Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service Research Day 2017

Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service (SCHHS) researchers today showcased their work at the annual Research Day.

The event, held at Sunshine Coast University Hospital, is central to developing healthcare in our region through research and innovation and is a way of supporting our staff in advancing healthcare.

SCHHS Research Committee Chair and Director of Renal Services, Associate Professor Nicholas Gray, said research and education is integral to SCHHS.

“Research drives innovation and excellence in healthcare, attracts a high quality workforce, and improves health outcomes for the community,” A/Prof Gray said.

“It fosters inter-disciplinary collaboration essential for meeting the future needs of the population.”

A/Prof Gray said this year SCHHS was grateful to welcome keynote speaker, 2017 Australian of the Year, Professor Emeritus Alan Mackay-Sim from the Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery, Griffith University, a neuroscientist and stem cell scientist.

As a world leader in spinal cord injury research, he has led a Brisbane team in a world-first clinical trial in which the patient’s own olfactory cells were transplanted into their injured spinal cord in the first stages of a therapy to treat human paraplegia.

“In 2016 our research included 53 projects, seven of which were clinical trials,” A/Prof Gray said.

“The total value of grant funding awarded to SCHHS staff for research projects in 2016, from Strategic Funding Grants, Wishlist research grants and research higher degree scholarships and Study, Education and Research Trust Fund (SERTF) and external grants (including the National Health and Medical Research Council) was $3,330,702.00.

“Research is growing, collaborations are being formed, and the people of the Sunshine Coast and Gympie regions will be rewarded with the benefits.”

Building sustainable research capacity requires development of a strong research culture within clinical departments and the health service, effective research
management, funding support, suitable research facilities and research collaborations.

**Wishlist Research Grants**

Wishlist CEO, Lisa Rowe said, Wishlist is proud to announce $105,876 will go towards funding seven innovative research projects to be undertaken right here on the Sunshine Coast.

“This year’s research grants will delve into a range of conditions and methods of care, including Chronic Kidney Disease which affects hundreds of people living locally, a randomised trial on a specific therapy used to treat heart failure, the monitoring of invasive diseases in our vulnerable populations, and the barriers of caring for dying newborns close to or at home.

“These research projects are advanced and are largely unprecedented so we are proud that the Sunshine Coast is leading the way to investigate such topics.

“It only takes one piece of research to make a huge difference, whether it is a long-awaited cure for a debilitating disease, a nationwide change to models of care, or enhancing treatment.

“Funding these developments could potentially benefit us all, and it is only possible thanks to the support of our very generous community.”

Grant recipients: Strictly embargoed until 2pm November 15 2017:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Researcher</th>
<th>Study</th>
<th>Wishlist grant amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angela Boyce</td>
<td>Barriers and facilitators to care close to or at home for dying neonates.</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Natalie Davidson</td>
<td>Monitoring Group B streptococcus causing life-threatening invasive disease in newborns and the elderly on the Sunshine Coast.</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Dawber</td>
<td>The ‘All of Us’ study – Operational staff’s experience of performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation in acute care settings</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Guy Godsall</td>
<td>Thromboelastrography in obstetrics.</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Wishlist Grants Fast Facts:**
- Wishlist Research Grants are to enhance health outcomes by financially supporting research,
- Encourage novice and early career researchers in developing a research career,
- Support experienced researchers to become active leaders in research in their field,
- Promote a positive research culture that translates into improvements in health care in many ways, including the fact that local research funding helps to attract specialists from all over the world to work on the Sunshine Coast,
- Promote innovative health care through identifying and implementing evidence-based practices and developing an ongoing culture of learning.

**ENDS**

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