



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 13 September 2012

MINISTER AWARDS NSW MEDICAL RESEARCH GRANTS

Breakthroughs in the treatment of ovarian cancer, strokes and melanoma are just some of the benefits of increased funding grants for medical research institutes, the Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research, Jillian Skinner, said today.

Mrs Skinner today announced the latest round of grant recipients for the NSW Medical Research Support Program 2012-2016.

“The NSW Government is committed to fostering innovation in local medical research because of the wide range of benefits it has for patients and their families,” Mrs Skinner said.

“The NSW Government has allocated an extra \$5 million to boost the grants program, bringing the total commitment to \$37.3 million per year.

“This boost in funding will see \$150 million spent to boost medical research in NSW over the next four years.

“This funding commitment will allow researchers to get on with the job of conducting cutting-edge research to deliver better outcomes for patients and transform treatment options in our state’s hospitals,” Mrs Skinner said.

Mrs Skinner said the provision of grants will go a long way to help cover operational costs involved in developing and conducting world class research.

“Funding from the program has seen the development of new stroke therapies at the Hunter Medical Research Institute where researchers have discovered a highly effective clot-busting drug therapy. It has seen more than 70 per cent of patients experiencing ‘excellent or good recovery’ within three months of their stroke.

“The Westmead Millennium Institute for Medical Research, in collaboration with other research institutes, has developed a new drug that shrinks metastasised brain tumours in melanoma patients. This is a ground-breaking discovery in melanoma treatment.

“And The Garvan Institute has made a breakthrough in ovarian cancer detection that could lead to earlier and more effective detection of the disease.

“The NSW Government understands the life-changing difference medical research can make to the lives of patients and their families.

“I commend these researchers for the work they do and look forward to learning more about their successes and achievements over coming months,” Mrs Skinner said.

Assessed by an independent panel, 11 independent medical research institutes have received grants in this round of program funding:

- ANZAC Research Institute
- Centenary Institute of Cancer Medicine and Cell Biology
- Children’s Medical Research Institute
- Garvan Institute
- The George Institute for Global Health
- Hunter Medical Research Institute
- Ingham Institute of Applied Medical Research
- Neuroscience Research Australia
- Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute
- Westmead Millennium Institute for Medical Research
- Woolcock Institute of Medical Research

The Medical Research Support Program is administered through the Office for Health and Medical Research. For more information on the program visit www.health.nsw.gov.au/ohmr/mrsp.asp.