



**DRAFT MEDIA RELEASE**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **LUDWIG INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH TO ESTABLISH WORLDCLASS IMAGING RESEARCH CENTRE**

The Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research (LICR) has secured a grant from the Australian Cancer Research Foundation (ACRF) that will assist in establishing a state-of-the-art *ACRF Centre for Translational Cancer Therapeutics and Imaging* benefiting Australian cancer sufferers.

Professor Scott, Director of LICR said the \$2million funding will assist in providing state-of-the-art infrastructure that will significantly increase the understanding of the underlying causes of cancer, while exploring new therapeutic approaches to the treatment of the disease.

*"The establishment of the ACRF Centre for Translational Cancer Therapeutics and Imaging will aid LICR and other researchers to conduct research in drug discovery, gene therapy, diagnosis and treatment of cancer through molecular imaging, initially in laboratory models and ultimately in patients by translating research findings into clinical applications"*, said Professor Scott.

The *ACRF Centre for Translational Cancer Therapeutics and Imaging* is an innovative venture bringing together LICR, the University of Melbourne, Austin Health, and the Melbourne Brain Centre in a multi-disciplinary approach to explore the fundamental biology of cancer utilising sophisticated imaging technologies.

*"The ACRF Centre promises to be at the cutting edge of translational cancer research, ultimately aiding trials of novel therapies to be conducted in Australia, enhancing the prospects for cancer patients not only in Australia, but worldwide,"* said Professor Scott.

*"We are so excited, not to mention incredibly confident, with the potential for LICR to make significant breakthroughs in the fight to beat cancer, through prevention, diagnosis and treatment,"* says ACRF Chief Executive, David Brettell.

*"Cancer truly does affect us all in some way and ACRF's mission is all about funding world-class research with the power to defeat this terrible disease."*

The *ACRF Centre for Translational Cancer Therapeutics and Imaging* will be a centre of world class research, a platform to promote collaboration between clinical and pre-clinical researchers, a resource for research training in cancer molecular imaging and attract high calibre researchers worldwide.

In conjunction with newly constructed LICR laboratory space in the new Olivia Newton-John Cancer and Wellness Centre (ONJCWC), the *ACRF Centre for Translational Cancer Therapeutics and Imaging* will further boost the Austin Health site as a vibrant world-class cancer research hub.

LICR is the largest international academic institute dedicated exclusively to understanding and controlling cancer, with a number of laboratory and clinical sites around the world, working to improve patient outcomes through integrated programs that translate basic laboratory discoveries into patient benefits through conducting its own clinical trials.

LICR is also a founding partner of the ONJCWC at Austin Health, which has a focus on the development of innovative cancer therapies, and providing quality of life to patients with cancer.