



Connecting **your Business** to the **Community**

[hmri.org.au/corporategiving](http://hmri.org.au/corporategiving)



Hunter Medical  
Research Institute





# The cures of the future start here

Every drug, every treatment, every medical breakthrough that saves lives starts with medical research.

HMRI is Australia's only regionally-based medical research institute.

We are strategically located right next door to John Hunter Hospital, Australia's largest regional hospital, and partnered with the Hunter New England Local Health District, the University of Newcastle and the community. This unique four-way collaboration gives HMRI access to a broad spectrum of patients, clinicians and services, which in turn gives our researchers access to mission-critical data and results. This complete ecosystem is just one of the things that sets us apart from other research institutes.

HMRI is where the best clinicians join forces with the brightest academics and researchers to come up with meaningful, practical solutions to the world's biggest health problems.

From diabetes and stroke, cancer detection and treatments, right through to mental health, asthma and dementia, HMRI's 19 research programs enable us to react or pivot our research to the most urgent needs in our communities.

We bring together over 1,700 researchers and support staff and assist them with everything they need to deliver world-class research.

From labs and equipment, to biobanks, grant writing support, data sciences, health economics and critical program funding, HMRI exists to turn brilliant ideas into real-life medical solutions. Discover Local. Cure Global. We invite your business to partner with us on this journey.

Yours in health and wellbeing,

**Professor Frances Kay-Lambkin**  
Institute Director and CEO

# From seed funding to cures

Seed funding is what turns a revolutionary hypothesis into a lifesaving treatment.

Since 1998, HMRI supporters have provided seed funding for thousands of discoveries. We are now world leaders in the following areas:

## Stroke

HMRI's stroke researchers developed the telestroke service that is now in use around Australia. The service helps regional clinicians determine whether patients require clot-busting medication or clot retrieval surgery, ensuring patients get the right treatment faster.

## Cancer

From discovering chemotherapy drugs that don't damage the heart, to understanding the difference between an aggressive tumour that will metastasise and a tumour that won't change, our researchers have made extraordinary progress. They are also working on early detection tests and genetic testing to speed up the time to effective treatment.

## COVID-19

HMRI's infection researchers, working alongside Australian Biotech ENA Respiratory, have played a key role in development of a nasal spray that could be used to protect against respiratory viruses including SARS-CoV-2, the cause of COVID-19. The spray has successfully completed a clinical trial in the UK with people infected with influenza virus and planning is underway for a second clinical trial aimed at preventing respiratory illness in older people.

## Stillbirth

HMRI's Mothers and Babies researchers discovered a cause of stillbirth and are developing diagnostic tests so that women at risk of stillbirth can be identified and monitored to improve the chances of a safe delivery.

## Asthma

Our researchers created game-changing treatment strategies for patients with severe asthma and created the guidelines for severe asthma and asthma in pregnancy that are now used worldwide.

## Diabetes

HMRI has partnered with the Public Health Network and Hunter New England Health on the Diabetes Alliance Program Plus (DAP+). The objective is to upskill GPs and allied health professionals in remote and regional areas, where patients have limited access to specialist services, to better treat diabetes so it doesn't escalate and cause more serious complications.

## From research lab to world-first clinical trials

At the heart of every groundbreaking medical discovery lies a pivotal moment—an initial spark that sets the course for change. One such moment happened at an HMRI gala dinner when early-career researcher Professor Darren Shafren shared his visionary idea with Greater Building Society CEO, John Arnold.

Professor Shafren's concept was revolutionary: could the common cold virus be trained to kill cancer cells? Inspired by the potential, John Arnold made a \$25,000 seed donation, enabling Darren to begin his research. That initial funding catalysed years of work that proved the virus could indeed destroy cancer cells without harming healthy tissue.

This remarkable discovery led to the formation of Viralytics, a biotech company that caught the attention of a global pharmaceutical giant. Today, Phase II clinical trials of this groundbreaking therapy are underway across the globe, offering new hope to cancer patients.

And it all started with \$25,000.

Your business can play a transformative role in the future of medical breakthroughs.

By joining HMRI's corporate giving program, you provide the critical first step for researchers to turn bold ideas into life-changing innovations. Together, we can create the next big leap in medical research.





# Discovering local to cure global

Meet some of HMRI's researchers who are curing global health problems.

## Professor Neil Spratt – Neurologist and leading stroke researcher.

"It's incredible to witness a patient's entire stroke journey being influenced by HMRI's research. From the initial ambulance call to treatment, we've researched every step. Seeing patients return home to their families after such an ordeal is truly remarkable."

“

*Without the research, the doctors and everyone participating in this, I probably wouldn't be talking to you today. I am grateful and thankful 110%.*

*Crystal Fitzgibbon, stroke survivor*

”

## Professor Nikola Bowden – Drug Repurposing and Medicine research lead specialising in exploring new applications of TGA-approved drugs to extend the life expectancy of cancer patients.

"We know that our medical research is successful when people are living with cancer and not dying from it."

“

*Researchers like Nikola are helping humanity-they give their lives to it... she is saving a hell of a lot of lives and will continue to do so in the future.*

*Peter Lynn, melanoma survivor*

”

## Professor Kelvin Kong AM – NAIDOC Person of the Year 2023, Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon.

"The ultimate goal of my research is for all Australian children, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, to have the same chance of having healthy ears, no matter where they reside in Australia. We need everyone to have enough awareness of the problems, to put the time and resources into finding treatments and interventions, so that no child should expect to go through life suffering the loneliness, loss of self-esteem and lack of education that many children experience with ear disease and as adults in later life."





“

Thanks to the support of  
HMRI, I got my life back...  
My heart function is  
nearly back to normal...  
You saved my life.

Heather Flanagan,  
breast cancer and  
heart failure Survivor

”



**Professor Doan Ngo – Co-Director  
of the Cardio-Oncology Research  
Program who discovered a cardio-  
protective breast cancer drug.**

“Heart disease and cancer are the two leading causes of death and disability in our society, with obesity contributing to poor outcomes across these and many other diseases. I want our research to lead to improvements in survival and health for everyone affected with these conditions.”

**Professor Nathan Bartlett – City of  
Newcastle Citizen of the Year 2024,  
Virology and Immunology Professor,  
pioneering research that led to a nasal  
spray to protect against respiratory  
viruses including COVID-19.**

“I have always been interested in respiratory viruses and my research took on a new urgency after a global pandemic was declared in March 2020. It has been a privilege to undertake research at the Hunter Medical Research Institute and collaborate with many outstanding researchers to work towards lessening the burden that viruses place on the global community. I am honoured to accept this award on behalf of my team and those key collaborators without whom much of this work would not have been possible.”



# Get involved with our Corporate Giving Program

## Help us find the cures of the future

Your business could help us save the lives of countless people.

An investment in medical research is an investment in the future – and every dollar counts.

What you give today will live on forever.

Choose a membership level that works for your business.

## Membership benefits

- **Community Profile Boost:** Enhance your business's reputation by showcasing your values and commitment to the community.
- **Public Recognition:** Receive acknowledgment on HMRI's website, social media, newsletters, publications, events and in the HMRI Building.
- **Exclusive Networking:** Connect with industry leaders, innovators, and philanthropists at exclusive HMRI events.
- **Staff Enrichment:** Inspire your team with meaningful engagement opportunities at HMRI or your workplace.
- **Professional Development:** Provide learning and development opportunities for you and your staff.
- **Access to Experts:** Engage with leading scientists, academics, and clinicians for unique insights.
- **Partnerships Opportunities:** Explore potential collaborations in cutting-edge medical research.
- **Health Expertise:** Equip your business with the latest health research and resources to support employee wellbeing.
- **Event Sponsorship:** Gain visibility through priority opportunities to sponsor high-profile HMRI events.
- **Tax Benefits:** Enjoy the financial benefits of tax-deductible contributions.



**DARACON**  
Group

“As A Diamond Partner with HMRI, our donation supported the research that led to the implementation of a men's health program across our business. The program's success inspired the introduction of our own in-house Wellness @ Daracon team. We encourage other businesses to join us in supporting HMRI, to promote and foster improved health and wellbeing in our workplaces and communities.”

Jon Mingay – Managing Director  
(pictured with Belinda Boon – Health & Wellbeing Manager)



# Choose a membership level that works for your business

All donations are tax deductible

	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Platinum	Diamond
	\$195 p/m	\$395 p/m	\$595 p/m	\$795 p/m	
HMRI Corporate Giving Program membership window decal & e-logo					
HMRI Corporate Giving Program personalised Certificate for Display					
Your company logo on HMRI Corporate Giving Program webpage					
Your business welcomed in HMRI Corporate Giving Program e-newsletter					
Invitations to HMRI Community Seminars to hear from some of our researchers					
Invitation to HMRI Corporate Giving Program networking event with VIP Guest Speakers	1 ticket	2 tickets	3 tickets	4 tickets	
Business acknowledgement on electronic HMRI Supporter Board at institute reception					
HMRI Guest Speaker presentation at your workplace to inspire your employees					
HMRI private, behind-the-scenes Institute tour, including the opportunity to meet our researchers			2 people	4 people	
Acknowledgment at prestigious HMRI Awards Evening on slide show					
Your business profiled on HMRI news website and/or social media channels					
Employee Enrichment Day at HMRI for up to 10 staff					
HMRI limited edition Art Series Collection					
Invitation to Director's 'Inspire to Connect' Bespoke VIP Dinner. Two tickets annually					

## Diamond Level Partnership

### Shine brightest as a community ambassador

The Diamond Level is our premier partnership tier, designed for businesses ready to make an extraordinary impact in their community.

By joining at this level, your business gains access to exclusive, tailored benefits beyond all other membership advantages, including:

#### • Customised PR campaigns:

Collaborate with HMRI's Marketing and Communications Team to design a campaign that elevates your brand visibility and aligns with your goals.

#### • Exclusive opportunities:

Enjoy bespoke benefits crafted to match the level of your support, ensuring maximum value and recognition for your business.

This partnership represents a unique opportunity to demonstrate leadership, inspire change and amplify your corporate values within the community.

### To discuss this transformative partnership, contact:

Catherine Raftos  
Corporate Relations Manager  
0419 415 117



Visit [hmri.org.au/CorporateGiving](http://hmri.org.au/CorporateGiving) for full inclusions and terms and conditions.

## How to get involved:

Please call our Corporate Relations Manager on (02) 4042 1000 or email [corporategiving@hmri.org.au](mailto:corporategiving@hmri.org.au)

OR

Visit our website [hmri.org.au/CorporateGiving](http://hmri.org.au/CorporateGiving) or scan the QR





## Transforming the health and wellbeing of our communities

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