

Canterbury Medical Research Foundation

Research Saves Lives

Research News December 2017

Wine & Art Auction 2017

On Saturday 28th October, CMRF welcomed guests to its 24th annual Wine & Art Auction. It was wonderful to see many who attend year-on-year, together with new supporters from some of the city's most high profile businesses.

We gathered this year to celebrate the work of Professor Steve Chambers in the subject of the potentially fatal disease of Legionella, which lurks within our soil, compost heaps and in commercial potting mix. With Christchurch known as the "Garden City", our incidence rates are particularly high; something that Professor Chambers and his team would like to change through extra safety measures and a public awareness campaign.

Guests were treated to bubbles on arrival, together with the soothing sounds of the Aoraki String Quartet, as people mixed and mingled whilst viewing works from some of the finest artists around New Zealand.

When entering the dining room the pace picked up with music from Caleb Isaacs and the tables looking divine after the ladies from the Canterbury Flower Arrangers Association worked their floral-fusion magic.

Chairman Mike Stenhouse reminded us all of the milestones CMRF has achieved with the support of businesses, individuals, trusts and bequests received during the year. More than \$25 million has been invested in medical research since CMRF's beginnings. Mike also thanked Professor Margaret Vissers; who has stepped down as the Chair of our Scientific Assessment Committee. This committee is vitally important to guide the CMRF Board regarding where publicly-raised funds will make the greatest impact.

Professor Chambers gave us interesting insights into his research and then it was the turn of award-winning auctioneer and MC, Phil McGoldrick came to the stage with gavel in-hand to kick the auction off.

The room was electric as the bidding escalated to set new records for artworks and holiday packages. Phil was ably assisted by his brother Mark and son Tim, both expert auctioneers in their own right.



Professor Chambers and team



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Guests were treated to a lovely dinner while the Charles Wiffen wines flowed freely as our generous donors continued to raise their hands to bid. Some of our top selling items came from artists, Raymond Jennings, Bryan L'Estrange and Philip Beadle. Complementing the line-up was a large range of collectable wines, jewellery, glass-art, holidays and luxury experiences. In total \$163,000 was raised on the night, a new record high for this event. CMRF will be presenting Prof Stephen Chambers with his cheque at our Christmas function in the coming weeks, which will provide a big boost to his project.

As we wrap up our events calendar for 2017, we thank all who have been involved. Special mention must be given to Dr Bala Patel, Charles & Sandi Wiffen, Dr Marcel & Mel Brew, Prof Ivan & Chris Donaldson, Felton Road Wines, Two Paddocks Wines and artist Llew Summers, all of whom have been very generous with donating items, their time and expertise for more than a decade.

We look forward to hosting the 25th (yes, quarter of a century!) Wine & Art Auction at the Rydges Latimer Christchurch, on Saturday 27th October 2018. We hope you can attend to contribute to its ongoing success.

A Christmas Message from the CEO

I swear that every year, the Christmas season arrives sooner. Everywhere I go, people are saying “where did the year go?”. I remember a time when things slowed down around the same time as the A&P Show and there was a gentle slide into Christmas. Nowadays it seems everyone is rushing more at this time of the year than any other.

2017 has been a great year for the Foundation and for our subsidiary NZ Brain Research Institute.

With a record amount raised at the Wine & Art Auction, great events for the NZBRI in the form of Opera meets Art and the FBI Charity Golf Day and a large number of funded projects completing and publishing their results, we can say 2017 has been a big success.



Foundations such as ours are truly a ‘team game’. With so many stakeholders, the Foundation has many moving parts that must work together to achieve our goals. From the staff in the office, to the Board who give so freely of their time and expertise. Our loyal and generous donors to the dozens of dedicated researchers we support. From the Universities we have such a close partnership with, to Christchurch Hospital, our partners developing the Health Precinct, national funders and international collaborators, all play a vital part in our work.

As I look out my window each day, I see the cranes hovering above the new Outpatients facility and the new Health Research Educational Facility (HREF) and I’m reminded how far we’ve come as a city, since that dreadful day of the quake in 2011. Whilst some are still fighting for their homes etc, I take great comfort when I see the central city rising again, with great buildings and a real sense of excitement about the “New Christchurch”.

I’m sure we all eagerly await the completion of the new Health Precinct as a collaborative space where great ideas and expertise are shared without boundaries. This for me, typifies the new entrepreneurial feel to our city and I believe that Christchurch is poised to become a hub of research activity and innovation into the future.

We’re looking forward to being a part of that excitement.

Merry Christmas to all our supporters. May your home have peace and joy and your heart be full.

Kate Russell
Chief Executive

Researcher Profile – Dr Khoon Lim

Our Major Projects round this year yielded a diverse group of projects that we will be funding in 2018 and 2019.

Dr Khoon Lim's project **"Engineering Cartilage Constructs using 3D Bioassembly"** scored highly with the Scientific Assessment Committee and holds real excitement for translational science in the orthopaedic area.

Khoon is originally from Malaysia, but completed his undergrad, masters and PhD in Australia. He tells us he has always been interested by both chemistry and biology, and was looking for subjects that combine both disciplines.

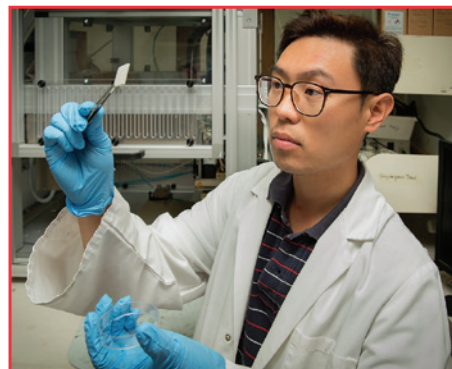
As part of his education, he did a double degree in chemical engineering and biomedical engineering, and was introduced to the field of biomaterials. The idea of designing different kinds of polymers to aid tissue regeneration, which might one day help solve current issues with organ transplantation is fascinating, and got him hooked onto research.

Khoon's career has been exciting so far, where he's been working with people from multidisciplinary backgrounds ranging from polymer chemistry, molecular biology, engineering, clinicians and surgeons. Khoon tells us that it's the collective team expertise and experience that helps move the projects forward. There are of course challenging times when experiments don't work out and research grants get turned down, but it's the passion for science that keeps scientists continuing with research.

Khoon is currently working on developing new biomaterials that can be used as "bioinks" for 3D bioprinting of living tissue. Just like any other printers that need inks, a 3D bioprinter also requires bioinks that contain cells, growth factors and proteins required to construct a functional tissue. Designing that bioink is what he's working on at the moment, and for a number of tissue engineering applications such as cartilage, bone, vascularization and also cancer.

In the future he wants to make 3D bioprinting of living functional tissues a reality. "Imagine how cool would it be if you can walk into a clinic/hospital, requesting a new organ, that can be printed on the spot. It has always been featured in sci-fi films and regarded as futuristic, but it actually might not be too far away." he says.

We wish Khoon every success with his leading-edge research.



Golf Day

CMRF and the Cancer Society Canterbury – West Coast Division, are on a crusade against cancer and we'd love you to help us with our mission.

By combining the power of our two long-standing and respected charities, we're hosting a charity golf tournament at Russley Golf Course, on Friday 16th March. You don't need to be an expert on the greens; we'll provide a fun day out with good food, wine and a chance to win some fab prizes.

There are many opportunities for you to help; donate a prize or auction item, get a corporate team together showcase your business, or simply grab a group of friends to play and enjoy a Friday afternoon off work while we still have some good weather!

We want to provide "Help for today and hope for tomorrow". The proceeds from this inaugural event will be divided equally between both charities. The Cancer Society Canterbury – West Coast Division will support patients with cancer today, by providing transport to attend vital medical appointments, while the Canterbury Medical Research Foundation will support bowel cancer research by Professor Frank Frizelle in the hope of better health outcomes in the future.

You can download the registration form from www.cmrf.org.nz or contact Caroline on 353 1245 or caroline@cmrf.org.nz for more details on how you can show your support and help us in our crusade against cancer.



Ray Newton

Organisations and causes such as ours rarely find their feet without the vision and sheer force of will of a few committed individuals. Ray Newton was one such person.

Ray was one of a small group of original founders of CMRF alongside Athol Mann and Professor Don Beaven and was at the forefront of the Foundation's development all those years ago.

Always a staunch advocate for CMRF becoming an independent funder of medical research in Canterbury, as a result of his vision CMRF has grown since 1962 to fund more than \$27 million in local research initiatives and today we have assets of over \$15 million and fund well over \$1m each year in local research.

Ray's understanding of the link between the quality of research in the community and the quality of patient care is just as true today as it was in 1962. He served on our Executive until 1997 and continued to attend events and AGMs until very recently, always keenly interested in our activities.

Ray was a true gentleman who was always unfailingly polite, courteous and impeccably turned out... Our NZBRI Director of Research says that it was always with a sense of trepidation that one might take a casual Friday in case Ray might arrive and notice that standards are slipping!

Emeritus Professor Athol Mann

Like Ray, Athol was one of our 'Founding Fathers' and was at the genesis of the Foundation in the early years.

A staunch supporter of the Foundation and Board member of the Wellington Medical Research Foundation in his latter years, Athol has been responsible for furthering the careers of hundreds of kiwi researchers over the years as well as having a stellar career himself.

Athol Mann was the Dean of the Commerce Faculty for 10 years from 1987, and in 1986 received a CMG for service to the accountancy profession, the arts and the community.

Our sincere condolences to both families and thanks for the huge contribution these two wonderful gentlemen made to our Foundation.



Board Appointment

The CMRF Board is delighted to welcome new Board member, Mike Laney to the team. As a consultant gynaecologist, Mike brings a wealth of knowledge and experience from the medical perspective to the CMRF Board.

Born in Oamaru in 1947, educated at Waitaki Boys High School, Mike's early years were characterised by his achievement in sport as captain of both the first fifteen and the athletics Team. Undertaking his postgraduate study at Christchurch Hospital and Oxford University, Mike gained his specialist qualification at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, London in 1978.

While working in the United Kingdom, Michael developed an interest in the surgical management of gynaecological cancer.



Mike Laney

He played a significant part in the establishment of the Gynae/Oncology Centre in Christchurch, which is now the tertiary referral centre for gynaecological malignancies for the South Island.

Michael's other major interest has been the development of advanced endoscopic surgical techniques through hysteroscopic and laparoscopic surgery. He has been able to combine his interests in advanced endoscopic surgery and gynaecological malignancy so that much of his surgical work in the field of gynaecological cancer is now carried out laparoscopically.

Michael teamed up with John Doig to raise funds for establishing the South Island's first In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) unit at Christchurch Women's Hospital. The unit opened on 27 April 1991 and continues to successfully serve the South Island population.

In 1996 Michael helped to establish Oxford Women's Health (then known as Oxford Clinic).

Along with his colleagues at Oxford Women's Health, Michael helped to develop the Endometriosis Centre. This service provides medical and surgical management for New Zealand women with endometriosis.

Michael graduated from Otago University Medical School in 1972. He worked in Christchurch and then the UK before returning to Christchurch in 1980 as Tutor Specialist in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Christchurch Women's Hospital.

Michael's recreational interests include competitive motorsport, mountain biking, road cycling, tennis and golf.

Great speakers for your club or association

The Foundation, along with the NZ Brain Research Institute, has a team of entertaining and interesting speakers available to speak at your Service Club, Association or smaller groups such as ladies luncheons or small business groups. The team includes Chief Executive Kate Russell, Research Director Dr Michael MacAskill, Parkinson's Lead Researcher Professor Tim Anderson and a list of our currently and previously-funded researchers from both Otago and Canterbury Universities.



If you would like to book us to come as your next speaker, please call Kate on 353 1243 or email kate@cmrf.org.nz

A farewell and a welcome

In October we farewelled Kimberly from the CMRF office. Kim has been the friendly first point of contact for many supporters for eight years. Kim joined us at the tender age of just 18, straight out of school under the old 'Taskforce Green' scheme and has been a wonderful administrator for our team since then. Thank you Kim for all you've done and we wish you every success in your future career.



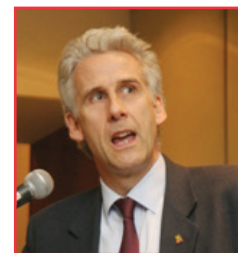
Replacing Kimberly, we have Aleisha Woods, who joined us in late November. Aleisha has spent the past few years in a variety of administrative roles. She has three children ranging from 15 years old to just one, which must keep her very busy outside of work! We are sure if you have occasion to call the CMRF office you will join us in welcoming Aleisha to the CMRF family.



Don Beaven Travelling Fellow

Watch out in the New Year for a date for a special lecture by visiting Stroke Care and Rehabilitation specialist, Professor Peter Langhorne, who is our 2018 Don Beaven Travelling Fellow.

Peter Langhorne is Professor of stroke care at the University of Glasgow and based at the Academic Section of Geriatric Medicine, Glasgow Royal Infirmary. He trained in geriatric and general medicine in Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow.



Peter is the coordinating editor of the Cochrane Stroke Group and together with colleagues in physiotherapy, OT and speech therapy has promoted evidence-based practice in stroke rehabilitation.

He has authored and co-authored more than 200 scientific articles on cerebrovascular diseases in journals such as Stroke, Cerebrovascular Diseases, Lancet, the Age and Ageing, and the British Medical Journal.

We will be holding a free public lecture on February 1st at 6pm at the Rolleston Lecture Theatre, University of Otago, Christchurch so look out on our events page for announcements.

<https://www.cmrf.org.nz/Events/>

YES, I WISH TO SUPPORT THE CANTERBURY MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

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*If you would like to make a donation to the CMRF by internet banking, please deposit your gift to: CMRF Account number: 010797 0530278 00
Please note your last name and "donation" in the reference line and if you would like a receipt,
please email your details to caroline@cmrf.org.nz or call us on 353 1240*

All donations over \$5 will receive a tax deduction receipt. If you do not wish to receive mail from us, please email kate@cmrf.org.nz



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