

Spinnaker News

March 2022

Pioneering excellence for better health, together

2022 Annual Award Recipients Announced

In November 2021 we once again gathered at the Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle to announce the recipients of the 2022 Spinnaker Grants. **This year we have given away a record number of grants valued at over \$250,000...because of you, our wonderful donors!**

It was again a tremendous opportunity to bring our researchers and donors together and celebrate the amazing work that is happening at our hospitals. We also had the opportunity to hear from Prof Nina Tirnitz-Parker who was awarded a \$15,000 Spinnaker Seed Grant in 2010 to better understand chronic liver disease. Her research has now gone on to attract a further \$11,000,000 in funding, and she has had continuous NHMRC funding for her research since 2012 – simply astonishing! Nina is now Deputy Domain Lead for Cancer

and the Program Lead for Liver Cancer at the Curtin Health Innovation Research Institute (CHIRI), and Head of the Liver Disease and Regeneration Group in the Curtin Medical School at Curtin University. **She is also testimony to the power of investing in pioneering ideas that can change our world.**



Prof Nina Tirnitz-Parker

Our thanks are extended to the dedicated Scientific Advisory Committee who voluntarily commit

many hours to the important work of assessing the grants via a competitive and rigorous process.

This year we were able to award four Early Career Research Grants and four Seed Grants as well as an additional three grants made possible by new donors to Spinnaker. **A partnership with Edith Cowan University has allowed us to establish the bi-annual, \$60,000 Explorers Grant and the tireless efforts of the Janine Chalwell Committee meant we were able to award two new grants for melanoma research.** A \$25,000 grant will support a new and novel research innovation for melanoma treatment and diagnosis while the \$50,000 annual Janine Chalwell Gift will underpin a significant project that will seek to discover new methodologies in the fight against this deadly disease, which is more prevalent in WA than anywhere else in the world. Congratulations to all of our recipients and a big thank you from them all to you...we couldn't do it without you!

See page 3 for a full list of recipients



2022 Grant Recipients

A message from the CEO



I recently had the privilege of celebrating my 50th birthday; a milestone in life I have long looked forward to. My mother passed away very suddenly at age 48 due to an aggressive and undiagnosed brain tumour and I always had a nagging fear that I wouldn't make it much further than that too. She was a tenacious, courageous and

driven woman with an astonishing talent for art. At eighteen she studied fine arts at art school; an ambition cut short by an early pregnancy and subsequent progression into motherhood as she settled into family life. I was still only young when she decided to train to be a teacher and, as she did with everything, she threw herself in wholeheartedly, achieving an outstanding career fed by a passion for the developing brain.

Mum had a plan to retire as a teacher and return to her beloved art when she turned 50; but sadly that dream would not come true.

As I watch the chaos of the world unfurl around us; COVID finally

catching up with us, the conflict in Ukraine; an unprecedented summer of heat, fires and floods fueled by climate change; I still can't help but be glad to be alive. Not just alive, but living a good life, in good health, in good company, in service to my community and with what I hope will be many happy years stretching before me.

The gift of health can never be overstated and should never be undervalued. At 50, I am grateful

Dana Henderson, CEO
Dana.Henderson@health.wa.gov.au

Introducing new team member Sarah!

We are so excited to introduce you to our new Partnerships Development Manager, Sarah Taylor, and know you will all join us in welcoming her to the team.

Sarah started at Spinnaker late last year and is already making a big impression on our Spinnaker friends and family. She will be helping us achieve some of our big ambitions

this year including funding for the Spinnaker Prize which we announced in December. The Spinnaker Prize will be a game changer for our hospitals, investing in innovations that will make our hospitals the very best in Australia.

I am sure she would love to hear from you and can be contacted on 0422 609 997.

Sarah with her beloved nanny



Thank you Telethon!

We are so incredibly excited to share the news that we were awarded a grant of \$35,000 from Channel Seven Telethon Trust to purchase a Fibroscan for Fiona Stanley Hospital in support of early intervention health research for children in WA.

The Fibroscan S+ probe is Western Australia's first for children and will support early interventions for fatty liver and fibrosis in children. The Fibroscan will be shared between Fiona Stanley Hospital and Cockburn Integrated Community Health and involve research at all of WA's

universities to maximise health outcomes for our children.

Fatty liver is one of the early markers in long-term health problems such as Type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and chronic liver disease. Telethon has funded the purchase of a Fibroscan probe for measuring the amount of fat in the liver of overweight and obese children with 25% of children in south metropolitan Perth being classified as overweight by age 5. **Using this technology, children with severe fatty liver will be identified early and**

would benefit from interventions to achieve a healthy body weight, reduce their liver fat, and live a healthier life.

It is exciting to see this research happening at FSH, and we look forward to seeing the outcomes and findings of Dr Shailender Mehta and Dr Koya Ayonrinde.

Proudly supported by
telethon

2022 Spinnaker Grants

Project Title	Chief Investigator	Donors
Septic shock and the gut microbiome in critically ill adults: A prospective cohort study	Dr Tess Evans Intensive Care Registrar, Fiona Stanley Hospital	SMHS Staff giving for Spinnaker Grant
The changing epidemiology of fatty liver in regional Australia - a cohort study	Dr Raj Uchila Consultant Gastroenterologist, SMHS	Len and Fran Mihaljevich
Stroke survivors and carers' experiences of modified constraint-induced movement therapy in an early-supported discharge rehabilitation service	Mr Ashan Weerakkody Senior Physiotherapist- Neurology/Stroke, SMHS	Fremantle Hospital Ladies Auxiliary
Dulaglutide or semaglutide and Vascular Inflammation in Coronary Ischaemia; a Positron Emission Tomography Study (DAVINI-PET)	Dr Nick Lan Trainee Registrar- Cardiology, Fiona Stanley Hospital	Austal Company and Staff
Identification of risk stratification and prognostic biomarkers by using the GeoMx digital spatial profiler for patients with Barrett's oesophagus	Dr Puraskar Pateria Consultant Gastroenterologist, Fiona Stanley Hospital	David Clegg
Acquisition of skin and gut microbiota in neonates born via water-birth (AQUA STUDY)	Prof Shailander Mehta Consultant Paediatric Neonatologist, Fiona Stanley Hospital	The Stan Perron Charitable Foundation
Determining factors that underpin cardiovascular disease risk in young adults with fatty liver diagnosed during adolescence ten years earlier – a longitudinal cohort study	Dr Oyekoya Ayonrinde Consultant Gastroenterologist, Fiona Stanley Hospital	The City of Cockburn
The use of AI in the analysis of video otoscopic images of the tympanic membrane to aid in the diagnosis of ear disorders – a pilot study	Dr Jafri Kuthubutheen ENT Consultant, SMHS	The Rotary Club of Fremantle and Attadale
Extracellular Vesicles Profiling as a Signature of Response to Immunotherapy	Dr Lydia Warburton Medical Oncology Consultant, Fiona Stanley Hospital	Janine Chalwell Innovation Grant 2022
Multimodal Liquid biopsy to Predict Response of Melanoma to Immuno-Oncology	A/Prof Elin Gray A/Prof of Cancer Research and Deputy Director of the ECU Strategic Research Centre for Precision Health	Janine Chalwell Gift 2022
The Effect of Dietary Resistant Starch on Maternal Glycaemia and the Gut Microbiome in Gestational Diabetes.	Mrs Cathy Latino Senior Dietitian, Fiona Stanley Hospital	ECU Spinnaker Explorers Grant 2022

New Bioprinter planned to tackle lung disease

One of the things we are most proud of at Spinnaker is our willingness to think big and invest in pioneering solutions to our most critical health issues.

Lung disease affects all sorts of people for a range of different reasons and is too often debilitating and life limiting. For the most severely impacted that can mean the need for a lung transplant. Waiting for a transplant in Western Australia can take a very long time due to a shortage of suitable organs and the difficulty of the transplant procedure.

While waiting, critically ill people

live in discomfort and with great restrictions, many confined to home due to the lack of a mobile oxygen system. Sadly, lung transplant is a temporary treatment, not a cure, and on average will only be effective for seven years.

When Prof Yuben Moodley suggested to us that a 3-D Bioprinter may have the capacity to print the infrastructure of lungs we were motivated to act. **Prof Moodley is proposing that we may be able to seed that infrastructure with stem cells and develop the capacity to mend damaged lungs, rather than replace them.** He has asked us to

raise the \$70,000 needed to purchase a Bioprinter so he can commence the research at Fiona Stanley Hospital. This is at the core of our mission to support innovative, ground breaking research and we are incredibly grateful to have already received a donation of \$10,000 to fund this exciting work. We look forward to sharing further news later in the year when we hope to have the Bioprinter installed and the research underway.

If you would like to make a contribution Yuben's research, or to learn more, please contact Sarah Taylor on the e-mail address below:

sarah.taylor5@health.wa.gov.au

Meet Cathy Latino, recipient of the 2022 ECU Spinnaker Explorers Grant

What does this Grant mean to you and your team?

The Edith Cowan University Spinnaker Explorers Grant will allow us to complete novel research into the effect of a high dietary intake of resistant starch on the blood glucose control of women with gestational diabetes. Resistant starch is a kind of dietary fibre that alters the gut microbiome and the chemicals that it produces. We believe that this alteration of the gut microbiome may facilitate improvements in maternal and offspring outcomes.

What does it mean for your patients?

If shown to be effective, this dietary strategy can be incorporated into practice immediately in Western Australia, with the aim of reducing the proportion of women who require insulin therapy to manage their gestational diabetes. We hope it will also allow for the mother to pass a healthier gut microbiome on to her infant, resulting in long term health benefits for both.

Anything else you would like to share?

I wish to convey my gratitude to Spinnaker Health Research Foundation and Edith Cowan University for this financial assistance to carry out this research.

Cathy Latino pictured below with Spinnaker Board Director Mark Balfour.



What are we up to....

2022 is going to be absolutely HUGE and we are determined to not let Omicron stop us! We are being as safe as we can be so we can keep going with the important job of raising money to fund important projects. Here are some of the things we want to achieve this year:

- Raise funds to match our \$250,000 investment in the Spinnaker Prize
- Launch the Pioneers Circle
- Get our travel grants up and running again with the extended partnership of Business Events Perth...thank you!
- Raising even more funds for melanoma research...we are a quarter of the way to our \$1,000,000 already!
- And getting ready for some very big announcements in the coming months

Can you help us get there? If you would like to hear more or discuss how you might be able to help us fund these important projects, you can call our CEO Dana on 0433 123 034. Or, **why not make a donation today...we really need your help!** You can return to form below, contact a member of our team or make an online donation using the details below.

DONATION FORM

Donate online at: www.spinnakerhealth.org.au/donate

THANK YOU. Your donation will support research that helps our community the most. Donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

I would like to make

- Single donation
 Recurring donation every:
_____ie week/month

I would like to give a gift of

- \$25 \$50 \$100
 \$250 \$500 \$1000
Other amount \$ _____

Please direct my gift to

- Where it's needed Melanoma Research
 Spinnaker Prize Bio-Printer

Personal details

Name _____ E-mail _____
Phone _____ Address _____
 I wish to remain anonymous My gift is in memory of _____

Please find enclosed my cash/cheque payable to Spinnaker Health Research Foundation or;

Please debit my donation to the approved credit card M/Card Visa Cardholder name: _____
Card number _____ Expiry Date _____ Signature _____

- I would not like to receive regular new, updates and invitations from Spinnaker
 I would like to receive information on how to make a gift in my Will to support Spinnaker

Please return this form to Spinnaker Health Research Foundation, PO Box 480, FREMANTLE WA 6959

Email: admin@spinnakerhealth.org.au **Phone:** 08 6152 6278