take to minimise their risk.

None of this would be possible without the enthusiastic participation of our Vietnam veteran research participants. We simply couldn't do it without you - thank you!

100 of our participants have now had their physical examinations completed which includes blood samples taken and analysed by Sullivan Nicolaides Pathology (SNP) and abdominal ultrasound and CT coronary artery calcium scoring carried out by Queensland XRay. As our key research partners, Queensland XRay have conducted their work free of charge and SNP have conducted the pathology services at a significantly reduced rate. "I always tell people this", says Dr Harvey, "because it is an absolutely huge contribution to this project"



Dr Harvey performs a Fibroscan© on our first participant Mr Tony Dell.



Ian Chappell has joined GMRF as the ambassador for our PTSD Initiative. Visit www.gallipoliresearch.com.au to hear his message of support.

The PTSD Initiative is proudly supported by:



RSL (QUEENSLAND BRANCH)
RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA



**"All young children
should be taught
what the war was
about – our freedom"**

– Mrs Jean Pockett (GMRF Board
Member and World War 1 widow).

DATE CLAIMER

Gallipoli Centenary Ball

Join us to commemorate the Gallipoli Centenary

Next year, all Australians will celebrate the centenary of one of Australia's most historic events – the landing of ANZAC troops at Gallipoli. The Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation invites you to join with us as we remember this significant chapter in our history at our Gallipoli Centenary Ball.

Proudly presented by



Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation,
Greenslopes Private Hospital, Brisbane

Brisbane City Hall,
Saturday 18th April 2015

One hundred years ago next April, medical staff worked tirelessly during and following the fighting at Gallipoli. They put themselves in constant danger and witnessed unimaginable injuries as they worked to save as many lives as they could.

On the 18th April 2015, we will bring together the medical and veteran communities to celebrate mateship and to acknowledge the discoveries and techniques learned on the frontline and the field hospitals... right up to the world-first PTSD Initiative research being conducted today.

Your ticket to this prestigious event will include:

- Pre-dinner drinks & canapés
- 3 course dinner
- Premium drinks package
- Full musical entertainment program
- PLUS the premiere of the specially commissioned short film *The Spirit of Simpson & his Donkey* (proudly supported by QUT).

Tickets will be available for purchase on line from early November by visiting www.gallipoliball.com.au. Please contact GMRF offices on 07 3394 7284 for more information.

If you can offer any support to help our fundraising efforts on the night via prizes or sponsorship, please contact Anna Coles (GMRF Philanthropy Manager) on 07 3394 7105 or ColesAnna@ramsayhealth.com.au. All proceeds from this event will support our research.

Throughout next year, we want to honour our diggers by sharing your memories and stories from the past 100 years on our website and social media.

Was someone in your family a veteran of Gallipoli? Or did you have a relative who was repatriated to Greenslopes Hospital during a later conflict?

Please send your stories and copies of your photographs* to:

Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation, Greenslopes Private Hospital, Newdegate Street
GREENSLOPES QLD 4120 or via email to NoonanMaria@ramsayhealth.com.au

*Please do not send us your original photographs.

Mates for medical research

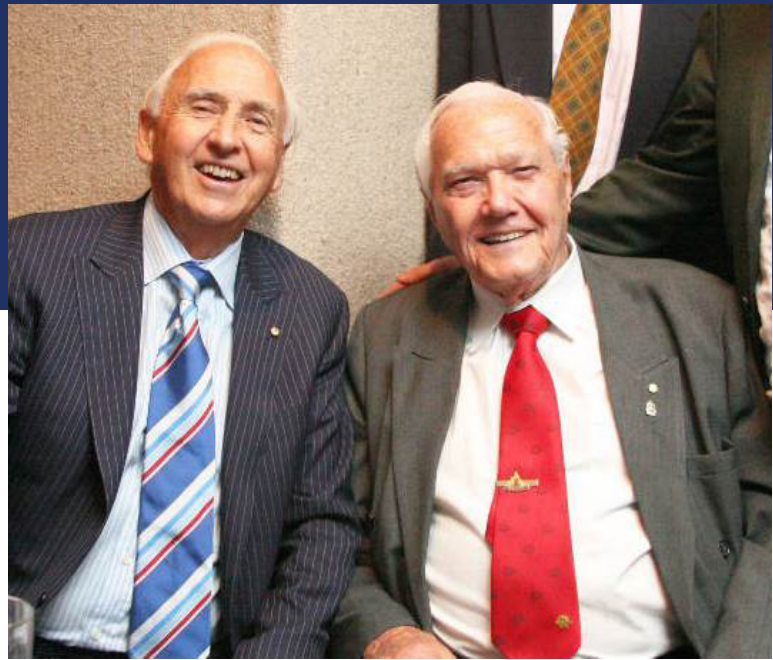
We sadly lost two valued members of the GMRF community in recent months, Mr Paul Ramsay AO (GMRF Patron and Founder of Ramsay Health Care) and Mr Cyril Gilbert OAM (GMRF Board Member and Veteran Advocate). Both men played a vital role in the establishment of our research within the hospital they loved so dearly.

"I remember the twinkling of the medals as they were taken out on Anzac Day" says Leigh, Mr Gilbert's daughter, "Tears would come to him at times, as he would tell stories. But the most important thing for him was that he was with his mates".

When he returned from war in 1945, Mr Gilbert spent many hours with some of those mates on the veranda of the 112th Australian General Hospital Unit (now Greenslopes Private Hospital). They would share stories there, while watching carefully for the matron in fear she would confiscate their playing cards! Mr Gilbert's loyalty to his fellow diggers was enforced through his work with RSL Queensland and his enduring commitment to veteran health.

It was only fitting then that Mr Gilbert was a member of the panel who met with Mr Ramsay in 1995 to discuss the proposed privatisation of the repatriation hospital. During the meeting, the panel posed an important question to Mr Ramsay: "Can we trust you with this hospital?" Mr Ramsay's simple response was typical of his down to earth character: "My Dad will kill me if I don't look after the veterans!"

In the years that followed, a great friendship flourished between the two men and Mr Gilbert believed that Ramsay Health Care did indeed live up to their motto of *People caring for people*.



People Caring for People

Leigh remembers fondly that, when her father would come to the hospital for a stay, he would strike a line through the menu and request 'the usual' instead, his favourite prawns followed by bread and butter pudding. The staff would only be too happy to please their VIP, knowing of the deprivation he endured during 3 and a half years as a POW. The mutual affection between Mr Gilbert and the staff meant it was fitting that he spent his last hours in the hospital he loved.

Mr Gilbert and Mr Ramsay are dearly missed by all at GMRF. We endeavor to continue their work through our medical research. Their legacy will improve the health of our community for many years to come.



Mr Cyril Gilbert OAM was proud to have his family with him at the opening of the Cyril Gilbert Cancer Centre in 2009.



At the launch of the updated GMRF facilities, Mr Ramsay emphasised the importance of *People Caring for People*, the Ramsay Way.

RESEARCH UPDATE

CONTINUING THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER

PROSTATE CANCER RESEARCH

In our last edition, we told you about a pioneering research project on prostate cancer, led by Senior Urologist Dr Peter Heathcote. This study was only made possible as a result of donations from supporters like you to the cancer-focused Cyril Gilbert Testimonial Fund. The most ground-breaking element of this project is the innovative PET scanning technique specially designed to detect prostate cancer of only a few millimetres in size.

The first patient on the project has undergone his scan in August and will now also attend for an MRI before his prostatectomy. The patient was proud to be involved in the research saying it's important to "give a little back... after the GFC (Global Financial Crisis) funding is low and these projects are vital for the evolution of research".

TONGUE CANCER STUDY

Your donations are currently supporting two other cancer research projects through the Cyril Gilbert Testimonial Fund:

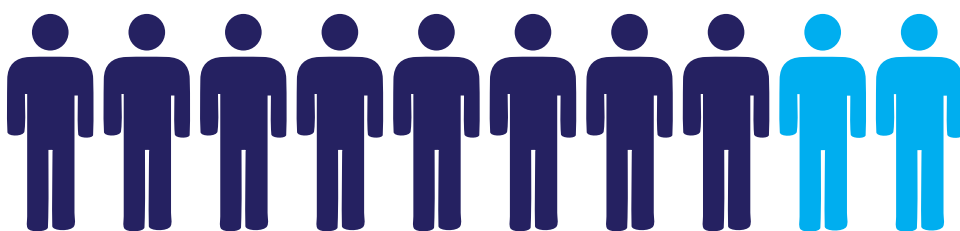
Assoc Prof Ben Panizza - Individualising care in oral cavity cancer using markers of genomic stability to guide drug target selection in a mouse model

There are currently no clinical tests which accurately distinguish if a tongue cancer patient is likely to benefit from chemotherapy/ radiotherapy or if they have a cancer which will recur despite treatment. This project will guide treatment selection based on the patient's specific tumour biological profile. As a result, patients with terminal cancer would have the option not to undergo harsh and futile treatment.

IMMUNOTHERAPY FOR LIVER CANCER

Dr Jason Steel - Immunotherapeutic approaches for hepatocellular carcinoma

This project is assessing three strategies which use the body's own immune system to fight liver cancer: immune stimulation, removal of immune suppression checkpoints, and a combination of both.



85% of liver cancer patients will die within 5 years of diagnosis.

NEW respiratory clinical trials

Thanks to the loyal investment of GMRF donors, Dr Lucy Burr has now joined our team to work with Dr Rachel Thomson (Head of the GMRF Respiratory Research Unit). This support allows Dr Thomson to undertake a new role within our Clinical Trials Unit, as Principal Investigator for a number of studies which seek to find new treatments for:

- non-cystic fibrosis bronchiectasis
- chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- and idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis.

Leading the way - melanoma research

In the past 12 months, our Clinical Trials Unit has conducted 9 melanoma studies, treating approximately 45 patients. In collaboration with the Principal Investigators and the staff at the Cyril Gilbert Cancer Centre, we have contributed the most number of patients in Australia to several of these exciting new studies. We hope that these new treatment regimens will prove successful and be made available to the wider community to treat this deadly disease in the not too distant future.



Family and friends light candles at the GPH Memorial Service for those patients we have sadly lost in the past year.



Remembrance through research

The hardest part of working in medical research is when we realise that we have not found answers in time and we lose a patient to their illness.

That is why we are so endlessly inspired by how our supporters have found strength during these hard times.

We would like to truly thank all of you who have chosen to honour your departed ones with an in memoriam gift to GMRF.

Here, we share just a few of your stories of love, strength and hope.

When teacher & footie coach Mr Colin Shields lost his battle with cancer in 2011, his former student Brian Davies along with his son Tom and son-in-law Allan approached Colin's friend Roy with the idea of running the Col Shield's Memorial Golf Day. Now in its third year, the event pays testament to the life of a much-loved teacher and father.

Mr Barry Wanka paid many visits to Greenslopes Private Hospital (GPH) during his battle with leukaemia. In that time, he and his family built friendships with GPH staff and were comforted by the warmth shown to them. When Mr Wanka sadly passed away in March, his wife Marion chose to donate to our research in his memory.



Colin's wife Marlene presents Miriam (GMRF CEO) with a cheque for \$1420 at the 2014 Col Shield's Memorial Golf Day.



Mrs Wanka's grandchildren followed in her footsteps and donated to our research following their family's tour of our labs. Thank you!!

Brian John Brandenburg was a soldier and an advocate for many causes, including the importance of medical research. His family proudly donated \$5,000 to GMRF in his memory so that his name could forever be displayed on the In Memoriam panel of our honour board, right in the heart of the hospital he loved.

When we relaunched our Discovery Partner Honour Board this year we chose to dedicate the final panels to showcasing the incredible people who are featured on the board. These panels will be updated quarterly with a new supporter profile and Brian's family were proud to see his story featured for the launch. Turn to page 10 to find out how you can honour your loved one on the Discovery Partner Honour Board.



Plan today – Your gift to future generations

It is important that each of us has the opportunity to create our own legacy. Making a will now is the only way to be sure that your wishes will be carried out after you've gone. After providing for your family and friends, and once all debts and expenses are paid out, you may choose to leave a bequest to GMRF.

If you believe in the power of medical research, including a gift in your will is the ultimate commitment to all those suffering with life threatening illness.

If you would like further information on leaving a gift in your will, please contact Anna Coles (GMRF Philanthropy Manager) on 07 3394 7105 or ColesAnna@ramsayhealth.com.au.

Mr Doug Murray has planned his bequest to GMRF because **"It simply made good sense. A bequest meant my financial situation wouldn't change or be depleted during my lifetime. Nothing changed – except that I knew I could contribute towards making a difference in the lives of others"**

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Our new Discovery Partner Honour Board holds pride of place in the foyer of Greenslopes Private Hospital (GPH).

The board will be updated each year on the 11th of November for Remembrance Day. Your name, or that of a loved one, can be added for donations of \$5,000 or over (with previous donations taken into account).

If you would like further information please contact Anna Coles at 07 3394 7105 or ColesAnna@ramsayhealth.com.au.

Please note: The deadline for 2014 additions is October 15th.



Tom Ryan (GMRF Chairman) surprises Joan Harris (President, Diggers' Dozen) by inviting her to cut the ribbon at the unveiling of the new honour board.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all GMRF & Greenslopes Private Hospital volunteers!

These are people like GMRF supporter Monica Rider who has been very busy helping us to source sponsorship and exciting auction prizes for our Gallipoli Centenary Ball. Thank you for all your hard work Monica!

If you would like to support Monica's efforts and donate a prize for the auction please contact our offices at 07 3394 7284.



Alma & Friends raised \$695 at a recent afternoon tea. Visit our Facebook page to see all the photos of the event.

www.facebook.com/GallipoliResearch

Greenbank RSL Sub-Branch continues their loyal support of GMRF. Here, President Barry McDonald presents Miriam (GMRF CEO) with a donation of \$10,000.

GMRF donors lead new hope in fight against diabetic blindness

Inspired by the enthusiasm and generosity of GMRF donors, Dr Christopher Layton has been working tirelessly in our labs in response to the kindness you showed to our tax-time appeal about the threat of diabetic blindness.

50% of diabetics will only show signs of diabetic retinopathy 15 years after the onset of their diabetes. However, in his recent work, Dr Layton has had "a great run" of successful experiments which have shown that it may be possible to detect and intercept subtle changes in the retina much earlier than this. He is now turning his attention to investigating the role of glucose in the advancement of the disease.

You could help to fund a dedicated research assistant in order for this work to progress more quickly. Please donate today.



At our Supporter High Tea, Joan Harris (President, Diggers' Dozen) experiences what it feels like to suffer impaired vision.



Dr Layton's top tips for eye health:

- Attend regular eye checks every 2 years.
- Always wear sunglasses. The price of living in sunny Queensland!
- Eat a varied diet including green leafy vegetables to reduce the chance of macular degeneration.

Tax Appeal – patient update

We are delighted to report that John's eye surgery was a success and has majorly slowed the progression of his diabetic retinopathy. John has happily returned to work and is enjoying life to the fullest. With your support, our Ophthalmology Research Unit will continue to search for long-term answers for people like John.



John takes in the beautiful view of Australia's reef.

