

Life changing research to roll-out after Menzies over performs on the National stage

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Eight critical projects led by researchers from the Menzies School of Health Research (Menzies), have secured significant funding from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

Australia's peak body for supporting health and medical research, the NHMRC made the announcement today. The unparalleled number and the success of the Menzies' project grants is a testament to the high quality of the organisation and its researchers.

Currently celebrating its 30th Anniversary, Menzies has made many health advancements throughout its history including a 30% reduction in malaria related deaths in Papua Indonesia, significantly reducing skin disease infection in Indigenous communities and advancing the global response for antibiotic resistance.

According to Menzies Director, Professor Alan Cass this latest stream of funding will bring many more achievements.

"We're about discovery – identifying the critical health issues and finding ways to tackle them. Through our research, based on good science, we are breaking the cycle of disease and disadvantage," Prof Cass said.

"This funding will support Menzies to continue to make advancements and bring together researchers, practitioners, government, health and community organisations to improve the quality of life for people living in Australia and across South-East Asia," he said.

NHMRC announced funding for project grants, partnership projects, early career fellowships, Translating Research into Practice (TRIP) Fellowships and career development fellowships. In addition to the eight project grants, Menzies received support for five early career fellowships and one TRIP Fellowship.

Professor Cass said NHMRC fellowships are only awarded to researchers who are extremely productive and positioned to effectively grow their research work to bring about change.

"It is fantastic that Menzies researchers secured this highly competitive fellowship funding - it will give the researchers certainty to continue their career in science and medical research, as well as helping Menzies to retain highly skilled staff," Professor Cass said.

Adding to this success, Menzies has been recently selected by NHMRC as one of three teams across Australia to receive funding from the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases Scheme. The funding will go towards improving the management of diabetes in pregnancy in remote Australia.

Receiving this high number of grants from such a reputable body as the NHMRC is wonderful news for Menzies research teams working at the frontline of healthcare research and delivery to address critical issues in Indigenous and global and tropical health.

Project grants

Chief Investigator Associate Professor David Thomas – using social media to enhance Indigenous tobacco control.

Chief Investigator Dr Kylie Dingwall – improving wellbeing for Chronic Kidney Disease: A Trial of the Aboriginal and Islander Mental Health Initiative Stay Strong App.

Chief Investigator Professor Bart Currie – Darwin Prospective Melioidosis Study: Years 27 – 31.

Chief Investigator Professor Nick Anstey – targeting microvascular dysfunction in severe malaria.

Chief Investigator Associate Professor Steve Tong – reducing the prevalence of skin sores and scabies to reduce the burden of the disease these cause in the community.

Chief Investigator Professor Anne Chang – an intervention study to improve treatment of community-acquired pneumonia in Indigenous children and in Malaysia.

Chief Investigator Dr Kim Hare – this world-first research will investigate the two main bacteria associated with lung infections in Indigenous children to inform vaccine schedules and treatment guidelines.

Chief Investigator Dr Selma Liberato – a study to improve dietary intake of Indigenous Australian children and their families through a school based intervention.

Fellowships

Associate Professor Gail Garvey – this Early Career Fellowship will support Gail to continue her research on improving health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians with cancer.

Dr Susan Pizzutto – in her Early Career Fellowship, Susan will focus her research on understanding the causes of the ever increasing number of children with chronic respiratory disorders.

Dr Janya McCalman – in this Early Career Fellowship, Janya will work with health services in far north Queensland to develop a toolkit to assist in enhanced quality of adolescent mental health services.

Dr Anna Ralph – in this TRIP Fellowship, Anna will address strategies to translate Rheumatic Fever prevention into practice in Australia. Anna is the first to be awarded this prestigious fellowship in the Northern Territory.

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Menzies Background

Menzies School of Health Research is one of Australia's leading Medical Research Institute dedicated to improving Indigenous health and wellbeing. We have a 30 year history of scientific discovery and public health achievement. Menzies partners with over 60 Indigenous communities across Northern and Central Australia and in the Asian Pacific region. We collaborate to create resources, grow local skills and find enduring solutions to problems that matter.