

Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research and partners receive one of Australia's largest-ever philanthropic cancer research grants

\$5 million grant from the Australian Cancer Research Foundation for the Melbourne Comprehensive Cancer Centre

The Australian Cancer Research Foundation (ACRF) has awarded \$5million to the Melbourne Comprehensive Cancer Centre (MCCC) a partnership between some of Melbourne's leading cancer research institutes; the Melbourne Branch of the global Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research (LICR), Royal Melbourne Hospital (RMH), Royal Women's Hospital, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI) and the University of Melbourne.

The MCCC is creating an Australian-first collaborative and integrated cancer research centre, where clinicians who diagnose and treat cancer patients will work closely with scientists researching the disease.

Professor Tony Burgess, Director of the Melbourne Branch of the international LICR says that the ACRF award is an exciting catalyst for bringing the best technology to Melbourne's cancer scientists and clinicians. "The \$5million ACRF grant comes at a time where the MCCC is forming new clinical cancer research teams. This grant will allow these teams to share the latest scientific equipment."

"An example of this is our colon cancer research," adds LICR's Dr Peter Gibbs, Director of the Australian Cancer Grid, "The ACRF award will accelerate our colon cancer genomic analyses, because we will be able to conduct large-scale DNA analyses in Melbourne, rather than sending the samples overseas."

ACRF chairman, Tom Dery, said, "We were impressed with the proposed Melbourne Comprehensive Cancer Centre (MCCC) and the \$5 million grant will help establish the ACRF Centre for Therapeutic Target Discovery as its scientific cornerstone."

The Director of the MCCC, Professor Andrew Kaye, said "This grant will help cancer surgeons and clinicians gather new scientific information relevant to improving cancer treatment".

In analysing the shortlist for the grant, the ACRF engaged Professor Sir David Lane, the scientist renowned for his discovery in 1979 of the tumour-suppressing protein p53 and Director of the Cancer Research UK Transformation Research Group at the University of Dundee in Scotland. Lane provided valuable input on short listed applicants and described the winning team as "world-class".

"This group is competing at the very top in its field on a worldwide basis and there is a very real chance it will come out with new treatments for cancer. With this group, the money will never be wasted," Lane said.

The Australian Cancer Research Foundation which was established in 1984 provides grants of \$1 million upwards to leading Australian cancer research teams, for infrastructure, capital works and equipment.

For more information, contact:

LICR Grants Officer
Caroline M. Cody
tel 03 9341 3118
email caroline.cody@ludwig.edu.au
Visit www.acrf.com.au