

# Two Decades of Progress - A Snapshot



Parents' promise to their daughter. Launch of the Trish Multiple Sclerosis Research Foundation.

Generous support received and funds accumulated ready for first round of funding.

2002 Inaugural round of funding of five projects in four Australian States totalling \$250,000 made its mark. Projects funded by our fledgling Foundation laid the foundation for significant future findings.

The following year the world was alerted to the role of IL-7R in MS by a team led by Professor Graeme Stewart AM and Dr David Booth at Westmead Millennium Institute.

"Thank you so much for establishing the Foundation.

I can't stress too much the importance of funding organisations such as this in the Australian scientific environment at the moment."

#### Professor Graeme Stewart AM, Westmead Millennium Institute

"The Trish Foundation has made a very substantial contribution to the funds available for MS research in Australia." 2003

Foundation Scientific Research Committee Chairman, Professor James McLeod AO

2004 Second round of funding funded four Queensland based projects.

"Momentum is gathering in the quest to eradicate this disease. The part our Foundation plays should not be underestimated, as it underpins the fragile research funding in Australia into multiple sclerosis and its causes."

Professor Peter Russell, Foundation Scientific Research Committee member

"It has been a pleasure working with the Trish Multiple Sclerosis Research Foundation and 2005

we are committed to developing strategies to minimise the progress of this disease. Your support has been invaluable in helping us to achieve our goals." Menzies Research Institute, recipient of a grant in our inaugural round of funding

Launched in Canberra by the Federal Health Minister, the Betty Cuthbert Fellowship, part funded by the Trish Foundation, was awarded to Dr Helmut Butzkueven. The Betty Cuthbert Scholarship was awarded to Dr Mark Slee.



"Thanks to the assistance of the grant from the Trish MS Research Foundation for this project, we were able to generate sufficient preliminary data to 2006 successfully apply for further funds from the NHMRC to continue this project looking at the role of antibodies in MS."

> Dr Judith Greer, Professor Michael Pender, Neuroimmunology Research Unit, School of Medicine, The University of Queensland, recipients in the Foundation's second round of funding

Trish Foundation's contribution of \$200,000 the catalyst for what would become Australia's most significant effort in MS genetics research.

2007

Major Australian Research Council Linkage Grant "Identifying genes that influence clinical course and susceptibility in MS" approved and (together with funds from the Trish MS Research Foundation and John T Reid Charitable Trusts), Ausgene was born.

"This grant, and the research opportunities that it opens up, would not have happened without the large donation from the Trish Foundation and the qenerosity and efforts of the many people who work so hard in Trish's memory. The research community is deeply indebted to the Trish Foundation."

## Professor Graeme Stewart AM, Westmead Millennium Institute



July 30 2007 A remarkable day in the history of MS research.

Professor Graeme Stewart and Dr David Booth's 2003 identification of the role of IL-7R in MS was confirmed with publication in prestigious scientific journals.

"It took the size (and funding) of the overseas experiments and confirmation by results in multiple countries to make this finding internationally accepted."

## Professor Graeme Stewart AM, Westmead Millennium Institute

Natalie Payne awarded a Postgraduate Research Scholarship to conduct a cutting-edge research project at Monash University under the supervision of Professor Claude Bernard.

Trish Foundation underwrites and provides the initial \$100,000 funding for establishment of the MS Brain Bank, following which the NSW Government announced a contribution of \$500,000.

"The Trish Foundation support, helped us convince the NSW Government of the great merit of this project."

# Executive Director, MS Research Australia Jeremy Wright

ANZgene Consortium, at this time made up of more than 40 investigators from 11 institutions in Australia and New Zealand, discovers two new locations of 2009 genes, their findings being published in the prestigious journal Nature Genetics.

"This is a significant discovery."

# Professor Jim Wiley, Chairman of the ANZgene Consortium

Professor John Prineas AO, winner of the Multiple Sclerosis International Federation's prestigious biennial Charcot Award for a lifetime achievement in research, and Dr Michael Barnett develop an exciting new method to study proteins from brain tissue, specifically targeting MS lesions. Having produced better than expected preliminary results, additional funding from the Trish Foundation was approved for this important Research Project. The Trish Foundation is proud and honoured to have funded Professor Prineas, a distinguished and eminent scientist in 2009-2010.



Having been awarded the inaugural Betty Cuthbert Fellowship, partly funded by the Trish Foundation, Dr Helmut Butzkueven is a recipient of further funding for 2010 two years, focusing on the molecule Dab2, produced by an immune cell type called macrophages.

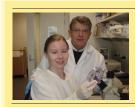
Natalie Payne completes her Postgraduate Research Scholarship. Her research has been extraordinarily successful and she has already made a significant contribution to Australian MS research, despite being in the early stages of her career.

The National Health and Medical Research Council approves funding of projects commencing 2010, totalling almost \$3 million. Projects totalling almost \$2 million are follow-up research of projects to which the Trish Foundation originally contributed and which achieved such positive outcomes that the NHMRC approved additional funding to further progress this important research.

Breaking news 11 August 2011. In one of the largest human genetic studies ever undertaken, scientists identified the major common genetic variants that contribute to the cause of MS. The results of the study were published in the prestigious scientific journal, Nature. They represent years of work by the International Multiple Sclerosis Genetics Consortium involving more than 250 researchers in 15 countries. Australian scientists played a significant role and more than 1000 Australians with MS contributed DNA samples. Given one gene had been discovered by 2006 and researchers have now confirmed 57 genes associated with MS, these are landmark discoveries and it is an honour that the Trish Foundation originally contributed to ANZgene and to these findings.

Trish Foundation joins forces with the MS Society of WA to provide funding to initiate a world-first clinical trial of Vitamin D for the prevention of MS. This exciting Project could not proceed without these contributions and will be the first in the world with the power to prove that Vitamin D is a safe and effective method for preventing MS.

2012



Dr Natalie Payne and her supervisor, Professor Claude Bernard Patient recruitment begins for the much-awaited PrevANZ Vitamin D MS Prevention trial. "We are very grateful to all at the Trish Foundation for choosing to support this important trial."

# Dr Lisa Melton, Research Development Manager, MS Research Australia

Trish Foundation's PhD Scholar, Dr Natalie Payne working in Professor Claude Bernard's laboratory at Monash University, makes a significant contribution, discovering with her team that stem cells derived from fat tissue are more effective in reaching the brain and spinal cord in a mouse model of MS than stem cells from bone marrow. Professor Bernard was a recipient in the Trish Foundation's inaugural round of funding in 2002.

Made possible by extremely generous support, four new MS Research Projects commencing January 2013 announced.

Landmark genetics study uncovers 48 new MS genes, adding to the 57 genes confirmed in 2011. Remarkable progress to which the Trish Foundation contributed. 
'Multiplier' effect continues to make an impact with Researchers previously funded by the Trish Foundation being awarded Grants in the National Health and Medical Research Council funding for 2013.

Gratitude expressed to generous Sponsors, donors and supporters, enabling the Trish Foundation to announce funding of two Project Grants, a Postgraduate Research Scholarship and three Incubator Grants.

Professor Michael Pender and colleagues, University of Queensland publish promising results for secondary progressive patient. This work, to which the Trish Foundation contributed, is vitally important for the development of new therapies aimed at preventing and treating MS by controlling EBV infection.

Tremendous progress achieved by MS scientists funded by the Trish Foundation and the announcement of four new MS Research Projects commencing January 2015

Following funding by the Trish Foundation, Professor Trevor Kilpatrick, Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health Victoria, awarded a highly competitive grant from National MS Society of USA.

Trish Foundation thrilled and honoured to announce co-funding of two MS Research Projects with the National Health and Medical Research Council, as well as three other Research Projects, all with promising outcomes.

Nerve growth factor known as brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) found to promote myelination by activating different receptors on the surface of myelin-producing cells (oligodendrocytes) by Trish Foundation funded researchers.

Australian scientists discover a blood biomarker for multiple sclerosis, hailed as one of the most significant advances in understanding MS. The research effort was led by Dr Edwin Lim and Professor Gilles Guillemin, Macquarie University. The world-first research was published in the prestigious scientific journal Nature Scientific Reports. The Foundation contributed to Dr Lim's Research and is honoured to be associated with this breakthrough and to be a funding partner.

Two project grants awarded to outstanding, emerging MS research leaders, Dr Tobias Merson, Monash University, Melbourne, and Dr Kaylene Young at the Menzies Institute for Medical Research, Tasmania. A Postgraduate Research Scholarship and two Incubator Grants also awarded.



Dr Edwin Lim and Professor Gilles Guillemin, Winners inaugural Trish MS Research Award

2018



Hon Barry O'Farrell AO and Dr Brendan Nelson AO, Winners Trish MS Research Award Trish Foundation contributes to four Research Projects targeted specifically for progressive MS by eminent MS Scientists, as well as Project Grant, 'What Role do Natural Killer Cells play in MS?'. The gold-standard world first clinical trial PrevANZ, to which the Trish Foundation contributed seed funding in 2011, continues to work closely with the medical community and has enrolled 75% of the target participants.

Dr Tobias Merson, Monash University funded by the Trish Foundation in 2017 and 2018 successfully secures over \$1 million from the NHMRC to expand his work.

Trish MS Research Award presented to Foundation's Joint Patrons, Dr Brendan Nelson AO and Hon Barry O'Farrell AO.

2019

"I would like to thank you very much for your vital contribution to MS research. The first grant I won in Australia was from the Trish Foundation. It underpinned everything I subsequently did in MS research, to the point of our three new therapeutic approaches. Funded by the Trish Foundation.

THANK YOU!! for your incredible efforts."

#### Professor David Booth, Westmead Institute for Medical Research

Foundation is the recipient of two large bequests enabling the calling of applications for Trish Translational Research Grants.

Announcement of five promising new MS Research Projects.

Supported by the Trish Foundation, A/Prof Peter Crouch and Dr James Hilton, University of Melbourne, generate promising data revealing the role of copper and attract exciting International collaborations.

 $Trish\ MS\ Research\ Award\ presented\ to\ extraordinarily\ generous\ supporters,\ Sue\ and\ Doug\ Meredith,\ DMC\ Digital.$ 



Extraordinarily generous supporters, Sue and Doug Meredith, DMC Digital, Winners Trish MS Research Award

2020



"Potential game-changer" Dr Steven Petratos Announcement of three Trish Translational Research Grants which will facilitate translational pre-clinical and clinical research by a collaborative, multi-disciplinary team working on a project with a clearly articulated pathway to clinical application.

Funding also announced of 'top up' funding of a Postgraduate Research Scholarship being funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council, a Project Grant and two Incubator Grants.

Dr Steven Petratos, funded in the Foundation's inaugural round of funding in 2002, as well as in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 announces a potential game-changer for MS patients. Dr Petratos was awarded one of the Trish Translational Research Grants commencing this year.