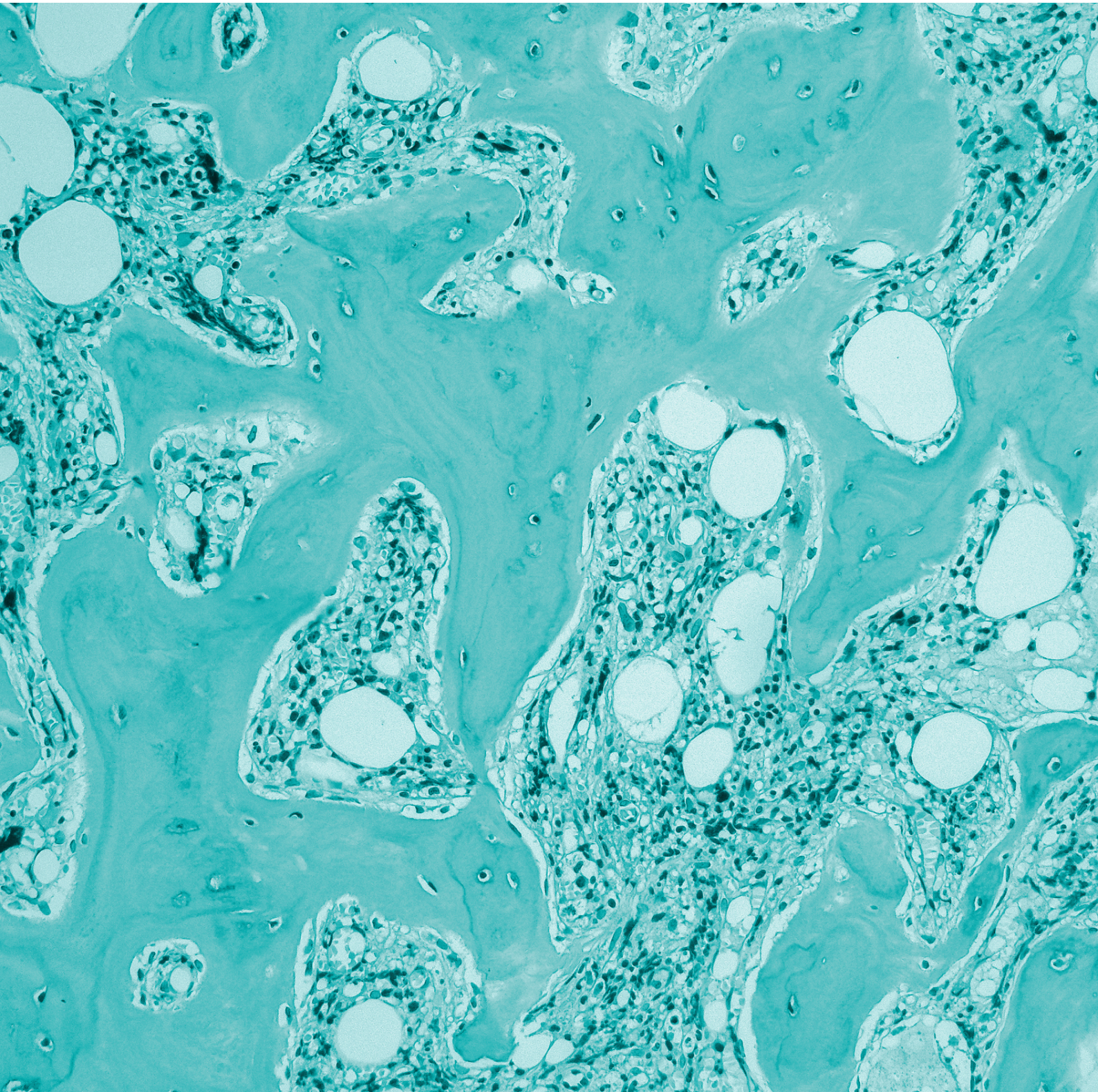


RPH RESEARCH FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Advancing Health



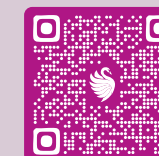


COMMUNITY HEALTH TALKS 2025

CITY OF PERTH LIBRARY



Join us at the City of Perth Library for our upcoming free community health talks where world-class researchers from RPH Research Foundation will be sharing their knowledge and research. Sign up to any of the talks below using this link: <https://www.trybooking.com/eventlist/rphresearchfoundation> or by scanning this QR code:



High Blood Pressure and Heart Rhythm Disturbances – Brothers in Arms

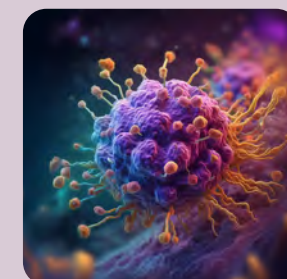
Wednesday 14 May 2025, 12PM - 1PM

Professor Markus Schlaich

High blood pressure (BP) and atrial fibrillation often go undetected. Novel measurement devices can measure BP and heart rhythm simultaneously, improving detection of these silent killers.

Join world-renowned hypertension specialist Professor Markus Schlaich to explore how high BP affects heart rhythm, how to detect it, and the best treatments.

Free BP checks available at this event.



Cellular Therapy - Turning Patients' Cells into Life-saving Cancer Fighters

Wednesday 17 June 2025, 12PM - 1PM

A/Prof Agnes Yong

Each year, 2,500 Australians are diagnosed with Myeloma, an incurable blood cancer. Despite multiple rounds of chemoimmunotherapy, most patients survive less than six years.

CAR T-cell therapy, targeting the BCMA protein on myeloma cells, offers a powerful option for those who have exhausted other treatments.

Join A/Professor Agnes Yong to learn how her team is bringing this life-saving therapy to WA patients at Royal Perth Hospital.

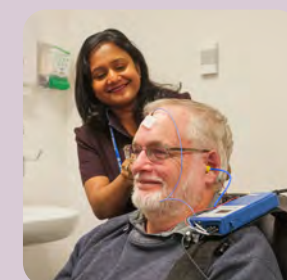


Strong and Steady – How Diet and Exercise can prevent Falls as we age

Wednesday 23 July 2025, 12PM - 1PM

Dr Marc Sim

Learn more about how eating veggies, especially leafy greens and cruciferous vegetables like broccoli—can help strengthen muscles and bones, lowering the risk of falls. Dr Sim will also share insights on how exercise and nutrition work together to keep us strong and steady on our feet.



Hearing Loss and Dementia – How Hearing Aids Could Change the Future

Wednesday 17 September 2025, 12PM - 1PM

Dr Dona Jayakody

Join Dr Dona Jayakody as she explores the link between hearing loss and dementia and shares findings from the HearCog clinical trial on how hearing aids may slow cognitive decline.

With 1.5 billion people affected by hearing loss and dementia cases set to triple by 2050, this research could shape future health policies.

CEO UPDATE

It is my privilege to share the latest updates from the RPH Research Foundation. 2024 was a busy year, beginning with our move into our building fronting Murray Street. We launched two grant programs that attracted outstanding submissions and celebrated research excellence at our Research Awards Day, highlighted by the inspiring Bryant Stokes Oration delivered by Professor Anna Nowak, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at UWA. Looking ahead, 2025 promises to be just as exciting.

In this edition, I am delighted to share details of our 2025 Community Health Talks program, which begins in May with a presentation by Professor Markus Schlaich, the Dobney Chair in Clinical Research. This a free event and open to all members of the public.

I am also pleased to highlight the winners of the 2024 Research, Innovation, and Impact grants. Thanks to matched co-funding from the Western Australian Future Health Research and Innovation (FHRI) Fund,

we awarded a total of \$3,526,670 across three groundbreaking research projects. These grants have the potential to lead to significant improvements to the health and well-being of all West Australians.

Earlier this year, we launched the 2025 Nursing and Allied Health Grants Program, designed to support nursing, midwifery, and allied health researchers in translating their ideas into clinical practice. These initiatives have the potential to make a significant impact on the health and well-being of our community.

Looking ahead, we are preparing to roll out a Career Advancement Fellowship Program, targeted at Early-to-Mid Career Researchers. This program will strengthen Western Australia's healthcare system by fostering innovation and ensuring a sustainable pipeline of skilled professionals dedicated to medical research and clinical excellence.

Capital works at the RPH Research

Foundation buildings are progressing well. The next major project will focus on revitalising the courtyard followed by an upgrade to the lifts in our research facility. Once rejuvenated, the courtyard will provide a welcoming space where RPH staff, visitors and researchers in our research facility can relax with a coffee or enjoy lunch in a tranquil setting. Designed to foster relaxation and informal collaboration, we are looking forward to its opening with much anticipation.

Once again, we could not have achieved this work without your generosity. Thank you for all you do to support the RPH Research Foundation. Together, we are shaping the future of healthcare, one research project at a time.


CATE CASSARCHIS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

HBF RUN FOR A REASON 2025

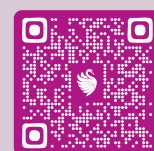
Sunday 25 May 2025

Join us at the HBF Run for a Reason 2025 to raise funds for health and medical research while improving your own health and fitness.

Whether you are a seasoned runner or just starting out, you can take part in the event and help fund research happening here in Western Australia.

By setting up a fundraising page and encouraging your friends, family, and colleagues to donate, you can help raise vital funds for health and medical research. Every dollar you raise will go towards funding life-changing medical research that has the potential to save countless lives.

Join us in the HBF Run for a Reason and fundraise for the RPH Research Foundation today. Let's make a difference together: <https://rphresearchfoundation.org.au/run-for-research>





RESEARCH INNOVATION AND IMPACT GRANTS

The RPH Research Foundation is proud to announce the recipients of the 2024 Research Innovation and Impact Grants.

2024 Research Innovation and Impact Grants are a Program of the Western Australian (WA) Future Health Research and Innovation (FHRI) Fund and the RPH Research Foundation.

Thanks to matched co-funding from the FHRI Fund, the RPH Research Foundation has awarded a total of \$3,526,670 across three innovative research projects.

These grants support mid-career and senior researchers who are translating their ideas into healthcare innovations that could lead to a significant impact on the health and well-being of our community.

The three projects will be led by researchers at Royal Perth Hospital, and will address critical health challenges to improve West Australian patient outcomes. From developing highly effective personalised Chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cells to help treat incurable cancers, to using machine learning to predict cardiovascular complications after non-cardiac surgery, these innovative projects are challenging existing paradigms.

Congratulations to the 2024 Research Innovation and Impact Grant recipients:



Artificial Intelligence to Improve Outcomes after Surgery

Professor Graham Hillis

\$1,179,424

Every year more than 300 million people undergo major non-cardiac surgery worldwide. These operations save and improve lives, but they are not without risks. The most common complications after surgery are cardiovascular which can lead to worse long-term health or even death.

Complications after surgery are generally difficult to predict and hard to prevent. This research project will use state-of-the-art technology based within Royal Perth Hospital's Health in a Virtual Environment (HIVE) and machine learning to analyse patient data to identify patients at risk of cardiovascular problems, before and after their surgery.

The team will produce a software program that automatically predicts the risk of heart and other complications after surgery, updates continuously as new information becomes available and warns clinicians if this risk is increasing. This research could provide an effective and low-cost way to improve the outcomes of the millions of patients undergoing surgery every year and help save lives.

Scan to watch Professor Hillis' research presentation



A Pathway to Preventing Leukaemia

Dr Hun Chuah

\$1,147,285

More than 50,000 Australians live with the knowledge that they are at risk of developing leukaemia. With the incidence of blood cancers projected to rise significantly by 2035, there is an urgent need for better early detection methods.

Current testing methods are not sensitive enough to detect leukaemia before symptoms appear. By this stage, even with therapy, outcomes are poor.

This research project aims to develop early detection strategies for leukaemia to help improve patient outcomes. To achieve this, the team has developed a groundbreaking test called "immuno-flowFISH" that analyses hundreds thousands of cells per test and can identify selected cell populations with new genetic changes even when only 1 in 100,000 has the abnormality.

The team is driven by a vision to develop a pathway to "detect, predict and prevent" leukaemia. This technology offers the potential for early detection of leukaemia, particularly in individuals with pre-existing bone marrow disorders allowing clinicians to intervene earlier with treatment.

Scan to watch Dr Chuah's research presentation



Personalised Place-of-care Manufactured Immune Cells for Blood Cancer

Associate Professor Agnes Yong

\$ 1,199,961

Every year, 2,500 Australians are diagnosed with Myeloma, an incurable cancer. While patients undergo multiple rounds of chemoimmunotherapy and radiotherapy to control their symptoms, most myeloma patients survive less than six years from their diagnosis.

Chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cells which target B-cell maturation antigen (BCMA) proteins on myeloma cells are a new and highly effective treatment, offering hope to patients who have exhausted all other treatment options.

Currently, there are no BCMA-CAR T-cells commercially available in Australia and the high cost of treatment (US \$465,000 or AUD 711,450) limits its future availability in Australia.

This project aims to help West Australian patients access this life-saving treatment by testing the safety and effectiveness of patient-specific BCMA-CAR T-cells manufactured at place-of-care (POC) at Royal Perth Hospital (RPH). The success of this initiative could reduce treatment costs to 10% of the current commercial price and extend access to life-saving therapies.

Scan to watch A/Prof Yong's research presentation





RESEARCH AWARDS DAY 2024

On Friday 18 October, the RPH Research Foundation held its annual Research Awards Day at the Westin.

The Research Awards Day showcased some of the cutting-edge research that is currently being undertaken within the East Metropolitan Health Service (EMHS), and Western Australia more broadly.

The Honourable Dan Caddy MLC, Member for the North Metropolitan Region, representing the Minister for Medical Research the Honourable Stephen Dawson MLC, delivered the opening address.

During the Research Awards Day, the Foundation also announced our 2024 Research Innovation and Impact grant recipients. This grant program is co-funded by the Future Health Research and Innovation (FHRI) Fund.

A total of \$3,526,670 was awarded across three innovative research projects. Congratulations to recipients Dr Hun Chuah, Professor Graham Hillis, and Associate Professor Agnes Yong.

The highlight of the event was the Bryant Stokes Oration, which was delivered by Professor Anna Nowak, Deputy Vic-Chancellor (Research) at The University of Western Australia, on “Symbiosis: The Vital Dialogue Between Healthcare and Academia.”

Congratulations to all the winners of awards presented at the 2024 Research Awards Day



The Early Career Publication Award was presented to Dr Courtney Weber for her publication titled “Analytically confirmed illicit and novel psychoactive drug use in West Australian emergency departments: initial results from the Emerging Drugs Network of Australia (EDNA).”



The winner of the RPH Research Foundation's Nursing Research Award was Ms Gabrielle Calleja.

Ms Calleja's project was the top-ranked nursing project submitted to the RPH Research Foundation's 2024 Nursing and Allied Health Grant Program.



The 2024 Mentorship Award was awarded to Dr Meg Harrold.

Dr Harrold is a Senior Physiotherapist at the Royal Perth Bentley Group. Dr Harrold's selflessness and dedication to the success of her mentees truly set her apart.



The Professor Lyn Beazley AO Emerging Leader Award was presented to Dr Martin Rabey.

Dr Rabey is a clinician and researcher focusing on musculoskeletal pain, the world's leading cause of disability.



2024 SCIENTIST OF THE YEAR

RPH Research Foundation's Dobney Chair in Clinical Research, Professor Markus Schlaich, was announced as the joint Scientist of the Year in the Premier's Science Awards 2024.

As Chair of Hypertension Australia and Co-Chair of the National Hypertension Taskforce, Professor Schlaich leads the nation in controlling the leading global risk factor for death. With more than 500 publications and 20 national and international awards, his translational clinical research has resulted in recent regulatory approval of several novel blood pressure lowering therapies including a new drug class and a revolutionary interventional approach to treat hypertension.

The Dobney Hypertension Centre (DHC) is accredited as a Hypertension Excellence Centre by the European Society of Hypertension and engages in high-quality clinical research with the aim to better understand the mechanisms that lead to elevated blood pressure.

Throughout the year, numerous clinical trials and research studies are run by the dedicated research team. Each trial aims to optimise treatments and improve health outcomes for the community at large.

HYPERTENSION COMMUNITY HEALTH TALK

Professor Markus Schlaich will be presenting on Wednesday 14 May 2025, 1PM - 2PM at the City of Perth Library on the hypertension research the DHC is doing to better detect, manage, and control blood pressure.

The DHC team will be there to conduct free blood pressure checks. Sign up to our Community Health Talk by scanning the QR code below.

Limited seats available. **RSVP now to the Hypertension Community Health Talk:**



Image: Professor Markus Schlaich with his DHC team at Yagan Square. Scientist of the Year video playing behind them.

