



Jillian Skinner
Minister for Health

MEDIA RELEASE

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\$39 MILLION TO ADVANCE NSW CANCER RESEARCH

The NSW Government will support emerging and groundbreaking cancer research with \$39 million in cancer research grants this year.

More than \$9.5 million will support the careers of cancer researchers, \$3.8 million will be invested in research infrastructure and \$25.9 million will support the state's translational cancer research centres to advance research from bench to bedside.

Health Minister Jillian Skinner said the grants - funded by the NSW Government through the Cancer Institute NSW - are vital to ensuring the state attracts and retains the best and brightest cancer researchers.

"Through this year's Future Research Leader program, we are see two outstanding senior researchers return from overseas, bringing with them a wealth of knowledge to establish substantial programs in cancer treatment and prevention," Mrs Skinner said.

"By having the best researchers here in NSW, we are ensuring that people with cancer have the best access to new and available treatments."

Cancer is now the leading cause of death among people with HIV. Future Research Leader recipient Dr Mark Polizzotto has returned from the USA's National Cancer Institute to take up a position at the University of NSW (UNSW), where he will establish a clinical trial program to prevent and treat HIV-associated cancers.

Fellow Future Research Leader Dr Mark Larance returns from the UK's University of Dundee to the University of Sydney to investigate how programs of intermittent fasting can assist with the prevention and treatment of cancer.

Among the Career Development Fellows, the University of Sydney's Dr Anne Cust - who first proved links between tanning beds and melanomas - is embarking on a new project to improve the disease's treatment and prevention. Early Career Fellows include Dr Elizabeth Hinde from UNSW, who is working on new delivery methods for DNA chemotherapeutics.

Chief Cancer Officer and CEO of the Cancer Institute NSW, Professor David Currow, said: "As our population ages, the number of people with cancer is increasing. In five years' time more than 53,000 people in NSW will be told 'you have cancer'.

"The Cancer Institute NSW is proud to fund this groundbreaking research as we know it is the foundation for better cancer treatments and will ultimately take us closer to our vision of ending cancers as we know them."