Because of you, we can bring hope for better care, treatments and cures.

For over 50 years, The Hospital Research Foundation has supported world-leading medical research that translates into the prevention of disease, the relief of suffering, improved patient care and the restoration of health and wellness for all in our community.
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On our front cover Rachel Jakobczak, a researcher at the Basil Hetzel Institute for Translational Health Research is processing blood samples for the ASPREE Healthy Ageing Biobank. The ASPREE study is looking at the effects of aspirin on the healthy aging population!
These wise words of gratitude and inspiration recorded more than fifty years ago are just as relevant today as they were then.

They are especially relevant to us at The Hospital Research Foundation (THRF) as we acknowledge the kind, generous and thoughtful support of our donor community who in turn enable the delivery of new and improved therapies and the best possible patient care in our hospitals.

It is our donors commitment to help others that serves to inspire THRF and the clinicians and researchers we support to reach their potential, to innovate, to discover and push the boundaries.

It is only with our donors continued passion and commitment together with the skill and dedication of the researchers themselves that we can help save and improve the quality of people’s lives through research, education and care.

We hope you will share and celebrate the successes of the work being made possible through this support from the latest discoveries in prostate cancer, bowel cancer and breast cancer prevention to the development of vaccines, improvements in heart disease and Australian-first transplant surgeries.

Our donors, supporters and partners should be proud of the impact their support is bringing to families not only in this state but across Australia and internationally.

Recently we were able to share the heartfelt story of young mother of two Nyrie Contor. At just 42, Nyrie is battling metastatic breast cancer. This truly inspirational woman wanted to share her story to help others and raise awareness that we can all play a vital role in fighting this and other life-threatening diseases.

Nyrie has a powerful but simple message, “Research takes time and costs a lot - but not doing it costs so much more.”

Her wish is for medical research to thrive – to find better treatments and medications with less side effects, to improve the quality of people’s lives and give them more time with their children and families.

This is the real impact of donor support, passion and commitment. It has a very real and tangible benefit to the community; to our community and the people we care for and especially for people like Nyrie.

In our ‘new model’ Annual Report, you will see real stories of lives changed and improved through the latest clinical care and medical research only made possible through donor support.

You will also meet the extraordinary people within our community who work with us to bring their philanthropic goals to life. We are proud to engage and connect with our fundraising champions to translate their worthy endeavours into support of nominated areas of medical research and patient care.

To guide the Foundation’s broad direction and future growth we have developed and implemented a new 12-year strategic plan designed with enough flexibility to respond to changes and opportunities as they arise. At the core of this model will be our donors and supporters as we look to enhance our level of engagement, value and communication.

We are committed to innovate and streamline the unique model of the organisation to deliver operational efficiencies that enable funds to reach the highest areas of community need and impact.

Our continued success and growth is testimony to the talented THRF team led by CEO Paul Flynn, our governance structure, financial transparency and an exceptional Board of Directors.

I thank each of them for their invaluable contribution and for their time, considerable knowledge and energy they bring to the Foundation’s strategic direction and governance.

I would also like to thank The Repat Foundation – The Road Home Board of Governors led by Air Vice-Marshal Brent Espeland AM (Ret’d) and Brigadier Alison Creagh CSC (Ret’d) for their vision and leadership as this affiliate expands its scope and operations on a national scale.

Most importantly, to our many donors, supporters and partners we thank you for your continued trust and confidence in THRF to deliver 100 per cent of donations to medical research and clinical care which is providing both short and long term health benefits to our community.

Together we can, and are making a difference in people’s lives.

Thank you.

Melinda OLeary
By now you may well have seen our new branding message and communication in your mailbox, on your televisions, social media channels or email. ‘Because of you’ draws attention to and highlights our core purpose – to provide support of medical research and patient care in our hospitals.

Our ability to enhance the health and wellbeing of our family, friends and the broader community through the provision of improved treatments and care informed by the latest research outcomes is because of you. We thank our donors, supporters and partners for making this possible and a priority in your lives.

In our 51st year of operation, THRF is fortunate to have the continued and growing support of the community it seeks to serve.

Central to our operational integrity and success is our mission to ensure legitimacy, efficiency and transparency in all that we do. Our donors, supporters and partners are at the core of our organisation and we value the trust they place in us. As a result of a very good year undertaking our commercial activities in property development and lotteries we are able to distribute 100 per cent of all donations to the areas of the highest community need and impact.

This year we have unveiled a new 12-year Strategic Plan that will serve as a beacon to shape our future direction. With innovation at its core, the Strategic Plan allows flexibility to be opportunistic when possible, be innovative around core strengths and set challenging objectives for the future.

The plan has in part been shaped by the feedback of many of our donors and stakeholder groups. We thank them for their invaluable insights and honest, thoughtful and robust remarks.

In 2015/16 THRF expanded its advisory and fundraising role within the Royal Adelaide Hospital Research Fund (RAHRF) in collaboration with SA Health and the Central Adelaide Local Health Network (CALHN). This included a well-considered and implemented strategy to revitalise the RAHRF, rebrand its visual identity and re-engage legacy support and existing goodwill within the community as a result of the wonderful care people have received at the RAH over the years.

This relationship best symbolises THRF’s ability to innovate, to be agile and responsive to emerging opportunities and to integrate services to create greater operational efficiencies.

This year we have also formalised an agreement with the Lyell McEwin Hospital (LMH) within the Northern Adelaide Local Health Network (NALHN) to establish THRF – LMH to support medical research and patient care within the 385-bed acute care hospital in Elizabeth. We are delighted to be able to expand our THRF operations and brand to serve the growing populations north of Adelaide serviced by the LMH.

The Kidney, Transplant and Diabetes Research Australia (KTDRA) affiliate continues to grow in response to need and opportunity. KTDRA represents multi-faceted and dynamic areas of clinical and laboratory based research, which includes local, national and global collaborations. The ground swell of community fundraising champions is both remarkable and fitting testimony to the clinicians and researchers who work in the area.

The Centre for Creative Health (CCH) at the new Royal Adelaide Hospital (newRAH) is focused on improving the quality and experience of healthcare through the arts, design and other creative initiatives. The CCH is taking shape with the recent appointment of a Director to oversee the operations of this new entity and its integration within the fabric of the new hospital when it opens in 2017.

THRF has played a pivotal role on the Steering Committee and in establishing the CCH as a trademarked and registered business name of THRF which is licensed to CALHN to operate at the newRAH. Within the next few months a Board of Governors will be established to operate as a subcommittee of the THRF Board.

Over the next six to twelve months we anticipate the launch of Allied Health Research SA and Cure for Stroke Australia. An expression of interest in establishing a state based nursing
research affiliate has been received and is currently sitting with the three Universities’ Schools of Nursing to move forward.

We cannot grow the number and range of affiliate brands without laying foundations to ensure the integrity of our services, communication and narrative with individual stakeholder groups, donors and supporters. We continue to develop our methods to gather, measure and evaluate our many interactions and touch points with all groups. We encourage you to read more about our affiliate brands in this report.

The Repat Foundation – The Road Home (TRF – TRH) has now nested into the formal THRF structure. TRF – TRH is committed to building rapport and relationships with a broad range of key stakeholder groups across the veteran, defence and emergency first responder sectors. It has played a major role in bringing these sometimes disparate groups together to raise awareness of the health and wellbeing issues, including Post-Traumatic Stress, confronting these groups and their families.

While a clear picture and timing for the veteran’s precinct to be established at Glenside is still emerging TRF – TRH is well placed and regarded to help guide independent research into this vital new facility.

Thank you to the TRF – TRH Board of Governors led by Chair Air Vice-Marshal Brent Espeland AM (Ret’d) and Deputy Chair Brigadier Alison Creagh CSC (Ret’d) for their dedicated leadership as this affiliate continues to grow and expand on a national scale.

Through TRF - TRH we have awarded grants to Dr Miranda Van Hooff, (Understanding the health and wellbeing of Australia’s first responders) and Dr Ganessan Kichenadasse in prostate cancer.

In addition, and through the supplementary support of THRF affiliate Australian Breast Cancer Research, we have been able to extend breast cancer research Fellowships to Professor Andreas Evdokiou in metastatic breast cancer and A/Prof Wendy Ingman in breast cancer prevention.

In addition, through the supplementary support of THRF affiliate Australian Breast Cancer Research, we have been able to extend breast cancer research Fellowships to Professor Andreas Evdokiou in metastatic breast cancer and A/Prof Wendy Ingman for a further three years.

We also continue our support for the next four years to the newly established Centre for Research Excellence in frailty research and healthy ageing led by Professor Renuka Visvanathan at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital (TQEH).

We have committed ongoing funds to a breadth of research through our affiliate brands as well as our core areas of research such as rheumatology, ear nose and throat and allied health.

Our funding model relies on the recommendations of the Strategic Research Committees within the hospital network with funds allocated to research that has the greatest potential to translate into clinical improvements for patients by way of better treatments, therapeutics and care.

The strategic oversight of our research support sits with our Independent Research Review Committee whose members are esteemed researchers in their own right and reside outside the State and remain impartial and non-conflicted.

Members include Professors Colin Johnson and Judy Whitworth. Joining the panel in 2016 is Professor Rick Kefferd, medical oncologist and Professor of Cancer Medicine at Macquarie University. Prof Kefferd takes the place of long standing member Professor Dick Fox who retired from the panel earlier this year. We thank them all for their skills, knowledge and counsel to ensure support is given to the highest quality translational research projects and personnel.

2016 has been a busy year for fundraising and friendraising with a record number of THRF, TRF - TRH and other affiliate brand events. We have also facilitated many external events for community groups and individuals to help them realise their philanthropic goals.

Our signature annual peer-to-peer fundraising event, The Longest Table, again returned a record total over $156,000 toward cancer research support.

Our major fundraising partnership with Mercer SuperCycle continues to grow and be reinvigorated each year. In 2016 69 riders took to the roads of regional SA in support of THRF’s Under Our Roof country cancer patient accommodation project. The ride raised in excess of $470,000 an event record.

We thank the SuperCycle Board, the naming rights sponsor and event sponsors for their kind support since the event’s inception. To each individual rider, volunteer and their families and friends we extend our most grateful thanks to you on behalf of the many cancer patients and families who have made the Under Our Roof houses their home over the last year. This project would not have ever been realised without their stellar and steadfast support.

continued on pg 8
With planning now underway for Mercer SuperCycle 2017 we look forward to working towards Stage 2 of the Under Our Roof project in the next 12 months.

Despite some anticipated competition in the local mega lottery market we have seen a great response to our well-known and respected lottery offerings during the year. Thank you to Scott Salisbury Homes for delivering an inspired and highly-desired home for each campaign.

The ability to integrate our fundraising campaigns across our many channels to connect with audiences via their chosen method of communication is yielding not only financial results but also building longer and more meaningful relationships for our donors. Investing in donor relations has seen an increase in supporters converting to regular givers as they recognise the impact their backing is having in the delivery of better healthcare and hope for the future.

Donors have also recognised the opportunity to leave a lasting legacy to continue their mission to help cure and treat others beyond their own lifetime. We thank all of our many donors, regular givers and bequestors for their compassion, trust and support.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my Board of Directors led by Chair Melinda O’Leary and Acting Chair (whilst Melinda has been on sabbatical) Dr Stephen Rodda and Vice Chair Mr. John MacPhail for their outstanding dedication to the continual development and expansion of the Foundation, their strong strategic direction and governance.

I would also like to thank our Executive team: Chief Operating Officer Ms. Briony Marshall, Chief Financial Officer Ms. Anna Nolan, Director Strategy and Partnerships Ms. Fiona Smithson and Senior Advisor Ms. Karen May for their significant contribution to the outcomes we have achieved this year. Also great thanks should go to our highly talented and dynamic team whose dedicated efforts throughout this record year of rapid growth and diversification made our operational achievements possible.

Our team of wonderful Ambassadors has grown this year. Our Ambassadors do an outstanding job spreading our wonderful story, opening doors to new contacts, supporting events and representing our organisation as the face of the THRF community. Our heartfelt thanks go to the Ambassadorial team of Jenni Eyles, Bree May, Alexandra Vakitsidis and Rilka Warbanoff who have all been fantastic supporters.

To our many other donors, supporters, and partners we are eternally grateful for your generosity, trust and support of The Hospital Research Foundation.

Thousands of lives will be changed and saved because of you.

Thank you.

Paul Flynn
Board Members

Ms Melinda OLeary (Chair) is a co-founder, and consultant with Nova Systems, an Engineering and Project Management company, which employs more than 300 staff around Australia, Singapore and The United Kingdom. Prior to joining Nova, Melinda held senior positions in several recruitment firms including State Operations Manager for Select Staff, and State Manager for both Manpower Services and Kelly Services. She joined THRF in 2010 as a Board Member and has used her extensive experience in business and HR both at a board level and as former Chair of the HR committee. Melinda is a director on the Board of the Lifetime Support Authority and Deputy Chair of the Training and Skills commission.

John MacPhail (Deputy Chair) is a partner of Lynch Meyer Lawyers, a leading Adelaide law firm providing a vast range of useful services for small-to-medium enterprises, large corporations and Not-for-Profit organisations. John has more than 25 years’ experience working in law firms in London, Sydney and Melbourne. He is a past President of the Copyright Society of Australia, and taught part-time as a postgraduate university law lecturer and professional examiner on intellectual property subjects. As a practising lawyer he advises clients working in a wide range of industries, particularly medical and healthcare, biotechnology, wine, retail, sports, marketing and sponsorship, and ITC.

Leading cardiologist Professor John Beltrame brings a medical perspective to the board. He has degrees in both science and medicine, and is a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, the European Society of Cardiology, the American College of Cardiology, the American Heart Association and the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand. He is the Michell Professor of Medicine and the Cardiology Academic Lead for the Central Adelaide Local Health Network.

Professor Peter Hewett is a Clinical Professor of Surgery with the Adelaide University Discipline of Surgery and is Head of Colorectal Surgery at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital. He has published more than 100 articles in peer reviewed journals and has held three NHMRC grants. Prof Hewett is also currently chairman of the Calvary North Adelaide Hospital Clinical Review Committee and teaches at the Adelaide University Masters Course in Minimally Invasive Surgery.

Dr Stephen Rodda is Chief Executive of UniSA Ventures Pty Ltd, the technology commercialisation and investment management arm of the University of South Australia. He was educated at the University of Adelaide gaining a first class honours degree, a PhD in Biochemistry and was awarded the University Medal. Subsequently he was awarded the prestigious CJ Martin and Arthritis Foundation fellowships for post-doctoral training at Harvard University. Dr Rodda has a combined 16 years of experience in the areas of scientific research, research management, technology commercialisation, investment management and corporate governance. Dr Rodda holds an MBA, is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and has undertaken the Advanced Management Program (AMP) at the Harvard Business School.
Ken Milne is the Director of Milne Architects Pty Ltd and adds a different aspect to the board. He received a Diploma of Architecture at the University of South Australia and is a Fellow of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects. He is a Past President and former Chapter Councillor of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, he was National Chair of RAIA Public Affairs Committee & Awards Director. He was also a Board member & Deputy Chair of the Rostrevor College for 10 years overseeing the formulation & introduction of the College Master Plan.

Luciana Larkin is the lead partner of Tregloans, an established and respected Chartered Accountancy practice. As a sharp and strategic thinker, she applies her expertise in financial, complex tax & business transactions to deliver effective outcomes. Luciana brings this professional expertise and strong focus on accountability & governance to the THRF Board together with experience as a trusted advisor to numerous other Corporate Boards and not-for-profit bodies.

John Woodward has more than 25 years’ experience in technology related change programs, projects and consulting services across industries including the health, water, energy, and entertainment sectors. John is Non-Executive Director at Statewide Super, an Elected Member (Councillor) with West Torrens City Council, and lectures at the University of Adelaide (Masters of Project Management). John holds an MBA specialising in technology management, is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a certified Project Management Professional through the Project Management Institute. John joined the THRF Board in 2013.

MaryLou Bishop has run a surgical devices company selling highly technical operating room equipment into our largest hospitals across SA, WA and NT. MaryLou has a strong understanding of the medical world and the health industry. In 2014 MaryLou was elected a councillor to The Town of Walkerville. She joined the THRF Board in 2014.

Valerie Timms has more than 18 years experience in Adelaide’s competitive real estate industry. After only two years, Valerie was the number one sales person for a large franchise group and went on to run her own award winning office for nine years. Five years ago she created her own independent real estate company – Timms Real Estate. Valerie is a skilled coach and mentor within the property sector and is dedicated to serving the community and helping others achieve business success.
Air Vice-Marshal Brent Espeland retd enjoyed a career in the Royal Australian Air Force spanning 36 years. He is an experienced commander, having held unit and formation command twice as well as having tenure as the Air Officer Commanding Training Command and Deputy Chief of Air Force. His final military service position was on secondment to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Now retired, he is National President of the Australian Flying Corps and Royal Australian Air Force Association, past National President and current South Australian President of the Royal United Services Institute of Australia, a Director of the Sir Richard Williams Foundation, a member of the Department of Veterans Affairs Round Table, a member of the Air Force Heritage Advisory Committee and is especially pleased to serve as a member of the National Council of the Australian Air Force Cadets.

He is also actively involved as a founding and steering group member of the Alliance of Defence Service Organisations. More recently, following the merger of The Repat Foundation with THRF he became Chair of the Board of Governors and a Board Member of those respective organisations, and in June 2016 was appointed Chair of the Veterans’ Advisory Council to the South Australian Government.

Brigadier Alison Creagh CSC retd is a Non-Executive Director of THRF and The Repat Foundation - The Road Home, a Council Member on the Australian War Memorial Council, and a committee member on the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial Project. Brigadier Creagh retired from the Australian Regular Army in March 2015 after a 30 year career and continues to serve in the Army Reserve. In the private sector she has been the Executive Director Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience, which is a joint venture between the Australian Government, Telstra and the Commonwealth Bank. Brigadier Creagh joined the Army in 1985 and graduated from the Officer Cadet School, Portsea to the Royal Australian Corps of Signals. She served on operations in Cambodia (United Nations Transitional Authority Cambodia) in 1993, East Timor (International Force East Timor) in 1999/2000, Iraq in 2006 and Afghanistan (Headquarters International Security Assistance Force) in 2008/2009. Her senior military appointments included Director-General Public Affairs, Director-General Strategic Communication and Director-General ADF Theatre Project (The Long Way Home).

Paul Flynn (Chief Executive Officer) is an innovative and entrepreneurial Executive who has earned a stellar reputation for achievement during a multifaceted career in both the Finance and Not-for-Profit sectors. He has been acknowledged for his contribution by being awarded the 2005 Ernst & Young Social Entrepreneur of the Year in SA/NT and was also awarded the 2006 Equity Trustees Australian CEO Award for Innovation. Paul is passionate about the opportunity to help medical and scientific researchers in their important voyage of discovery which will benefit all Australians. Paul brings advanced skills to THRF in the areas of Leadership, Sales Management, Property Development and Management, Change Management, Financial Risk Management, Employee and Organisation Development and Employee Relations. He is delighted to be working with the team at THRF and The Institute, contributing to the health and well-being of all Australians.
Our Ambassadors

THRF wishes to express its gratitude to a very special group of South Australians who advocate for the organisation and tirelessly work with us to raise awareness of world-leading health and medical research and the benefits to our community.

We wish to thank our THRF Ambassadors Alex Vakitsidis, Jenni Eyles, Bree May and Rilka Warbanoff for their continued passion, support and contributions to the South Australian community through THRF activities and signature fundraising campaigns.

Image right: (L-R) Briony Marshall, Rilka Warbanoff and Paul Flynn.
Image below: The Olympic Spirit Greek Friends at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (Alex bottom right).
THRF Ambassadors Bree and Jenni are helping to Fork cancer!
Our Affiliate Brands

We are very proud to be able to run a number of thriving affiliate brands each with their own unique groups of generous donors. THRF’s commercial activities cover our administrative costs ensuring donations directed to THRF and its affiliate brands can be used in the way the donor intended.

In the 2015/16 year, our official affiliate brands in operation were:

Our goal is to understand the biology around breast cancer risk factors including menstrual cycling, pregnancy and mammographic density, to enable us to develop new measures in the future to prevent breast cancer. Using our foundational discoveries in what drives cancer susceptibility, we are working towards the development of new ways to reduce a woman’s lifetime breast cancer risk.

Associate Professor Wendy Ingman, Head of the Breast Biology and Cancer Unit at the Basil Hetzel Institute for Translational Health Research (BHI)

*One in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer by the age of 85.*

Australian Breast Cancer Research (ABCR) is dedicated to supporting medical research which is focused on both the prevention and treatment of breast cancer. Ultimately, we want to reduce the impact that breast cancer has on Australian families.

Thanks to the generosity of its supporters, ABCR is able to support both clinical and laboratory based research that is translational in nature, which means that discoveries made in the labs are converted as quickly as possible into therapies that help people suffering with breast cancer.
Australian Prostate Cancer

One in four men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer, a disease that kills more than 3,000 Australian men every single year.

Australian Prostate Cancer (APC) was established to assist with the funding of vital medical research into the detection and treatment of prostate cancer, as well as preventing the metastatic spread of the disease.

APC funds clinical and laboratory based research as well as the South Australian Prostate Cancer Clinical Outcome Collaborative (SA-PCCOC), a Database that follows men with prostate cancer treated at the three major metropolitan hospitals: the Royal Adelaide Hospital, The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Flinders Medical Centre/Repatriation General Hospital and collaborating private institutions.

Australian Prostate Cancer

This support of Australian Prostate Cancer has really given us a much needed boost to achieve the aims and objectives of SA-PCCOC and help improve the outcomes of patients with prostate cancer now and in the future.

Dr Kim Moretti, Urologist and Chair, SA-PCCOC
The first of its kind in Australia, we aim to generate extensive research output and subsequently a guideline that will provide doctors with a clear way of identifying a MINOCA patient and the best way to manage their condition. These guidelines will help cardiologists understand a MINOCA patient, and highlight how important it is to do more testing and not treat their condition as a false alarm.

- Tharshy Pasupathy
An estimated 280 Australians develop diabetes every day. It is the fastest growing chronic condition in Australia.

Kidney, Transplant & Diabetes Research Australia (KTDRA) is proud to support ground-breaking translational medical research that is helping to improve the lives of our family and friends suffering with kidney disease and diabetes. Their aim is simple – it is to reduce and ultimately eliminate the high incidence of these chronic diseases in Australia and around the world.

By supporting vital clinical and laboratory research KTDRA is helping to drive better understanding of the diseases as well as take a leading role in the development and delivery of more effective therapies and improved care to patients with kidney disease, diabetes and those requiring organ transplantation.

WITH THE SUPPORT OF KTDRA, ARTIFICIAL SKIN USED TO REVOLUTIONISE TREATMENT OF BURNS PATIENTS ACROSS THE GLOBE IS NOW BEING TRIALLED AS A POTENTIAL SITE TO TRANSPLANT SPECIALISED CELLS USED IN THE TREATMENT OF TYPE 1 DIABETES.
The Repat Foundation – The Road Home

The Repat Foundation – The Road Home raises awareness and funds to support health and wellbeing research and projects into conditions such as Post-Traumatic Stress for the nation’s veterans, emergency first responders and their families.

In November 2015 The Repat Foundation launched its national brand ‘The Road Home’ in collaboration with THRF, to strengthen its position as a leading national veterans’ health and wellbeing research organisation and align with the government’s proposed $15 million Post-Traumatic Stress Centre of Excellence named ‘The Jamie Larcombe Centre’.

Built on the world-leading independent research supported by The Repat Foundation over the last 20 years, The Road Home drives this forward to aid the health and wellbeing of veteran’s, emergency first responders and their families on a national scale.

In 2015/16 The Repat Foundation – The Road Home is proud to announce the successful recipients of the 2016 Research Grant Round for projects into the health and wellbeing of veterans, emergency first responders and their families.

- Dr Miranda Van Hooff, Centre for Traumatic Stress Studies, University of Adelaide – Understanding the health and wellbeing of Australia’s first responders ($50,000 for one year)
- Dr Ganessan Kichenadasse – Novel neoadjuvant therapy for high risk localised prostate cancer (Prabha Seshadri Grant – $50,000 for one year, undertaken at the Repatriation General Hospital)

Advisory Services

We are proud to provide advisory services to the Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH) Research Fund. Established in 1981, the RAH Research Fund believes everyone deserves access to the best possible treatment and patient care. They strive to make this possible by raising funds for medical equipment, lifesaving medical and clinical research and enhanced patient services. With the support of their donors, the RAH Research Fund makes a positive impact by funding research into the diseases that affect the people in our local community. The RAH Research Fund works with its community supporters, to raise funds for vital medical research.
Financials

THRF contributed $5,118,967 to research and research support, hospital support and patient care activities. Thank you for your support!

In the 2015/16 year $2,090,595 was allocated directly to the Foundation’s Research Reserve which has been established to ensure sufficient funds are available for forward grant commitments.
Summarised Financial Report
For The Year Ended 30 June 2016
ABN 86 248 830 078

REPORT BY THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

Your committee members submit the summarised financial report of The Hospital Research Foundation Incorporated for the financial year ended 30 June 2016.

Committee Members
The names of the committee members throughout the financial year and at the date of this report are:

John MacPhail
Ken Milne
Prof John Beltrame
Melinda O’Leary
Dr Stephen Rodda
John Hender (resigned 25 November 2015)
Brigadier Alison Creagh CSC (appointed 26 August 2015)

Luciana Larkin
Prof Peter Hewett
John Woodward
Valerie Timms
Mary Lou Bishop
Air Vice Marshal Brent Espeland AM (retd) (appointed 30 September 2015)

Committee members have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

Principal Activities
The principal activity of The Hospital Research Foundation Incorporated during the financial year was to support the continued research principally at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, in the development of cures and treatment of health diseases.

Significant Changes
Effective 1 July 2015, the operations of the Repat Foundation Inc were transferred to The Hospital Research Foundation Inc. The Repat Foundation Inc will continue to support ongoing research on Veteran; Post Traumatic Stress Disorder; and Amputee health.

Operating Result
The net surplus from continuing operations after income tax and payments for research, hospital support and patient care activities of $5,118,967 (2015: $4,075,754) was a profit of $2,090,595 (2015: $849,482).

This profit of $2,090,595 has been allocated directly to the Association’s Research Reserve which has been established to ensure sufficient funds are available for forward grant commitments. This represents a Funds to Research Ratio of 81.0% of Gross Profit.

Research Reserve
The Association has established a Research Reserve to ensure that sufficient funds are available for future grant commitments.

Events After the Reporting Period
No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Association, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Association in future financial years.

Future Developments
The Association expects to maintain the present status and level of operations and hence there are no likely developments in the Association’s operations.

Environmental Issues
The Association’s operations are not regulated by any environmental regulation under a law of the Commonwealth or of a state territory.
Idemnifying Officers of Auditors

A premium has been paid in respect of a contract insuring directors, secretaries and executive officers of the Association against a liability incurred as director, secretary or executive officer.

No indemnities have been given during or since the end of the financial year, for any person who is or has been an officer or auditor of the Association.

Proceedings on Behalf of the Association

No person has applied for leave of Court to bring proceedings on behalf of the Association or intervene in any proceedings to which the Association is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the Association for all or any of those proceedings.

The Association was not a party to any such proceedings during the year.

In the opinion of the Committee of The Hospital Research Foundation Incorporated:

a) During the year ended 30 June 2016 no:
   i) officer of the Association;
   ii) firm of which the officer is a member; or
   iii) body corporate in which the officer has a substantial financial interest,
        has received or become entitled to receive a benefit as a result of a contract between the officer, firm or body corporate and the Association; and

b) During the year ended 30 June 2016 no officer of the Association received directly or indirectly from the Association any payment or other benefit of a pecuniary value, other than as disclosed in note 9 to the attached financial statements.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of that Committee by:

Dr Stephen Rodda
Chairperson

John MacPhail
Deputy Chairperson
In the opinion of the Committee:

(a) the summarised financial statements comprising the Summarised Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income, Summarised Statement of Financial Position, Summarised Statement of Cash Flows and Summarised Statement of Changes in Equity and accompanying notes as set out on pages 4 to 10:

(i) company with Australian Accounting Standards, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the Associations Incorporation Act (SA) 1985;

(ii) presents fairly the financial position of The Hospital Research Foundation Incorporated as at 30 June 2016 and its performance for the year ended on that date;

(iii) are consistent with the full consolidated financial statements of the Association for the year ended 30 June 2016.

(b) at the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of that Committee by:

Dr Stephen Rodda
Chairperson

John MacPhail
Deputy Chairperson
### SUMMARISED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Consolidated</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Revenue</td>
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<td>Lottery expense</td>
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<td>(8,159,709)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising expenses</td>
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<td>(671,646)</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Gross Profit</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,904,632</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,297,524</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee benefits expense</td>
<td>(1,329,881)</td>
<td>(1,033,016)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation and amortisation expense - administration</td>
<td>(54,907)</td>
<td>(47,094)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Administration</td>
<td>(310,282)</td>
<td>(292,178)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net profit before funding payments</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,209,562</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,925,236</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funds paid for research, hospital support and patient care activities</td>
<td>(5,118,967)</td>
<td>(4,075,754)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Profit/(loss) for the year</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,090,595</strong></td>
<td><strong>849,482</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income tax benefit/(expense)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Profit/(loss) after tax</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,090,595</strong></td>
<td><strong>849,482</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other comprehensive income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss</td>
<td>88,652</td>
<td>137,477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net gain/(loss) on revaluation of financial assets</td>
<td>442,569</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain on acquisition of subsidiary</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other comprehensive income for the year</strong></td>
<td><strong>531,221</strong></td>
<td><strong>137,477</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,621,816</strong></td>
<td><strong>986,959</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.
### SUMMARISED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Consolidated</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>7,681,025</td>
<td>6,200,996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade and Other Receivables</td>
<td>340,614</td>
<td>124,823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Current Assets</td>
<td>3,048,676</td>
<td>2,274,424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,070,315</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,600,243</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Assets</td>
<td>4,276,728</td>
<td>3,587,273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property, Plant and Equipment</td>
<td>2,219,800</td>
<td>2,164,151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intangibles</td>
<td>119,908</td>
<td>43,194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Non-Current Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,616,436</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,751,424</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>17,686,751</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,351,667</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **LIABILITIES**       |      |      |
| **Current Liabilities** |      |      |
| Trade and Other Payables | 4,472,257 | 3,833,750 |
| Provisions            | 121,189 | 76,690 |
| **Total Current Liabilities** | **4,593,446** | **3,910,440** |
| **Non-Current Liabilities** |      |      |
| Provisions            | 99,633 | 69,371 |
| **Total Non-Current Liabilities** | **99,633** | **69,371** |
| **Total Liabilities** | **4,693,079** | **3,979,811** |

| **Net Assets**        | 12,993,672 | 10,371,856 |

| **EQUITY**            |      |      |
| Retained Earnings     | 1,535,576 | 1,153,824 |
| Financial Asset Reserve | 664,601 | 515,132 |
| Research Reserve      | 10,793,495 | 8,702,900 |
| **Total Equity**      | **12,993,672** | **10,371,856** |

The above statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE HOSPITAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION INCORPORATED

The accompanying summarised financial statements, which comprises the summarised statement of financial position as at 30 June 2016, the summarised statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the summarised statement of changes in equity and the summarised statement of cash flows for the year then ended, related notes and the statement by members of the committee are derived from the audited financial statements of The Hospital Research Foundation Incorporated for the year ended 30 June 2016. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated 7 November 2016.

That financial report, and the summarised financial statements, do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on that financial report.

The summarised financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the Australian Accounting Standards. Reading the summarised financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statement of The Hospital Research Foundation Incorporated.

Committee’s Responsibility for the Summarised Financial Statements
The committee members of the association are responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited financial report on the basis described in note 1.

Auditor’s Responsibility
Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summarised financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial report based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 810 Engagements to Report on Summarised Financial Statements.

Opinion
In our opinion, the summarised financial statements derived from the audited financial report of The Hospital Research Foundation Incorporated for the year ended 30 June 2016 are consistent, in all material respects, with that audited financial report, on the basis described in Note 1.

BDO Audit (SA) Pty Ltd

Paul Gosnold
Director
Adelaide, 28 November 2016
With your help, THRF supported a number of research projects and patient care initiatives in the 2015/16 year. Below are some of the many projects that came to life!

THRF’s affiliate brand ABCR Fellow Professor Andreas Evdokiou, Head of the Breast Cancer Research Unit at the Basil Hetzel Institute for Translational Health Research (BHI) is looking at ways to stop breast cancer from spreading to other parts of the body.

Associate Professor Wendy Ingman, THRF Breast Cancer Research Fellow and Head of the Breast Biology and Cancer Unit at the BHI and her team have projects underway looking at breast cancer prevention, THRF has provided an eight year commitment since 2011.

For 51 years THRF has been supporting renal transplant research and are now proud to support Professor Toby Coates and his research into renal conditions, and islet transplantation. Just last year he played a key role in the first ever paediatric auto islet transplant on a seven year old boy suffering from hereditary pancreatitis (read more on page 42).

Professor Eric Gowans from the BHI is developing a new therapeutic vaccine for HIV and Hepatitis C, which could ultimately lead to a cure for people presenting with these conditions.

Professor John Beltrame, supported by THRF, was instrumental in first characterising Coronary Slow Flow Phenomenon and is now conducting research into a new therapy for the condition.

Professor PJ Wormald at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital is conducting Ear, Nose and Throat research particularly studying bacteria phage and the role it plays in Chronic Rhinosinusitis.

Professor Renuka Visvanathan, Director of Aged & Extended Care Services at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital is pursuing research into the global public health issue, frailty (read more on page 46).

Joep Van Agteren, a winner of THRF’s 50th Anniversary Award is working in the field of respiratory medicine at BHI and providing the research base for Kick.It a mobile application to help people stop smoking.

Dr Raj Rajdeep Das, a winner of THRF’s 50th Anniversary Award is conducting research into personalised treatment for prostate cancer at the RAH.

"Together we can stop the spread of breast cancer and save the lives of those we love.
- Prof Andreas Evdokiou"
We’re really excited that THRF has provided the opportunity for us to do this exciting research. This work will make such a big difference to the future of how we treat breast cancer in young women. - A/Prof Wendy Ingman

These funds will allow us to continue our important HIV vaccine studies. The researchers in my group and I are incredibly grateful to THRF donors who made this possible and wish to thank them for their valuable contributions. - Prof Eric Gowans

This funding is timely given the ageing population and we are so thankful for the support of THRF donors! It will support vital research that will contribute to Healthy Ageing and help older people live longer with a higher quality of life. - Prof Renuka Visvanathan

The $25,000 anniversary award grant was invaluable! It has enabled us to build a whole additional component to the app, ensuring the app really will be the best possible version it can be for the community. Thank you! - Joseph van Agteren

I am honoured to receive this highly competitive grant that will make a real difference to patients who suffer with coronary microvascular disorders. Thank you to the THRF donors for supporting this important research. - Prof John Beltrame
Research Equipment

Having access to the most advanced medical equipment ensures research undertaken in the lab can be translated into treatments that benefit the community as soon as possible.

THRF is proud to support researchers at the BHI by funding vital equipment needed to investigate health conditions such as arthritis and chronic sinusitis as well as various cancers and cardiovascular diseases.

In 2015/16 THRF contributed funds to purchase the following:

- BioRad iMark Absorbance Plate Reader – The BioRad plate reader is an integral item of core equipment at the BHI and is used in a variety of different experiments to investigate disease progression. It can be used to monitor multiple measures. For example, it is used to measure the number of bacteria present in a solution and to monitor how fast these bacteria are growing. It is also used to measure proteins produced by human cells, either in the cultured medium used to grow the cells in the laboratory, or by directly measuring protein concentration in blood samples from patients. The proteins can indicate how healthy cells are, and whether they are producing factors associated with certain diseases.

- Ratek Shaking Bath – The shaking waterbath is an integral item of core equipment at the BHI and is used in a variety of different experiments to culture microorganisms used in genetic experiments and production of DNA for further studies, assessment of bacterial growth.

The Hospital Research Home Lottery

It was an incredible year for the Hospital Research Home Lottery. With two lotteries each year, in 2015/16 we were blown away with two complete sell-outs!

Thanks to your support of the Hospital Research Home Lottery, we are able to fund more life-changing medical research and improve patient care in South Australia.

2015: Gilberton

In the second half of 2015 the Hospital Research Home Lottery reached new heights – luxury, location and lifestyle with an incredible Grand Prize show home worth $1.5 million - a 3-storey home on the edge of Adelaide’s CBD in iconic Gilberton.

The winner of this magical home, S Anders (Ticket Number 031588) now has the River Torrens Linear Park literally at her back door and is in strolling distance to the Botanic Gardens, the Adelaide Zoo or Adelaide Oval.

Buying a ticket in this lottery gave buyers a 1 in 15 chance of winning over 3,500 prizes!

2016: Somerton Park

In January 2016 we launched our first lottery of 2016 and the Grand Prize was worth over $1.6 million – a beautiful Somerton Park home along with $250,000 cash.

Selling out in record time in just five weeks, the winner S.Guerra (Ticket Number 03357) really had his dreams come true being able to live just a short stroll from the beach.

As well as the main home lottery with over 5,600 prizes up for grabs, this was our first lottery with a 1 in 12 chance of winning a prize!

Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to everyone who bought tickets and we look forward to more happy winners in 2017!
Image: Hospital Research Home Lottery winner S.Guerra and his family with THRF CEO Paul Flynn outside their brand new home.
Thank You

It’s thanks to your continued support that we are able to fund world-class medical research and patient care initiatives that are changing the lives of people today.

100 per cent of every donation made to THRF directly funds patient care and the researchers on their way to finding cures and treatments for cancer, heart disease and conditions affecting our families.

Thank you to our passionate donors, including regular givers and those who have chosen to leave a gift in their Will this financial year, community fundraisers and volunteers – you are saving lives!

Please note that our affiliate brand, The Repat Foundation – The Road Home has released an Annual Report which can be requested by contacting (08) 7002 0880 or downloading from the website www.theroadhome.com.au.

Thank you to our corporate sponsors for their very generous support. A very special thank you is extended to the top corporate sponsors of 2015/16:

- Bendigo Bank
- Mercer
- De Bortoli Wines
- Hither & Yon

In 2015/16 THRF hosted our two annual community fundraising events, Mercer SuperCycle (read more on page 35) and The Longest Table (read more on page 34). Thank you to everyone involved in these exciting events! This support makes it possible for THRF to fund lifesaving research and patient care initiatives.
The Longest Table (TLT) came alive across the country on Saturday June 18, 2016 – the official date to #forkcancer and raise money for vital cancer research.

In a successful year, TLT raised over $156,000 to be directed to cancer research through THRF and our disease specific affiliates Australian Breast Cancer Research and Australian Prostate Cancer.

If hosts couldn’t hold their Longest Table on the official night they were encouraged to choose any date in June or July. From eight course meals, to burger nights and unique themes TLT has seen it all!

All funds raised through TLT will support research into better diagnosis, improved treatments and ultimately finding cures for some of the most devastating cancers affecting our loved ones.

Hosting a Longest Table in 2016, Delia Matthew is hopeful to one day see a future free of cancer.

"The Longest Table is so much fun! If there is a cure for most cancers within the next 10-15 years due to our fundraising efforts, wouldn’t that be amazing? I personally don’t need to lose too many more friends to this horrible disease. - Delia"

Thank you to the fabulous hosts who held their own Longest Table dinners this year – we are so grateful to you and the money you helped raise! Remember 100 per cent of funds raised go directly to our cancer researchers! Thank you for helping us beat this heartbreaking disease.

A warm thank you is extended to the top TLT fundraisers in 2015/16:

The Longest Table Top Hosts

- TLT Ambassadors (Flagship Dinner)
- SO Asher (McSteamy’s Longest Table)
- Irene Zinonos (Cyprus Community’s Table)
- Delia Matthews
- Lorelai Thomas

A special thank you must go out to our wonderful TLT Ambassadors for 2016, leading the charge to #forkcancer!

- Bree May, Food According to Bree
- Jenni Eyles, Styling Curvy
- Craig Basford, Big Shed Brewing
- Jason Harris, Big Shed Brewing
- Domenic Tiani, Butterfingers

Fun. Simple. Lifesaving!
It was a record year for Mercer SuperCycle 2016 with 69 cyclists and 22 support crew participating in a cycling challenge across some of the most stunning parts of rural South Australia.

Incredibly they raised over $470,000 to support country cancer patients and their families through THRF’s Under Our Roof project, providing accommodation for country cancer patients and their families in Adelaide.

Rider Anton Marrone from Bendigo Bank described the Mercer SuperCycle experience as one that “exceeds every expectation.”

“Over and above the cycling experience, SuperCycle gives you a great sense of achievement, particularly because you’re making a tangible contribution to something much bigger than yourself. When you’re all ‘on the front pulling’ for such a fantastic cause, it really brings the entire week into perspective. If you’re considering signing up I can assure you that SuperCycle is worth EVERY little bit of effort you put in.”

Sincerest thanks must go to Mercer SuperCycle major event sponsors Mercer and Bendigo Bank, and every rider, support crew member, donor and the tireless SuperCycle Inc. volunteer committee for their incredible achievement of a record fundraising total.

A warm thank you is extended to the top fundraising teams of Mercer SuperCycle 2016:

- Mercer
- Bendigo Bank MasterCard
- DMAW Lawyers
- Pirramimma
- SA Power Networks Employee Foundation
On Thursday November 5 2015, a group of THRF’s highly valued supporters came together for the annual Basil Hetzel Society Luncheon.

Held once again at the Kooyonga Golf Club, the luncheon is a way of thanking BHS Society members for their vital contribution to lifesaving medical research that is having a direct impact on our community.

To provide an update on some of the exciting new developments in local research, guests were treated to a very informative panel discussion. This comprised of Emeritus Professor of Medicine, Professor Richard Ruffin AM, Professor of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery and Head of Department at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Professor Peter John Wormald and PhD Candidate working in the Breast Cancer Unit at the BHI, Aneta Zysk.

For all the supporters who attended, THRF would also like to congratulate them for their lasting contribution to the health and wellbeing of our local community through lifesaving medical research and advancements in patient care.
Community and Corporate Support

The Heart of the Olympic Spirit

Alexandra (Alex) Vakitsidis and her group, the Olympic Spirit Greek Friends (OSGF) have once again made a huge contribution to research capabilities at the BHI.

Holding their annual Christmas Carols again, in 2015 the group tirelessly sang at local shopping centres, went door to door, and also held the Woodville South Cats Christmas Carols event (Carols at the Cats).

They raised an incredible $9,839, which will be split between the Oncology Department, Heart Research and Breast Cancer Research Units at the BHI and The Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

THRF is so grateful for the ongoing contributions of Alex and all of the OSGF ladies.

Suits in the Sea for Cancer Patients

Over one hundred people flocked to Joe’s Kiosk at Henley Beach on Sunday January 31 2016 to join surreal artist Andrew Baines who dedicated his 10th anniversary ‘Suits in the Sea’ photo shoot to THRF’s Under Our Roof project, providing homes for country cancer patients and their families.

The early hour didn’t faze families, friends or even suited up dogs who arrived at 7am to line up on the water’s edge. Dressed up in black, paired with a black umbrella and a soft toy to symbolise families affected by cancer, each person donated $10 to the Under Our Roof project raising nearly $1000 to build more homes.

“This latest photo shoot was a way of celebrating the last decade while helping a wonderful cause,” Andrew said.

If this photo event can help improve the lives of country patients and families then I think that is a great way to celebrate the last ten years of work.

Proud Dad Leaves Lasting Gift to Medical Research

Last year THRF was honoured to receive a $500 cheque from the family of Basile Frangos who was kind enough to leave a legacy to medical research after passing in September 2015. Basile, who had supported the Foundation since 1995 passed away in September 2014 at the age of 92.

THRF would like to extend a warm thank you to Basile’s children Sofia Zissopoulous, Eva Petropoulos and Evan Frangos who described him as a generous man who was dedicated to his family.

“Dad loved his family and was immensely proud of his three children. He is forever in our hearts,” said Sofia.

Café De Cure

Two years on from her breast cancer diagnosis Sandra Kannellos hosted her fundraiser Café De Cure on Sunday 2 August 2015 to raise money for medical research through THRF.

Held at Nazareth Catholic College, the $3,731 raised at the morning tea went towards The Queen Elizabeth Hospital Oncology Department to help fund the Under Our Roof homes as well as towards medical research into secondary breast cancer through Professor Andreas Evdokiou and Professor Peter Hewitt’s gastric cancer research.

“During my treatment when I was looking around at others going through the same or worse, I knew I had to give back,” Sandra said.

It’s safe to say the event was bigger than she ever imagined; attracting over 70 people who were all encouraged to bring photos of a loved one touched by cancer.

“When I heard about Under Our Roof I knew it was the perfect cause – having chemo I met a couple of women from the country who would drive up for chemo, and I was thinking to myself there should be somewhere for them to stay.”
Jennifer Tran Nguyen is not your typical nine-year-old. Using her extraordinary singing talent, she hosted her own fundraising event to raise money for The Queen Elizabeth Hospital (TQEH) through THRF.

Hosting ‘Angel of Love’ on Saturday September 5 2015, Jennifer wowed the crowd with a mixture of English and traditional Vietnamese songs and raised an incredible $5,450 for TQEH.

The choice to donate to TQEH was important to Jennifer after her mother went through a long, difficult time with an illness and was given tremendous support by medical staff at the hospital.

Now fit and healthy, Jennifer and her family were beyond grateful to TQEH staff for their skill and support and chose this reason to give back with the help of THRF.

Thank you Jennifer! We’re looking forward to seeing where your bright future takes you!

Valuable Support from Drakes Supermarket

This year THRF was thrilled to be a recipient of $21,500 for health and medical research thanks to the ongoing generosity of Drakes Supermarket, their suppliers and the South Australian community.

This incredible amount was raised through the annual sale of Drakes Supermarkets Charity Show Bags. THRF was one of four charities who received an equal share of $86,055.10 raised through the 2015 Show Bag campaign.

For 17 years Drakes Supermarket CEO Roger Drake and wife Wendy have been producing this show bag thanks to the generosity of local suppliers, with the bags sold at the Royal Adelaide Show each year.

Image top right: Jennifer Tran Nguyen at the Angel of Love event.
Image middle right: Sandra Kannellos.
Image bottom right: ‘Suits in the Sea’.
Image below: THRF staff at the Drakes Charity Show Bag Morning Tea.
Image: Associate Professor Wendy Ingman takes a small group of THRF’s Regular Givers through the lab at the BHI.
Community Awareness Program

Engaging with the people who make the health and medical research that THRF supports a reality is an integral part of our year! This year’s Community Awareness Program saw the local community learn about a variety of research areas they support through speaking engagements and public tours of the BHI research facility.

Community groups throughout the state were given the exciting opportunity to hear from their local researchers. In 2015/16 THRF hosted 16 speaking engagements visiting local groups including the University of the 3rd Age Flinders, Adelaide Hills and Port Adelaide along with the Charles Sturt Rotary, Elizabeth Town Centre Weight Watchers and Active over 50’s Largs Bay Regional Group. At each community event researchers were invited to speak about their work, with topics ranging from heart disease to arthritis and diabetes.

The annual tours of the BHI were also an exciting highlight of the year, where the public is invited to come and see where the medical research magic takes place. Guests were treated to a variety of research topics this year including bowel cancer, breast cancer, healthy ageing and prostate cancer.

If you are interested in coming along to a public tour or a community group presentation, please visit our website for more information www.hospitalresearch.com.au.

Media Appearances

In 2015/16 a number of exciting research breakthroughs appeared on both national and local media.

In April, PhD candidate Khamis Tomusange from the BHI was featured in ABC Adelaide News online with an article on his research into a potential vaccine for HIV.

Professor of Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) surgery at Adelaide and Flinders University Professor Peter-John Wormald and PhD candidate Dr Mian Li Ooi based at the BHI were featured in the ABC’s national science program Catalyst talking about their research into bacteriophage and the role it plays in the fight against chronic sinusitis. PhD student Katharina Richter was also interviewed by Channel 9 News Adelaide about her similar research looking at improved medical therapies for the treatment of recurring sinus infections.

We also enjoy a monthly segment with community radio station Coast FM, which gives a variety of researchers the opportunity to share their research with presenter David Hearn.

Professional Memberships

THRF has been a long-standing Foundation member of Brand SA and is proud to help showcase the state’s growth and success in the field of translational medical research and innovation in treatments and delivery of patient care.

THRF is also proud to be a nominated charity partner of both the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) and the Israeli Chamber of Commerce (AICC). These affiliations give THRF opportunities to engage and build positive relationships with the South Australian corporate community and showcase the health benefits and outcomes made possible through local medical research.
Sponsorships

Each year THRF is pleased to direct funds to provide ancillary support for a range of significant activities and projects that enhance and extend educational endeavour or have a direct and measurable benefit to the community.

THRF is a proud sponsor of a number of important events at the BHI including the ‘Talking Heads’ seminar series for staff and students and the annual Research Day in October.

In 2016 THRF also supported the Vaccination Café to mark World Immunology Day on April 29. An initiative of the Australasian Society for Immunology (ASI) the event was designed to encourage the public to have a flu vaccination prior to winter. THRF also supported the annual ASI Retreat for students and scientists working in the field of immunology and the Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR) Week in June.

THRF also partnered with SA Health and the Central Adelaide Local Health Network (CALHN) to hold two GP Health Forums aimed at improving healthcare pathways and services for outpatients and the broader community.

To mark the 10th Anniversary of South Australia’s first islet cell transplant to treat type 1 diabetes, THRF supported an event to celebrate this significant medical milestone with clinicians, nursing staff and islet cell recipients and their families.
Image: Professor Toby Coates presents at the 10th Anniversary of South Australia’s first islet cell transplant.
I see myself as a point of reference in HIV vaccine development and research and obviously an advocate for better HIV care. I want a world free of HIV. I want to help people all over the world. - Khamis Tomusange
Khamis Tomusange has one big dream – to bring an end to the current global HIV pandemic.

Supported by THRF Khamis worked tirelessly in 2015/16 to make his dream a reality.

Nearing the end of his PhD in Virology, based at the BHI, Khamis has created and tested two vaccines for HIV, a virus he has personally witnessed tear families apart. He has had two successful research papers published as well as a book chapter and has been invited to speak at two internationally renowned conferences.

“I've seen HIV from so many perspectives – it makes sense that I am now working in this area, determined to generate new information that might be used to design a cost-effective and highly effective vaccine against HIV. I join other scientists in accepting that a vaccine against HIV is probably our best opportunity to eradicate HIV infections and secure an HIV/AIDS-free generation.”

Working in Professor Eric Gowan’s Virology group at the BHI, Khamis finished his PhD in June 2016 and is hopeful to continue to work in this area of research, one that is so close to his heart.

“I look at myself 30 years from now as someone who can influence HIV management policy, not only managing the pandemic but also caring for people and communities who are affected,” said Khamis.

“I see myself as a point of reference in HIV vaccine development and research and obviously an advocate for better HIV care. I want a world free of HIV. I want to help people all over the world.”

Going into his PhD with the goal of creating one vaccine, a number of troubleshooting difficulties led to Khamis needing to create another vaccine to generate data for his PhD. Both have now been proven to show promising results. He is very pleased with what he has been able to achieve and has high hopes for his research future.

“It’s incredibly hard with the kind of work we do to really achieve what we want in three years of a PhD candidature and I have encountered a number of ups and downs along the way,” Khamis said.

“It’s been a very hard and interesting process, starting right at the beginning when I needed to create a live genetically modified virus that I wanted to use in my first vaccine – a virus that is so notoriously hard to make that nobody else in the world had ever made an attempt.

“Despite all the difficulties, in the past three years I should say I’ve managed to generate two vaccines (a live virus vaccine and a DNA vaccine) and the data is actually very good – although these vaccines show efficacy when used individually, we have noted that a combination of both vaccines provides superior protection in our testing. We are now currently comparing the protective efficacies of these two vaccines.”

Following the completion of his PhD, Khamis has big dreams to continue working in an area where he believes he truly can make a difference.

“For now, the question is how, where and what with? I’ve been so grateful to receive financial support from THRF during my PhD candidature. It is unfortunate that funding for HIV vaccine research is dwindling globally. Many promising researchers like me face an uncertain future. However, the pursuit to realise my research ambitions remains unrelenting,” he said.

“I hope I can secure another opportunity to support my future research activities.”

This research that has been made a reality thanks to the generous support of the THRF community and we are proud to see Khamis relocate to the US to continue this vital research.
Researchers based at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital (TQEH) are paving the way to tackle the global public health issue – frailty.

English is a challenging language. A single word often has several meanings and must be heard or seen in context to be understood. The word ‘run’, for example, has 396 definitions in the Oxford English Dictionary; and in the digital age, we can have a virus, but so can our computer.

Professor Renuka Visvanathan who is Director of Aged & Extended Care Services (Geriatric Medicine) at TQEH as well as Director of the Adelaide Geriatrics Training and Research with Aged Care (GTRAC) Centre, School of Medicine, University of Adelaide explains that ‘frailty’ is that sort of word.

“Most readers immediately associate it with being old and fragile (really, really old) or, if more youthful, with being very, very weak. However, for someone working in geriatrics, ‘frailty’ has an important and specific medical meaning,” Prof Visvanathan said.

“Frailty doesn’t happen to everyone. But when it occurs, it can be characterised by many symptoms and signs including but not limited to a loss of muscle mass and strength (sarcopenia), decreased mobility and less endurance, slower movements and less activity.

“Frailty may not be recognised in the early stages, and by the time it is picked up by clinicians, patients or carers, it may actually be too late to treat. Frailty may influence the way we live as we age, but it’s important to understand that it is irreversible.”

It is projected that by 2050, four million Australians aged 70 years and older will either be frail or at-risk of frailty.

“As a nation, we simply can no longer afford to do nothing when timely intervention is likely to be both cost effective and personally rewarding. Although our understanding is still imperfect, it appears that if frailty can be tackled before the collective damage makes an individual vulnerable to serious health problems and an unhealthy old age, both those who are ageing and the whole of society will benefit,” Prof Visvanathan said.

That’s where a new five-year grant from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has enabled action to take place. Led by the South Australian team, Professor Visvanathan says that thanks to past funding from THRF, this exciting grant has been able to become a reality.

“This trans-disciplinary national team of collaborators on this NHMRC grant are from geriatrics, general practice, orthopaedic surgery, rehabilitation medicine, nursing, geriatric pharmacotherapy, gero-kinesiology, health economics, knowledge translation and geography,” she said.

“Frailty is distinct from disability and illness. The research in this emerging field indicates that frailty has another meaning and that it is a state of vulnerability arising from impairment of multiple physiological functions.

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This international frailty research network will work collectively as a global network to solve a problem that affects the whole world – this is a global problem. This team will build capacity by training the next generation of clinical and research experts in frailty.

Associate Professor Solomon Yu, Deputy Director of the Aged & Extended Care Services (Geriatric Medicine) at TQEH completed his PhD, supported by THRF in late 2014 and will also continue his research relating to muscle mass as an early career clinician researcher with this centre.

“The members of the team will lead research to define and map the extent of frailty, develop and test a new health economics model for frailty, test the implementation of a screening pathway for general practice and develop new interventions to treat frailty,” Prof Visvanathan said.

“This funding is timely given the ageing population. It will support vital research that will contribute to Healthy Ageing and help older people live longer with a higher quality of life.”

Image below: The Aged Care Team at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, who will lead the national team of collaborators ensuring that research into frailty helps people live happier and healthier lives.
It’s something that you definitely need to be passionate about, while getting results has immense satisfaction and I love working in this area – ultimately developing improved therapies for breast cancer patients is my main goal!

- Bill Panagopoulos
“Cancer is the wound that never heals.”

PhD candidate, Vasilios (Bill) Panagopoulos is passionate about his potentially lifesaving research, hoping to find new ways to stop the spread of breast cancer.

Working with Professor Andreas Evdokiou at the BHI, Bill is the lead PhD student looking at the enzyme, peroxidases, and how it contributes to tumour growth and the spread of breast cancer.

“I originally worked in a private biotech company where we discovered that these peroxidase enzymes, which have been known for a long time to have anti-bacterial properties, could assist with wound healing,” Bill said.

“Wound healing and cancer share similar characteristics. The problem is that a wound knows when to stop and has an ‘off’ switch once the healing is done – whereas cancer doesn’t have this ‘off’ switch, resulting in its continuous growth and spread.

“When I came over to the BHI to work for Andreas, he applied this knowledge to cancer research – suggesting that with collagen being a hallmark in cancer growth and spread, perhaps these enzymes which are present in high levels in cancer could be playing a more sinister role than scientists originally thought.”

Bill believes there is a general misconception within the community that cancers contain just tumour cells but explains that a vast array of cells exist within the tumour. These include fibroblasts (the main building cells within a tumour), immune cells and endothelial cells, which make blood vessels – this process is called angiogenesis.

“If there is an increase in angiogenesis within a tumour, this leads to an increase in blood flow, delivering oxygen and nutrients to feed the growing tumour, while also providing avenues for tumour cells to try and escape through the blood vessel system and circulate somewhere else in the body.

With this in mind, Bill has found that peroxidases also promote angiogenesis and by looking at these two rationales, angiogenesis and the regulation of collagen production, has made some breakthroughs in the lab.

“It’s been really exciting in terms of the progression of the work from where it started to where it is now and I hope I can continue to follow it through.”

“It’s something that you definitely need to be passionate about, while getting results has immense satisfaction and I love working in this area – ultimately developing improved therapies for breast cancer patients is my main goal!”

Breast Cancer Research Finds New Functions for Old Enzymes

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Personal stories

Australia’s First Islet Auto Transplant Procedure is Kicking Goals

Making medical history at just seven years of age, Gary Wanganeen was Australia’s first paediatric patient to undergo a successful islet auto transplantation procedure, completed at Adelaide’s Women’s and Children’s Hospital (WCH) on July 14, 2015.

Pancreatitis is inflammation of the pancreas, which produces the hormone insulin, regulating blood sugar levels. Gary’s hereditary disease came from his father, who was diagnosed with pancreatitis at the age of 21.

“Gary just turned four when he started showing symptoms – rocking back and forth, having pains. He refused to eat and drink. It was heartbreaking for me,” Gary’s loving mother Chanel Brown said.

It was Chanel who made her son’s procedure a reality, dedicating her days and nights to extensive research, finding out the procedure had been successful overseas.

“I did a lot of research on little sleep. There were constant emails to America and I started looking into support groups on Facebook,” she said.

After frequent visits to the hospital in their hometown of Moonta, Gary was flown to Adelaide where he was diagnosed.

“I knew what Gary was suffering from because I watched the signs and symptoms from his dad. When we flew to Adelaide he was diagnosed with pancreatitis,” Chanel said.

“We ended up moving to Adelaide and my other son Toby was admitted to hospital the same time as Gary from stomach pain. He does have pancreatitis now and will eventually need the same operation.”

Chanel’s path crossed with Professor Toby Coates after she saw him on television and contacted him for help.

Following the procedure, it was a long recovery process and Gary was in WCH Intensive Care Unit for two weeks.

“We are hoping that Gary’s islet cells kick in properly and produce enough insulin to run without an insulin pump. It is a huge waiting game but his surgery had made his quality of life so much better thanks to Professor Coates and his team,” Chanel said.

“He is no longer on narcotic medication and he is playing two games of football a week, which we never thought was possible before the operation.”

This exciting breakthrough in transplantation science led by Professor Toby Coates has been supported for decades by THRF through its generous donor base. Funding from THRF allowed scientists to travel to the University of Illinois in Chicago to learn islet auto transplantation techniques to assist in the Islet Transplantation program at the RAH.

“The islet auto-transplant should significantly improve his chances of avoiding diabetes, which would have been the inevitable consequence if he had had his pancreas removed otherwise,” said Prof Toby Coates, Director of Kidney and Islet Transplantation at the RAH.

Donations for medical research have helped us change the life of this seven-year-old boy and his family.

“We’ve created medical history right here in Adelaide – and that’s something to be incredibly proud of.”

He was in America at the time and our family was brought up in conversation as I had contacted both Prof Coates and doctors in America. I was so relieved when he told me he was willing to help.

“The day of the operation he was under anaesthetic from 5:30am. After taking his pancreas, spleen and gall bladder out; they flew his pancreas to Melbourne where the islets were isolated and brought back to be injected into his liver on the same day.”
Being loving mothers isn’t the only thing Francesca Kenchington and Karla O’Neill have in common. They both have been diagnosed with breast cancer and needed to travel to Adelaide for treatment. Fortunately, both Francesca and Karla have been able to find a safe haven in the Under Our Roof homes. With your support, these houses have become homes for country cancer patients and their families. Thank you!

“Being around my family was so important to me. Having my husband and mum here has been what’s kept me positive. It’s allowed me to keep that sense of normality and routine as if I was still at home. Knowing my family was safe here while I went to hospital meant I could focus on me and I knew that they would be okay. It’s given me the opportunity to have more time with my little girl, and for me that’s been such a positive experience. Everyone involved has provided us with stability and a sense of normality in a place that feels like home. Thank you to everyone who made this possible and who donated along the way. You may not see the rewards, but it’s huge for us. It’s a joy, and that’s what you’ve been able to give people going through a very hard time.”

- Francesca, Mother of one from Ceduna
“During the five weeks we were able to spend some quality time as a family together which was really important, especially for our kids who are 15, 10 and 4. My husband and kids were able to travel here from Whyalla on weekends, as the kids had school and kindergarten during the week. The kids loved it because they were able to do more here than in Whyalla! We’ve been able to take them to play cafés and down to Henley Beach because the house is so central and close to the city and the beach. The Under Our Roof home has made this experience much more comfortable and it’s given me an opportunity to heal and focus on myself. It’s been hard being away from my family but staying here has helped me cope. I can’t thank everyone enough who made this possible. I couldn’t imagine having to do this anywhere else.”

- Karla, Mother of three from Whyalla
When Helen Woodall developed psoriatic arthritis 23 years ago she suffered debilitating pain.

“I had pain in all my joints. I couldn’t walk, I had to stop working. I had tried many different medications but none of them were working,” Helen said.

“My arthritis is in both my wrists, shoulders, elbows, fingers and toes, it’s everywhere. The pain was so unbearable that I couldn’t walk.”

Psoriatic arthritis is a chronic disorder that leaves people suffering from progressive joint inflammation and destruction of these joints over time. Being an incredibly painful condition, when offered a chance to take part in the clinical trial of a new treatment at TQEH, Helen was quick to say yes.

Having been a patient at TQEH for many years, Helen was eager to be involved in this trial with the support of her Rheumatologist Associate Professor Maureen Rischmueller and Rheumatology Clinical Research Manager Dr Sarah Downie-Doyle and the wonderful Rheumatology team.

“Whilst historic treatments for psoriatic arthritis work by controlling the disease activity, they have shown limited efficiency in controlling the disease completely. This means the progression of joint damage still occurs,” Dr Downie-Doyle explains.

This clinical trial which began five years ago, is looking into a drug called Apremilast which is used to treat psoriasis. A/Prof Rischmueller and her team were eager to see if this drug could fill a void for psoriatic arthritis.

“Apremilast works by dampening signals between inflammatory cells,” Dr Downie-Doyle said.

“We already know it works well for the skin condition of psoriasis, so this trial was for us to see whether it worked on patients with psoriatic arthritis, so on the joints as well. We were testing to see if it helped reduce the aches and pains associated with the chronic condition.”

The trial was designed to test the efficacy and safety of two different doses of Apremilast against the placebo for the first 24 weeks.

Most patients showed significant signs of improvement over the 24 weeks.

“What was found is that most patients on the treatment were responding remarkably well, and now many of them, like Helen, have been taking the treatment for the last five years.”

For Helen, the new treatment has changed her life, a devoted mother and grandmother who didn’t have the strength to hold her grandchildren; she is now able to do all the things that the disease took away from her.

“It was unbelievable the difference the treatment has made. It wasn’t overnight but the pain was significantly less,” Helen said.

“I have seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, and sadly for some of my grandchildren I couldn’t hold them in my arms as babies. So this has changed my life.

“I now have none of the pain I had before, and I can do all the small things I used to take for granted like even lifting up the washing line. I feel on top of the world. I feel 25 years younger than I did 5 years ago.

Raving about the support network at TQEH, Helen is so grateful to the Rheumatology team for changing her life.

“Every single member of staff at TQEH are amazing, I can’t thank them enough for giving me a new lease on life.”

Dr Downie-Doyle is confident that with ongoing support of research, breakthroughs like Helen’s will continue to revolutionise treatments and change the lives of those living with inflammatory conditions.

“This is where research is heading, and it’s very exciting,” she said.
Have you been touched by a disease or illness or have a loved one who has? THRF would love to hear from you! Sharing personal patient stories allows us to highlight how important ongoing medical research and patient care initiatives are for our community. If you’re interested in sharing your story please contact us on (08) 8244 1100 or contactus@hospitalresearch.com.au.
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