



ST VINCENT'S  
HOSPITAL  
MELBOURNE

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*St Vincent's Cares.*  
ALWAYS HAS.  
ALWAYS WILL.

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RESEARCH  
YEAR IN FOCUS  
2018

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

**At the centre of all medical advancement stands groundbreaking and innovative health and medical research, aimed at providing the highest level of care to all.**

The commitment of St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne to research from bench to bedside and back again, underpins our commitment to providing 'innovative care, enabling hope' to our community. Our research encompasses all aspects of health care; including early models of disease, new treatment options, and the development of new ways of delivering care, and then embedding these important developments into our health care facilities and programs.

This snapshot provides an overview of the achievements and activities of our clinicians, researchers, and scientists across the year. Within St Vincent's, the ACMD Research Week provides opportunity for our researchers to present their own work and also discover others' novel research projects, and to hear from Australian leaders in research in development areas. In the Annual Research Endowment Fund grants, almost \$900,000 was distributed to support over 40 projects across a wide range of clinical areas and disciplines. We have continued to build our broader collaborations, with important partnerships with CCRM Australia, MTPConnect, Melbourne Academic Centre for Health, the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre and other local, national and international groups. Through participation in symposia, roundtables, forums and peak body committees, St Vincent's advocates for the importance of ongoing growth and support for the vibrant Australian health and medical research sector.

I am delighted to present to you this Year in Focus, showcasing yet another excellent year spent innovating, learning and achieving outstanding research goals at St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne.

**Dr Megan Robertson**  
Director of Research  
St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne


 **124**  
PHD STUDENTS

 **48**  
OTHER HIGHER DEGREE RESEARCH



## INTERNAL COLLABORATION IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT AS EXTERNAL COLLABORATION

Working closely with the St Vincent's Hospital Sydney Research Office, with support from the St Vincent's Health Australia (SVHA) Board's Education and Research Subcommittee, Research Directorate organised the SVHA's Inaugural Research Forum. This brought together senior researchers across SVHA with the aim of improving collaboration and alignment between the organisations in the field of research.

 **\$122,277,596**  
RESEARCH GRANTS RECEIVED  
WITH COLLABORATORS

## THE VICTORIAN CLINICAL TRIALS GATEWAY GOES GLOBAL AT BIO2018

The Victorian Clinical Trials Gateway was launched at St Vincent's by The Hon. Philip Dalidakis, former Victorian Minister for Trade and Investment and the Digital Economy in March. With support from the Victorian Government, this project provides a single point of access and information for international sponsors and start-ups wishing to undertake clinical trials in Victoria. The Gateway facilitates industry alliances and connections through a directory of trusted advisor listings ([www.victrials.com.au](http://www.victrials.com.au)) and was promoted at the BIO2018 meeting in Boston, and subsequently translated and used by various delegates at BIO China. The Gateway is now available online in English, Mandarin and Korean.

## HOSTING INBOUND TRADE MISSIONS TO SHOWCASE SVHM AND BIOFAB 3D LAB

The Research Directorate continues to work closely with State and Federal departments of Health and Innovation supporting inbound trade missions by hosting numerous visits throughout the year, including:

- Dr Michael May, CEO of the Centre for Commercialisation of Regenerative Medicine (CCRM) from Toronto;
- Nathan Elia, Victorian Government Business Officer (VGBO) North America and Dr Sky Gross VGBO, Israel with regards to ongoing clinical trial development and growing business and innovation links through the VGBO networks;
- Jasmine Lu, Victorian Trade Director for China and Taiwan with discussion on research and clinical trials opportunities at SVHM;
- A delegation of 25 Shanghai Hospital CEOs to discuss SVHM strengths in health medical research and collaboration opportunities at SVHM;
- And a delegation of 10 startups from Singapore with support from Trade Victoria and Singapore Enterprise to discuss clinical trials opportunities at SVHM.

 **\$880,000**  
RESEARCH ENDOWMENT FUNDING

 **\$74,450,875**  
NHMRC & ARC GRANTS WITH COLLABORATORS



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the importance of ongoing  
growth and support for the  
vibrant Australian health and  
medical research sector*

# PRO-ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT VIA INDUSTRY FORUMS AND CONFERENCES

The Research Directorate team has been active within many industry forums and conferences as Chairs, Speakers or Panellists. SVHM research was promoted and represented at the following:

- The 3rd Annual AsiaPac Site Solutions Summit meeting in Melbourne
- The AusBiotech Conference in Brisbane to promote St Vincent’s Melbourne as a clinical trials site and the St Vincent’s Bridge program
- Chairing a session ‘Keys to Winning Clinical Trial Tenders in Australia’ at AusBioTech2018 promoting Research Valet Service and HREC
- Serving on the program committee chair, session chair speaking at the following meetings:
  - Inaugural Bio Connections Australia Conference on ‘Optimising Clinical Trials, Commercializing Great Science & Partnering for Growth’ in Melbourne
  - ‘Digital Strategy Innovation Summit’ in Sydney
  - ARCS Conference in Sydney
  - 4th Annual Medtech Conference in Melbourne





\$18,800,000

ACTIVE RESEARCH INCOME

## HREC MEETING EVERY FORTNIGHT IN 2019

Due to increasing demand for Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) reviews, SVHM HREC moves to meet every fortnight in 2019. The new arrangement for meeting frequency increases the flexibility and capacity for researchers and industry partners to submit their ethics application for a timely approval and rapid study start up.

St Vincent’s Hospital Melbourne HREC is one of the seven accredited HRECs in Victoria, under the National Mutual Acceptance Scheme that can review and approve for any sites, both public and private hospitals (except for Northern Territory). St Vincent’s HREC has deep experience and expertise in both biotechnology and medical devices including experience in Phase I and First-in-Human studies.



## NEW PARTNERS AND PROGRAMS

2018 saw a number of new strategic partnerships with industry collaborators, including:

- A collaboration with ShareRoot (ASX:SRO) to develop MediaConsent platform as a tool to improve the dynamics of clinical trial recruitment, patient engagement and understanding of patients’ health-related behaviour through the use of social media and the proper accompanying consent processes
- A partnership with the Actuator – Australia’s National MedTech Catalyst via a successful LaunchVic Health Startup Grant with the aim of scaling medtech innovation from Victorian Hospitals
- New Service Agreement with a number of pharmaceutical companies and CROs
- SVHM joined the Steering Committee of CT:IQ, a national initiative supported by MTPConnect to drive innovation in clinical trials in Australia
- SVHM joined the Centre for Commercialisation of Regenerative Medicine (CCRM) Australia as founding partner

*St Vincent’s Hospital Melbourne HREC is one of the seven accredited HRECs in Victoria and the only public HREC that meets every two weeks*



1

BOOK PUBLISHED



18

BOOK CHAPTERS PUBLISHED



856

PUBLICATIONS

# ACMD RESEARCH WEEK 2018

The 2018 Aikenhead Centre for Medical Discovery (ACMD) Research Week was held August 6th-10th with over 150 posters and excellent attendance at a broad range of lectures, symposia and events that brought together scientists, researchers and clinicians from across SVHM campus and partners from five universities and three medical research institutes. Highlights included:

- The opening Plenary Lecture delivered by Dr Drew Berry, the award winning Biomedical Animations Manager from the Walter Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research
- Plenary Lectures delivered by Dr C Glenn Begley, CEO BioCurate and former Vice President and Global Head of Haematology and Oncology Research at Amgen
- Keynote lecture delivered by Dr Linzi Wilson-Wilde OAM, Director of the National Institute of Forensic Science
- Allied Health Keynote address delivered by Prof Nick Taylor, Professor of Allied Health, Latrobe University and Eastern Health
- The ACMD Public Lecture on 'Fads and Phoneyes: How do we know what is real?' with a stellar line up of panellists including: Emma Burt (clinical trials participant), Dr Shalin Naik (Laboratory Head WEHI and ABC TV Series 'Ask the Doctor' presenter), Rod Quantock OAM (Comedian) and Professor David Russell (Gastroenterologist, Melbourne Health) which was facilitated by the award winning journalist Dr Gael Jennings

- The ACMD Art Prize was popular in its fifth year running with open entry for Australian artists to produce a wall-based art work to respond to the theme Art in Science and Science in Art
- New initiatives including:
  - The first Young Investigators' Forum, facilitated by Prof Simon Moulton, Professor of Biomedical Electromaterials Science, Swinburne University and the '3 Minute Thesis Competition' for the Melbourne Medical School Scholarly Selective Students
  - Collaboration with the Convergence Science Network to host the BioFab 3D Lab Tours open to the public
  - Supported by the Australian National Science Week Grant, The BioFab3D team and PlayReactive produced a play on Robots – RU2020 based on the Czech writer Karel Čapek's play R.U.R. (Rossum's Universal Robots, 1920), which first introduced the word 'robot' to the world.

*The ACMD will be  
Australia's first  
hospital-based biomedical  
engineering facility*

# THE AIKENHEAD CENTRE FOR MEDICAL DISCOVERY:

Innovation at the intersection of  
Medicine, Engineering, Technology  
and Industry

## The Aikenhead Centre for Medical Discovery will be Australia's first hospital-based bio-engineering innovation hub.

Located at St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne within a tertiary health care service, the ACMD will fuse medicine, engineering, technology and industry to yield powerful patient, healthcare and economic outcomes that benefit the whole community.

Aligning the diverse clinical and research strengths of St Vincent's, five internationally recognised universities and four renowned medical research institutes in a purpose built centre, the ACMD will become a reality thanks to commitment by both the State and Federal Governments.

The State Government's commitment to allocate \$60 million, first announced in 2014, in conjunction with \$30 million from the Federal Government will allow the \$180 million ACMD project to commence, and help cement Victoria's reputation as a national leader in the field of medical research. Private philanthropy and commercial partners will complete the required funding for the project.

ACMD has already produced ground-breaking medical innovations, but the new 11-storey building has the potential to accelerate the centre's work to another level.

ACMD will be a unique facility in Australia, where engineers, scientists and developers as well as commercial biomedical firms co-exist to design new approaches to current and painfully real patient problems.

Based at a major tertiary hospital, projects and outcomes with clinical application and impact are able to be rapidly translated into the health system at St Vincent's and then be shared nationally and internationally.

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The Research Directorate Team



# CONTACT US

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*St Vincent's acknowledges the  
traditional owners of the land,  
the members of the Kulin nations*

We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present. St Vincent's continues to develop our relationship with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and are proud to be acknowledged as a centre of excellence for health care for Indigenous Australians.

