



HMRI AWARDS NIGHT

Wednesday 8th November 2017



ABOUT HMRI

Founded in 1998, the Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI) is a leader in world-class translational medical research, facilitating high-quality health solutions to meet community needs.

Our successful partnership with the University of Newcastle, Hunter New England Health and the community has seen HMRI grow rapidly to become one of NSW's largest independent research institutions.

The partnership supports and accelerates the translation of research from bench to bedside – from basic molecular science, pre-clinical trials and human clinical trials through to evidence-based medical treatments, protocols and health policy.

HMRI is a key enabler for Hunter researchers, healthcare professionals, policy makers, industry leaders and the community to work together in solving a multitude of health issues. The Institute provides essential funding, facilities, equipment and research support to over 1600 researchers, research students and staff working across several campuses.

The HMRI Building is co-located with John Hunter Hospital, ensuring close proximity of clinicians, researchers, patients and study participants. Research activity is coordinated through seven key Research Programs: Brain & Mental Health, Cancer, Cardiovascular, Information Based Medicine, Pregnancy & Reproduction, Public Health, and Viruses, Infections/Immunity, Vaccines & Asthma (VIVA).

HMRI thanks the Community for their support and also acknowledges government research funding in 2017.





PROGRAM

Event MC: Aaron Kearney

Director's Address

Special Guest Speaker

Acknowledgement of HMRI Fellowships

Equal Futures Awards

HMRI Exceptional Service Medals

HMRI Project Grants

Acknowledgement of 2017 Supporters

Scholarships

Greaves Early Career Support Grant
Greaves PhD Scholarship in Medical Research
Sawyer PhD Scholarship in Cancer

HMRI Research Awards

HMRI Award for Early Career Research
HMRI Director's Award for Mid-Career Research
HMRI Award for Research Excellence

~ After Party ~

Haggarty Breakout Space

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Firstly, I would like to say welcome – or “välkommen” in Swedish – to our wonderful supporters, partners and colleagues gathered for HMRI’s night of nights. This is the culmination and celebration of another year’s worth of endeavour and achievement by all involved.

Leading into the Institute’s 20th anniversary next year, I’m proud to say we’re looking in remarkably good shape.

Researcher numbers, donor contributions, grant funding and our media footprint have all continued to grow.

The one constant is the unwavering focus of our translational research to improve the health outcomes of every person in our community. We’re in the “people business” as they say, fostering the development of new treatments and models of care that are not only more effective but cost-efficient.

Earlier this year, by way of example, we hosted Federal Assistant Health Minister Dr David Gillespie at this Building to announce one of Australia’s first Centres for Innovation in Regional Health (CIRH).

This prestigious accreditation by the NHMRC recognised the strength of the NSW Regional Health Partners alliance, which unites the Hunter New England, Central Coast and Mid-North Coast health districts with HMRI, the Universities of Newcastle and New England, Primary Health Network and Calvary Mater Newcastle.

It positions the CIRH to implement translational research for the benefit of rural and regional communities, while aligning with Medical Research Future Fund objectives. As part of this, we’re looking to evolve the concept of out-of-hospital care as part of the future of healthcare and rehabilitation delivery.

Sustainability for our ongoing goals has benefited greatly this year with the establishment of several major Fellowships, complementing the many long-term relationships that have been forged since our formative days.

We are grateful for the community’s support and look forward to honouring and acknowledging such generosity with many more nights such as these.

Professor Michael Nilsson
Director, Hunter Medical Research Institute

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.

Tonight, in addition to the new Fellowships, we are pleased to announce and acknowledge 54 project grants, 10 scholarships, six travel grants, three Equal Futures Awards and three equipment donations ... not to mention our major awards to researchers at night's end!

It's the net result of an amazing 21,223 individual donations, yielding a 40% annual increase in philanthropic revenue. "A beautiful set of numbers", as a former Treasurer famously said, and a wonderful compliment for HMRI's community engagement.

It takes a real team effort to achieve this and I sincerely thank our HMRI corporate staff, our Foundations in Newcastle and Sydney, and our many supporters.

We're indebted, too, to the 1600+ affiliated researchers of the University of Newcastle and Hunter New England Health who remain the engineroom and inspiration of this organisation – their work places the Hunter's research reputation on a global pedestal, as barely a day passes when a research outcome hasn't made headlines.

As Michael says, reward for effort has come this year in the form of our newly created Fellowships. Tears of absolute joy and relief flowed when recipients were told that their futures had been secured for between three and 10 years. Not only did it mean financial certainty, it afforded the comfort of knowing they could focus purely on research – not divest time and energy in chasing grants.

To the Mark Hughes Foundation, to Brian, Fay and Lisa McGuigan, the Haggarty family and Dalara Foundation, among many others, I offer my heartfelt thanks for your extraordinary generosity and trust in our organisation.

I also pay tribute to HMRI's wonderful community donors and volunteers, who make serving in my role such an honour and privilege. Your support enables the Board to continue driving HMRI's innovation and translation agenda and future-proofing our research platforms.

Kyle Loades Board Chair
Hunter Medical Research Institute

HMRI RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

HMRI has proudly initiated five new Fellowships in 2017 with the generous support of donors. By providing long-term financial security, these help to attract, retain and support our talented and leading researchers.

Vanessa McGuigan HMRI Research Fellowship in Ovarian Cancer

Honouring the profoundly tragic loss of their daughter Vanessa, Brian and Fay McGuigan – together with the University of Newcastle – are jointly funding a 10-year HMRI Fellowship dedicated to ovarian cancer research. Dr Nikola Bowden is the recipient.

Haggarty Foundation Fellowship

Tony and Karen Haggarty are funding a five-year Fellowship to investigate the biological impact of placental ageing on stillbirth rates. Dr Kaushik Maiti is the recipient.

Dalara Foundation Fellowship

Allan & Lynn Davies are supporting a five-year Fellowship for a stroke project led by Professor Neil Spratt, tackling a rise in intracranial pressure. Candidate recruitment will commence shortly.

Mark Hughes Foundation (MHF) Fellowship

Funded by the Mark Hughes Foundation, radiation oncologist Dr Mike Fay has been named the inaugural recipient of a three-year HMRI Mid-Career Research Fellowship dedicated to brain cancer.

Matt Callander Beanie For Brain Cancer Fellowship

The success of the 2017 MHF Beanie for Brain Cancer campaign has funded a prestigious Fellowship honouring the late Matt Callander, a Nine Network NRL executive producer. The recipient is Dr Kelly McKelvey from the Sydney Neuro Oncology Group, working in collaboration with Hunter cancer researchers.

EQUAL FUTURE AWARDS

These awards support female researchers at any stage of their career that requires funding, not offered by any other scheme. The primary objective is to address retention and progression rates.

Awarded to Dr Emma Beckett, A/Professor Gillian Gould and Dr Kavita Pabreja

HMRI EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE MEDALS

HMRI's Exceptional Service Medal is rewarded to those who have provided supreme service and guidance to HMRI over many years. An Exceptional Service Medal is the highest honour we can bestow.

Tonight we recognise five new recipients:

Hilton Grugeon

Hilton served the maximum director's term of 12 years from February 2006 to August 2015 and proved an invaluable ally during the funding and construction of the HMRI Building.

Glenn Turner

Glenn became Foundation Chair in 2006 then served as Board Chair from February 2013 until December 2016.

Neville Sawyer

Neville served on the HMRI Board from November 2007 to October 2016, providing excellent corporate stewardship and links to local business community.

Brad Webb

Brad's involvement with HMRI began in 1999 when the 'PULSE' group was launched. From 2004-2015 he served as Chief Operating Officer and Associate Director Strategy and Engagement.

The Hon. Bob Baldwin

The former Federal Member for Paterson facilitated key introductions in Canberra over many years and strongly advocated for funding for the HMRI Building.

HMRI MAJOR BENEFACTORS

HMRI is fortunate to receive extraordinary support from some key individuals, trusts, foundations and businesses over many years and multiple projects. HMRI gratefully recognises the ongoing generosity of its Major Benefactors.

Gastronomic Lunch of the Year

Neil Slater, from Scratchleys on the Wharf, organises a major annual fundraising effort called the Gastronomic Lunch of the Year.

Greater Bank and Greater Charitable Foundation

Greater Bank was an inaugural donor and, along with the Greater Charitable Foundation, have maintained support for the Stroke Research Group.

Haggarty Foundation

Tony and Karen Haggarty supported the HMRI Building capital campaign in 2011 and have funded stillbirth research ever since.

Jennie Thomas AM

HMRI Life Governor Jennie Thomas AM invests in the career development of young people, helping to shape who they are and what they do

Kiriwina Investment Company

Kiriwina has supported HMRI since 2000, including a grant this year to A/Professor Estelle and Dr Jean-Marie Sontag for Alzheimer's disease.

McGuigan Family

Jointly funding a 10-year Fellowship dedicated to ovarian cancer research

nib foundation

The nib foundation first supported HMRI in 2010 and maintains its connection with Professor Clare Collins and her Nutrition Connect program.

Port Waratah Coal Services

PWCS has partnered with HMRI on two multi-year projects, the second of which is the Dads And Daughters Exercising and Empowered (DADEE) study.

Rainbow Foundation

Supporters of asthma and nutritional research since 2010.

Thyne Reid Foundation

Thyne Reid Foundation has continued to support work in Mothers and Babies led by Laureate Professor Roger Smith AM.

HMRI PROJECT GRANTS

Community donors and organisations who have contributed more than \$20,000 in a financial year are invited to sponsor a named project grant. HMRI Project Grants also comprise smaller donations made by the community, with donors who have contributed more than \$6,000 acknowledged as project supporters.

HMRI Depression Research Project Grant

Sponsored by the Stroud Rodeo Association, a foundation supporter of HMRI. The long-running event attracts around 2500 people to Stroud Showground each year.

Awarded to: Associate Professor Kym Rae to explore whether women who undertake an ArtsHealth program derive greater happiness and an increase in social networking and support.

HMRI Multiple Sclerosis Research Project Grant

Supported by the MS Ball, organised by Honeysuckle Hotel.

Awarded to: Dr Vicki Maltby for her project titled 'The effect of treatment on patients with Multiple Sclerosis'. It will investigate changes that occur in the immune system during the course of commonly used MS treatments.

Keith Tulloch Wines Project Grants

Keith and Amanda Tulloch, through their Keith Tulloch Vinum Cellarium Wine Dinners, have been an invaluable supporter of HMRI since 2006. Their funds have supported research in asthma, chronic stress, stroke, postnatal depression and prostate cancer. This year, two grants are targeting diabetes.

Awarded to: Dr Rachel Wong. Her project aims to show how poor vessel function in the brain is contributing to cognitive deficits in adults with Type-1 Diabetes.

Awarded to: Associate Professor Vivienne Chuter to test the effectiveness of non-invasive measures for predicting the development of diabetic foot ulcers and the risk of subsequent amputation.

Rotary District 9670 Bowelscan Cancer Grants

The Rotary District 9670 Bowelscan committee draws representatives from Belmont, Singleton, Raymond Terrace, Williamtown, Nelson Bay, Narromine and Dubbo, raising funds through the sale of Bowelscan kits.

Awarded to: Dr Peter Pockney, who is looking to develop a more accurate test to identify patients with bowel cancer. The project will help determine which

patients require a colonoscopy, in order to reduce a large number of unnecessary interventions.

Awarded to: Dr Chen Chen Jiang to help to define a particular molecule as a diagnostic and prognostic biomarker, and develop a strategy for targeting this to treat bowel and other cancers.

First National Newcastle City ‘Spring Fling’ Grant

First National Newcastle City principal George Rafty used a ‘Spring Fling’ auction event to help raise life-changing funds for medical research.

Awarded to: Professor Lisa Wood whose project will determine whether a soluble fibre intervention can improve childhood asthma management.

Bob and Terry Kennedy Infertility Research Project Grant

Bob Kennedy served as HMRI Chairman from 2007 to 2013. He and his wife Terry have continued their close association with HMRI, through this year’s project grant in Pregnancy and Reproduction.

Awarded to: Dr Elizabeth Bromfield for her project ‘Investigating new ways to prevent cellular stress in the male germline’.

Anthony Sweetman Project Grant

Supporting oesophageal cancer research, this grant is in memory of the late Anthony Sweetman.

Awarded to: Associate Professor Jennifer Schneider. Titled ‘A Helping Hand’, her project asks – “Will fingerprick and pre-dosing blood tests point the way to improved chemotherapy dosing in oesophageal cancer?”.

The Cameron Family Project Grant

Long-term supporters of HMRI, the Cameron Family like to be hands-on in selecting the research they support. The Cameron’s enthusiasm and passion for local health and medical research is greatly appreciated and truly inspiring.

Awarded to: Associate Professor Simon Keely to study the associations between the microbiota and gastrointestinal leaks following bowel surgery.

HTRF Renal Transplant Project Grant

The Hunter Transplant Research Foundation was established to address problems in transplant clinical practice. It runs fundraising events including the annual Glow Walk.

Awarded to: Conjoint Professor Josh Davis for the study “Using a common virus to help monitor immunosuppression in people with kidney transplants”.

MHF Grant for Children's Brain Cancer

From Balls to Beanies, the Mark Hughes Foundation raises community funds to support dedicated research in Brain Cancer.

Awarded to: Laureate Professor Rodney Scott, who aims to obtain genetic knowledge about the causes of childhood brain cancer, and patterns of inheritance associated with the disease.

HMRI Multiple Myeloma Project

Supported by the estate of the late Dorothy Ruth Frost

Awarded to: Dr Anoop Enjeti to undertake a genome-wide approach to risk assess Multiple Myeloma and precursor plasma cell disorders.

HMRI Children's Cancer Project Grant

Supported by the Hunter District Hunting Club

Awarded to: Dr Matt Dun, looking at the causes of leukaemia in children with Shwachman-Diamond Syndrome.

HMRI Migraine Research Grants

Two awards funded by the Estate of the late Joan Elizabeth Swanson

Awarded to: Professor Peter Howe for a pilot study in premenopausal women, that asks whether Resveratrol is a cause or a cure for migraine.

Awarded to: Professor Clare Collins to determine which of two dietary approaches is more effective in reducing migraine frequency, severity and duration.

HMRI Stroke Research Project Grant

Supported by the HMRI donors

Awarded to: Associate Professor Frini Karayanidis. Her INSIST-Cog-Net study will use MRI and EEG to identify people who can benefit from cognitive rehabilitation following a mini-stroke

Breast Cancer Project Grant in memory of Karen Brown

Much-loved HMRI Development Officer Karen Brown succumbed to breast cancer in 2013, leading to the establishment of an in-memoriam fund.

Awarded to: Dr Heather Lee, who will explore the inner workings of circulating tumour cells in metastasis, to identify likely predictors of when and where breast cancers will spread

HMRI Pancreatic Cancer Research Project Grant

Supported by the HMRI donors

Awarded to: Professor Hubert Hondermarck. His project is focused on targeting nerve outgrowth to develop a therapy against pancreatic cancer, along with the associated pain that comes with the disease.

HMRI Cystic Fibrosis Research Project Grant

Supported by the HMRI donors

Awarded to: Dr Gerard Kaiko for the development of a personalised test to target individual Cystic Fibrosis mutations to new therapies in the clinic.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF HMRI MAJOR DONORS AND 2017 PREVIOUSLY AWARDED FUNDING

Throughout the year HMRI receives community funding through applications to trusts and foundations as well as donors, both individual and corporate. This funding is in addition to that distributed through the annual grants round.

HMRI acknowledges and thanks all those who contributed to HMRI research in 2017, including those with continued funding across multiple years.

CFMEU Mining and Energy Division

Dr Judith Weidenhofer | *Tetraspanin CD9 - A novel biomarker to target for prostate cancer*

Nona Broadbent

A/Professor Phillip Dickson & Emeritus Professor Peter Dunkley | *Role of Infection in the development of Parkinson's Disease*

Kath Elliott

Dr Suku Thambar | *Injection of Autologous bone marrow cells for enhancement of Neovascularization in Patients with Ischaemic Heart Failure*

Rainbow Foundation

Professor Clare Collins | *E-health personalised nutrition support for mums and bubs for their first 1000 days to improve health and wellbeing*

Professor Phil Hansbro | *Investigating the role of microbiomes in COPD*

Richard and Paula Anicich

A/Professor Glenn Reeves & Dr Marline Squance | *Discovering genetic predictors of inflammatory activity in a group of female Australian lupus patients*

Glenn Moss

A/ Professor Brett Graham | *Light-based approaches to study chronic pain*

Felicity and Michael Thomson

Rutger De Zoete | *PhD Scholarship Top-Up*

Estate of the Late RT Hall

Professor Andrew Boyle | *Fibulin-3 and Cardiac Fibrosis*

Coal Services Health and Safety Trust

Dr Chris Williams | *Reducing the impact of back pain in miners*

Valerie Ryan

Dr Nikola Bowden | *Ovarian Cancer Research*
A/ Professor Doug Smith | *Cholesterol metabolism in the ageing brain*

Greater Charitable Foundation

Dr Andrew Bivard | *MIDAS II anti-fatigue trial for stroke*

nib Foundation

Professor Clare Collins | *Nutrition Connect online platform linking rural families to professional dietary advice*

Schwartz Foundation and Jurox

Professor Chris Levi | *Evaluation of Strokefinder portable microwave helmet*

Master Plumbers Association

Funding in perpetuity for children's research projects

Port Waratah Coal Services

Professor Phil Morgan | *Embedding the DADEE program in communities*

ASX Thomson Reuters Charity Foundation Ltd

Funding HMRI's cross-disciplinary research projects

Joan and the late Sid Stephens

Dr Suku Thambar | *Cardiovascular research*

Dr Garry & Winifred Warner

Dr Lucy Murtha | *Characterising the role of Fibulin-3 in health and disease*

Daracon Group

Dr Myles Young | *SHED-IT Recharge: Development and evaluation of a gender-tailored program for men's physical and mental health*

Thyne Reid Foundation

Equipment grant to purchase of nanotechnology (NanoAssembler) device

Lake Macquarie Garden Club

Seed funding for cross-disciplinary HMRI research

Jennie Thomas Travel Grants

Li Kheng Chai | Yazmin Brown | David Skerrett-Byrne | Jenna Hollis | Patrick Cooper

Gastronomic Lunch of the Year

A/Professor Alison Lane | *Do sensory symptoms impact outcomes of the Alert Program for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder?*

Kiriwina Investments

A/Professor Estelle and Dr Jean-Marie Sontag | *Developing new therapeutic interventions for Alzheimer's disease*

Lions District 201N3 Diabetes Foundation

A/Professor Bruce King | *Improving glucose control and health outcomes for people with diabetes*

Hunter Childrens Research Foundation (HCRF)

Awarded to Dr Kathryn Skelding, Associate Professor Koert de Waal and Dr Nicole Nathan

Grow Up Well PRC and HCRF

Dr Malcolm Starkey, Dr Adam Collison, Dr Vanessa Murphy and Professor Joerg Mattes

SCHOLARSHIPS AND PRIZES

Greaves Family Postgraduate Scholarships in Medical Research

Anne Greaves is passionate about providing opportunities to early career researchers through education. She has supported HMRI medical researchers for many years through early career support grants and scholarships across many research areas.

Awarded to: Tesfaye Regassa Feyissa, Jessica Ferguson and Jacklyn Jackson

MM Sawyer Estate PhD Scholarship

The Sawyer family has long supported research here at HMRI. Neville Sawyer served on the HMRI Board for 10 years, as well as supporting young researchers through grants and scholarships.

Awarded to: Dr Georgia Carroll

HMRI AUSPICED FUNDRAISING GROUPS

HMRI works with groups that are raising funds for specific areas of health and medical research. HMRI authorises these groups to fundraise, and facilitates the logistics and governance of not-for-profit organisations. This enables the auspiced groups to focus their efforts on raising funds.

Australian Artificial Pancreas Program (AAPP)

AAPP is a national, multidisciplinary collaboration developing an artificial pancreas algorithm to improve the lives of people living with diabetes.

Hunter Children's Research Foundation (HCRF)

Formed in 1996, HCRF has raised \$1.96 million for vital research into children's terminal and debilitating illnesses.

Hunter Transplant Research Foundation (HTRF)

HTRF was established to address problems in transplant clinical practice, by integrating research in transplant immunology with practice.

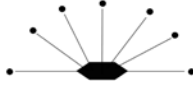
Mark Hughes Foundation

The Mark Hughes Foundation raises much needed funds to promote research, heighten awareness and support brain cancer patients and their families. The Foundation has raised over \$5 million since 2014.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

HMRI also acknowledges the following Government research funding in 2017:

- NSW Health Population Health and Health Services Research Support Program.
- NSW Ministry of Health, Office for Health and Medical Research for providing infrastructure funding through the NSW Medical Research Support Program.
- Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's General Grants Safety and Wellbeing Project, for funding for the *Gomeroi gaaynggal* program.
- NSW Health Early-Mid Career Fellowship awarded to Dr Heidi Janssen



HMRI RESEARCH AWARDS

HMRI Award for Early Career Research

HMRI Director's Award for Mid-Career Research

HMRI Award for Research Excellence

HMRI AWARD FOR EARLY CAREER RESEARCH

Providing funds for early career researchers – those within five years since completing their PhD –to help retain the best research talent in the Hunter.

The HMRI Award for Early Career Medical Research supports professional development, raise awareness and acknowledge the work of talented early career researchers at a critical time in their career.

Associate Professor Gillian Gould

Associate Professor Gould attained her PhD in 2015 as an experienced GP and naturally gravitated to Indigenous health research.

Her passion and dedication was soon demonstrated by her collaborative and culturally inclusive approach to the complex area of smoking cessation during pregnancy, with a practical, applied focus on translation to the groups most affected.

Based at Calvary Mater Newcastle, Associate Professor Gould led a grass-roots, indepth qualitative research project in the Hunter and with Aboriginal Medical Services in Taree and Forster. From this, the renowned SISTAQUIT (formerly ICAN QUIT in Pregnancy) intervention was developed.

Associate Professor Gould reached out to pre-test and pilot the project in three States, demonstrating successful translation of her approach in other Indigenous communities. She is further supported by the Hunter Primary Health Network to extend her explorations in Tamworth and Moree.

Over the past three years, she has attracted four prestigious fellowships totalling \$1.46 million. SISTAQUIT was awarded \$2.26 million by the NHMRC, adding to a research career tally of \$6 million.

Through this time, Associate Professor Gould has sustained a high level of research output – 58 publications (56 as first or last author) including 30 peer-reviewed journal articles. Her leadership qualities are further evidenced by the establishment of international collaborations with the Mayo Clinic and University College London.

This remarkable career trajectory suggests that Associate Professor Gould has the potential to be one of the highest-achieving researchers, early career or otherwise, in her field.



HMRI DIRECTOR'S AWARD FOR MID-CAREER RESEARCH

While HMRI has a strong history of recognising the achievements of senior and early career researchers, HMRI Director Professor Michael Nilsson recognised a gap in recognition for mid-career researchers – those within 15 years since completing a PhD.

The HMRI Director's Award for Mid-Career Research rewards the dedication and achievements of one of the Hunter's most gifted mid-career researchers.

Professor David Lubans

With physical inactivity becoming a global pandemic, Professor David Lubans is on a mission to ensure that young people have the confidence and competence to be more active, more of the time.

As a theme-leader in the UON's Priority Research Centre for Physical Activity and Nutrition, his interventions for improved fitness are widely implemented in both primary and secondary school settings.

Of note, Professor Lubans has been a Chief Investigator on projects directly benefitting more than 10,000 children and adolescents in Australia (particularly the Hunter Region), the UK, New Zealand, Brazil and Hong Kong.

Professor Lubans has more than 190 peer-reviewed journal publications. That he is first or senior author on over 60% (since 2012) demonstrates his writing skills. Few other researchers in the area of school-based physical activity interventions have both the quality and quantity of Professor Lubans publications at such an early career stage.

He has secured over \$18 million in competitive research funding, including four NHMRC grants, while gaining an ARC Future Fellowship in 2014.

Professor Lubans was Principal Investigator on the HMRI-funded Supporting Children's Outcomes using Rewards, Exercise and Skills (SCORES) intervention, which is now being disseminated in 200 NSW primary schools.

He provides mentorship for a large team, comprising four early career researchers, one post-doc, 12 PhD students and two research assistants at the University of Newcastle. He has 11 Research Higher Degree completions and four Honours completions.



HMRI AWARD FOR RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

The HMRI Award for Research Excellence is HMRI's premier award and recognises the achievements of an outstanding researcher who has made a sustained contribution to research in the Hunter.

Recipients have contributed to enhancing the research environment in the Hunter Region through team building, mentorship, establishment of major research initiatives or research capacity.

This year's award was donated by Walkom Real Estate.

Professor Clare Collins

Through her burgeoning media profile and prolific publication record, Professor Clare Collins needs little introduction to anyone interested in nutritional health.

She completed her PhD in 2000 while working clinically as a paediatric dietitian at John Hunter Children's Hospital, and now serves as co-director of the UON's Priority Research Centre in Physical Activity and Nutrition and Director of Research for the School of Health Sciences.

In addition, Professor Collins is a Fellow and spokesperson for the Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA).

Her distinguished research record includes 295 journal articles – 190 in the past 5 years alone – and more than 300 conference abstracts. Further, she has mentored more than 20 dietitians to completion and currently supervises 16 Higher Degree Research candidates.

As CI, Professor Collins has received more than \$20 million in grant support. Among these are two personal fellowships and five project grants from the NHMRC, plus a recent contribution of \$1.7 million from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Professor Collins has a proven capacity to disseminate research findings, with more than 260,000 people completing her web-based Healthy Eating Quiz and a further 80 research projects purchasing her Australian Eating Survey assessment tool.

It is testament to Professor Collins' commitment to improving nutritional knowledge and informing the development of evidence-based health policy.



Previous recipients of the HMRI Award for Research Excellence

2016	John Wiggers
2015	Julie Byles
2014	Brian Kelly
2013	Phil Hansbro
2012	John Attia
2011	Amanda Baker
2010	Paul Foster
2009	Chris Levi
2008	Rodney Scott
2007	John Forbes
2006	Jim Denham
2005	John Aitken
2004	Dirk van Helden
2003	Peter Gibson
2002	Peter Dunkley
2001	Nikolai Bogduk
2000	Roger Smith
1999	Robert Sanson-Fisher

The HMRI Art Series

The HMRI Art Series was launched in 2006 as a celebration of HMRI's leading researchers. Each year an established local artist creates an artwork that recognises and reflects the work of the HMRI Researcher of the Year. The Piggott family funds the commissioned artwork.

Limited framed prints of the artwork are produced and distributed to HMRI's high level supporters and sponsors in recognition of their support. The original artwork is then auctioned at the annual HMRI Ball.

HMRI recognises the following individuals and organisations who supported HMRI in the 2016/17 Financial Year

LIFE GOVERNOR

Jennie Thomas AM

MAJOR BENEFACTORS

Gastronomic Lunch of the Year
Greater Bank
Haggarty Foundation
Kiriwina Investment Company
nib foundation

Port Waratah Coal Services
Rainbow Foundation
Jennie Thomas AM
Thyne Reid Foundation
McGuigan Family

HMRI DONORS

Richard & Paula Anicich
Kristie Atkins & Warren Moore
Anthony Sweetman Memorial Fund
Alistair Bowman
Nona Broadbent
Graham & Annette Brown
Robert Cameron AO & Paula Cameron
Juliet Clark
Colin Colgan Memorial
Eddy DeMarco
Sandra Dowley
Daphne Edwards
Kath & Mort Elliott
John Farrell
Howard & Lyn Frith
Linda Gatti
Susan George
Elizabeth & Richard Giannone
Greaves Family
Antoinette Ignasok
Douglas Irvine Memorial
Bob & Terry Kennedy
Patricia McAlary
Vanessa McGuigan Memorial
Peter & Lisa McKinnon
Sophie McLaren
Ian Miller
Glenn Moss
The Hon. Graham Mullane

Judith Parker
Christopher & Shirley Piggott
Nigel Pitsch
Gavin Ralston
Valerie & John Ryan Legacy
MM Sawyer Estate
Gastronomic Lunch of the Year
Sid Stephens Memorial
Anthony Stokes
Glenn & Leda Turner
Garry & Winifred Warner
Ann Waterford
John & Patricia Webber
Stephen & Bradley Weeks
Ablosix Pty Ltd
ASX Thomson Reuters
Charity Foundation Ltd
Australian Financial Risk Management
Australian Hotels Association (NSW) -
Newcastle Sub Branch
Ben & Gloria Sharma Foundation
Bushrangers Bar & Brasserie
Cancer Information & Support Society
(Hunter Valley Branch)
CFMEU Mining and Energy Division
Coal Services Health and Safety Trust
Dalara Foundation
Daracon Group
DFK Crosbie

Dolleina Pty Ltd
Equal Futures Project
Estate of the Late R T Hall
First National Newcastle City
Greater Charitable Foundation
Haggarty Foundation
Happy Feet Podiatry
HIC Services
Highway Ford and Hyundai
Honeysuckle Hotel
Hunter District Hunting Club
Hunter MS Fundraising Group
HVCCC
Jesmond Fruit Barn
Jurox Pty Ltd
Katekar Mitten Endowment
Keith Tulloch Wine
Kiriwina Investment Company
Kurri Mongrels & Mountain Bike Group
Lake Macquarie Garden Club
Lions Club of Adamstown
Lions District 201N3 Diabetes
Foundation

Markey Insurance & Risk
Newcastle Master Plumbers Association
Millenium Pty Ltd
Mitsubishi Australia Ltd
Morisset Ladies Golf Club
nib foundation
Octobrick Pty Ltd
Oxfords Hockey Club
Port Waratah Coal Services
Rotary Club of Newcastle
Rotary Club of Newcastle Enterprise
Rotary Club of Newcastle Sunrise
Rotary District 9670
Bowelscan Committee
Shaw Gidley
Stroud Rodeo Association
Teachers Health Fund Foundation
The Bloomfield Group Foundation
The Ian Potter Foundation
The Rainbow Foundation
The Schwartz Foundation
Walkom Real Estate
PLUS Anonymous Donors

HMRI SUPPORTERS

Corey Campbell
Simmons Markey
Stephen Markey
Julie Squires
Glenn T Turner
Leda Turner
Bruce Woods
Vicki Woods
Classic Framing and Memorabilia
Crowne Plaza Newcastle
First National Newcastle City
Fourth Wave Wine
Greg Tapp Printing
Harvest and Soul Catering and Events
HIC Services

IP Solved
Lion
Neon Zoo
Paul Carruthers Manufacturing
Jewellers
Paymaster's Café
Peter Herd's Floral Design Studio
& School of Floral Design
Petrus Advisory
Scenic Tours Pty Ltd
Scion Audio
Scratchleys On The Wharf
Six Degrees
Tamburlaine Organic Wines
Walkom Real Estate

Workplace Giving Supporters

Health Support Services
OneSteel Limited
Pettigrew Family Funerals – Wallsend

HMRI BEQUESTORS

Estates of the Late:

Alan Edward Thompson
Anthony John Eccelston
David John Williams
Dorothy Ruth Frost
Edwin Alfred Cheesman
Elaine Heyworth
Ernest Crescik Wright
Ferma Armstrong McLean
George Maurice Healey
Graham George Harris
James Scott Lawrie
Janet Helen Winn
Joan Elizabeth Swanson
Joyce & Darrel Nord

Joyce Bogner
Leslie Kenneth MacFarlane
Lorna Dorothy Watson
Margaret McGuire
Marianne Keultjes
Marie Therese Laffy
Marjorie Jean Lambert
Patricia Mary Rydge
Reginald Leslie Radford
Rolf Heinz Sonntag
Ronald George Geary
Ronald George McCreath
Stephen James Fairfax

MARK HUGHES FOUNDATION BEQUESTORS

Judith Ellen Parker

HUNTER CHILDREN'S RESEARCH FOUNDATION BEQUESTORS

Peggy Lang



**Thank you for attending the 2017 HMRI Awards Night.
See more at: hmri.org.au/research**