

# FIBRES

Connecting ADRI Friends to Research

**SPRING 2014**

ASBESTOS DISEASES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

## ADRI awarded Cancer Institute NSW Premier's Award for the 2014 Excellence in Translational Cancer Research

The Cancer Institute NSW Premier's Awards for Outstanding Cancer Research is an annual event that celebrates excellence and innovation in cancer research. Seven awards were presented on Friday, 22 August 2014, to those leading the way in their field.

A/Prof. Glen Reid, from the Asbestos Disease Research Institute, accepted the '2014 Excellence in Translational Cancer Research Award' (\$20,000) – on behalf of an ADRI led team including:

- EnGenelC Ltd
- Royal Prince Alfred Hospital
- Strathfield Private Hospital
- Royal North Shore Hospital
- Concord Repatriation General Hospital

The multidisciplinary team of scientists, clinicians and biotech experts from the six organisations investigating malignant pleural mesothelioma (MPM), used tumour samples stored in the ADRI mesothelioma biobank, one of Australia's largest repositories of such samples, to identify a consistent change in how a particular family of genes work in MPM that, when corrected, stops the cancer cells growing. This research has been rapidly brought to a clinical trial stage, in less than three years. The MesomiR-I trial is the first to focus on MPM and Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC), for which few treatment options exist. The trial represents a new approach to therapy for these cancers.

A/Prof. Glen Reid accepting the '2014 Excellence in Translational Cancer Research Award'. [left]



## Treasurer visits Concord's Medical Research Institutes

The Federal Treasurer, The Hon. Joe Hockey MP, accompanied by Mr Craig Laundy, Federal MP for Reid, visited Concord Hospital's medical research institutes on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2014.



[Above] Mr Craig Laundy, Federal MP for Reid, and the Federal Treasurer, The Hon Joe Hockey MP at ADRI.

CONTINUED

Mr Hockey was given an overview of the research conducted on the Concord Campus and a vision for future development by Dr Teresa Anderson, Chief Executive of the Sydney Local Health District.

Professor Hart, Head of the Denritic Cell Biology and Therapeutics Group at Anzac Research Institute explained a new method to treat cancer, such as leukaemia. Professor van Zandwijk discussed the progress of ADRI's clinical trial of a novel therapy for malignant

mesothelioma; and Professor Le Couteur, Director of CERA (Centre for Education and Research on Ageing), outlined their research on nutrition, ageing and cancer.

The Treasurer noted that: "This is exactly why we need the Medical Research Fund, so we can put a billion dollars a year into institutes like this which are at the forefront of global technology and development. He went on to say: "I want Australia to become the global hub of medical research."

## Professor Nico van Zandwijk signs MoU between the ADRI and the Institute of Industrial Ecological Sciences, University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Japan

Whilst attending the 21<sup>st</sup> Asian Conference on Occupation Health in Fukuoka City, Japan at the end of August, Professor van Zandwijk had the opportunity to formalize the collaboration and sharing of information on scientific topics relating to asbestos-related diseases with the Institute of Industrial Ecological Sciences, University of Occupational and Environmental Health, (IIES, UOEH) established in Kitakyushu City, Japan. The MoU will formalise a closer collaboration and combine efforts to promote the common research aims and exchange of information between these institutes.

[Right] Prof. Nico van Zandwijk and Prof. Seichi Horie, Director of the IIES, UOEH with the signed MoU.

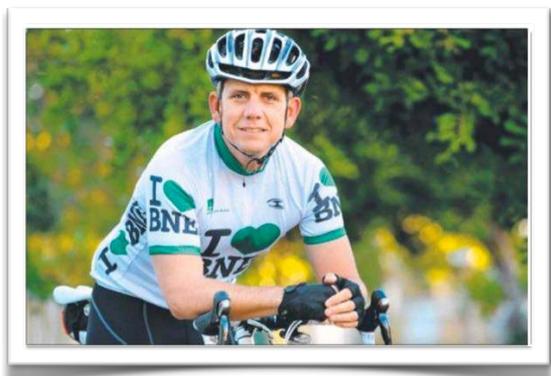


### Update on Andrew Chamberlin

Andrew Chamberlin from Brisbane is in training to ride 1300km Sydney to Brisbane (12-18 Oct). The thought of **riding from Sydney to Brisbane** is daunting in itself, but you will be interested to know that the ride isn't along the flattest fastest route of course! It is from North Ryde to Cessnock and then up and over the Great Dividing Range from Gloucester to Armidale and down to Coffs Harbour, then back up to Casino, before return to Kingscliff then on to Brisbane.

Andrew is undertaking this ride in memory of his mother Kathleen, who died of mesothelioma. Andrew is currently riding around 350k per week and did a 450k training ride from Brisbane to Warwick and back so that he will be in good shape by October. Andrew is hoping to raise \$10,000 with the first \$2500 going to the Mater Foundation and the rest shared between them and the ADRI. To support Andrew visit <https://thefinalleg.everydayhero.com/au/team-andrew>

The ADRI Team wishes Andrew all the very best.



### Turner Freeman generously support Mesothelioma Care



Turner Freeman has most generously donated \$40,000. to the ADRI to support a much needed position of Mesothelioma Support Coordinator. Jocelyn McLean joined ADRI in June 2014 as our inaugural Mesothelioma Support Coordinator after working as the Case Manager for Thoracic Surgery at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital where she had been since 1994.

This generous support by Turner Freeman will allow ADRI to make a positive difference to the lives of malignant mesothelioma patients and their carers. In this role Jocelyn will continue to support patients, provide professional and public education about the disease and treatment options, and contribute to the clinical research that is currently taking place within ADRI.

[Above - L to R] Prof. Nico van Zandwijk, Ms Tanya Segelov, Ms Jocelyn McLean and Mr Armando Gardiman.

## Michelle ran The **RUNMELBOURNE** in July to raise much needed funds for research into asbestos-related diseases at ADRI

The Age Run Melbourne is more than a fun run as it is designed for many participants at all levels and it is an opportunity to give back to the community by raising funds for a cause close to their heart.

For **Michelle O'Connor**, close to her is research into asbestos-related diseases as she lost her father, Frank Bosmans, to mesothelioma.

The Run Melbourne is a 3Km event for kids, 5km run or walk, 10km run and a half-marathon. Michelle did the half-marathon! It is an amazing effort by most people's standards. Michelle wrote: "The day was perfect, with the sun shining and thousands of people running for a special cause. It was an amazing experience, even though it was personally challenging. I managed to complete the course in 2 hours, 1 minute, 20 seconds!" On behalf of the ADRI Team congratulations and well done!

Michelle went on to say: "This was a very special journey for myself, my mum and my family as we carried dad's memory with us along the way. I am so very grateful for everyone's kindness in donating to a cause that may one day find a cure for Mesothelioma, so that others don't have to experience the protracted suffering my dad endured."



## ADRI's Mesothelioma Support Coordinator



**Jocelyn McLean** has been employed by ADRI as our Mesothelioma Support Coordinator to address the needs of patients with malignant mesothelioma and supporting their carers.

Jocelyn has worked for many years at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital providing information, care and support for the patients who had radical extra-pleural pneumonectomy (EPP) by Associate Professor Brian McCaughan for

mesothelioma. In that role, Jocelyn explored and reported on the recovery of the patients and the needs of their carers. She developed a 'well living support programme' for survivors and carers, and co-authored, with Professor McCaughan, a book entitled: 'Diagnosis & Treatment: The Journey of a Patient with Malignant Pleural Mesothelioma'. Jocelyn also contributed to the development of evidence based **Guidelines for the Diagnosis and treatment of Malignant Pleural Mesothelioma** published by ADRI in 2013. Jocelyn is also involved in the professional development of nurses and attended a Workshop for Health Professionals in Canberra on 19<sup>th</sup> September and is also part of the team developing Guidelines for Understanding Malignant Pleural Mesothelioma for patients and carers.

Utilising her knowledge and experience Jocelyn has provided a number of patients, carers and concerned family members with information and support, as well as a listening ear. She has held three 'meet and greet' mesothelioma support sessions and we anticipate the numbers for these sessions will grow as the message and success of the personalised support filters out to others. The established 'well living group' for survivors after extra-pleural pneumonectomy (EPP) will be facilitated from ADRI and generously funded by The Baird Institute.

