



# Jillian Skinner MP

## Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

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### MEDIA RELEASE

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Thursday 27 November 2014

#### **\$5.5 MILLION FOR THE FUTURE OF CANCER RESEARCH**

Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research Jillian Skinner today announced \$5.5 million in grant funding to support researchers working on innovative approaches to address cancer.

Mrs Skinner announced the funding, part of the Cancer Institute NSW's Fellowships Grant Program, to an audience of the state's brightest scientific minds while opening the 2014 Sydney Cancer Conference this morning. The funding will support 11 cancer researchers over the next three years.

"These grants acknowledge the ground-breaking work being done by researchers in NSW, not only in developing new insights into cancer and novel treatment options, but in rapidly translating these discoveries into improvements in care for people diagnosed with cancer across the state," Mrs Skinner said.

"By supporting early career researchers through the Fellowship Grants Program, we are building research capacity for the future. We are encouraging these bright young minds to focus their work in the cancer space so that NSW can continue to lead the way in cancer discoveries.

"Among the successful grant recipients is a program aimed at reducing smoking among low socio-economic communities, as well as a project evaluating the health economics of new approaches to screening for cancers of the cervix, prostate, colon, rectum and lung.

"In the treatment space, funding will go to research targeting ovarian cancer cells which have become resistant to chemotherapy treatment, three projects investigating metastatic melanoma treatments, and studies into new therapies for lung cancer and myeloma."

Chief Cancer Officer and CEO of the Cancer Institute NSW Professor David Currow said the research projects being funded provide exciting new opportunities for advances across the spectrum of cancer.

"The research spans the cancer journey, from cancer prevention and new approaches to cancer screening to advances in treatment for both early and metastatic disease and new approaches to psychosocial issues affecting people with cancer," Professor Currow said.

"An exciting new project will look at how epigenetics is used in prostate cancer treatment to distinguish between high and low-risk disease, while another project will look at translating existing research findings to improve how breast cancer surgeries are planned."

This announcement follows the \$2 million in funding for research equipment to enable researchers across NSW to fast-track new discoveries allocated earlier this week.

**\*Please see detail of fellowships over page\***

### Career Development Fellowships

<b>Chief Investigator</b>	<b>Administering Institution</b>	<b>Grant Title</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Associate Professor Karen Canfell	University of New South Wales	Health economic evaluation of new approaches to screening for cancers of the cervix, prostate, colorectum and lung.	\$594,000
Dr Pradeep Tanwar	University of Newcastle	Targeting chemoresistant ovarian cancer cells	\$508,396
Dr Jiang Chen Chen	University of Newcastle	Overcoming Resistance of Metastatic Melanoma to treatment: MicroRNA-dependent expression of INPP4B as a biomarker and therapeutic target in melanoma	\$598,176
Dr Nikola Bowden	University of Newcastle	Investigation of the DNA repair protein XPC in melanoma treatment resistance.	\$600,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$2,300,572</b>

### Early Career Fellowships

<b>Chief Investigator</b>	<b>Administering Institution</b>	<b>Grant Title</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Dr Alexander Menzies	University of Sydney	Identifying predictive biomarkers of current systemic therapies and the discovery of new targets and future treatments to improve survival in metastatic melanoma.	\$360,000
Dr Wing Hin Lee	University of Sydney	Inhalable paclitaxel loaded-iron oxide nanoparticle for lung cancer therapy	\$592,183
Dr Andrew Hutchinson	University of Technology, Sydney	Preclinical assessment of phosphatidylserine targeting monoclonal antibodies in multiple myeloma.	\$590,500
Dr Ruth Pidsley	Garvan Institute of Medical Research	The next-generation in prostate cancer biomarkers: using epigenetics to distinguish high-risk from low-risk disease	\$597,651
Dr Ursula Sansom-Daly	University of New South Wales	Novel approaches to address barriers to care among adolescents and young adults with cancer: Intervention research targeting vulnerable populations.	\$179,796
Dr Michael Marinovich	University of Sydney	Evidence translation in breast cancer surgical planning	\$324,000
Dr Ryan Courtney	University of New South Wales	Reducing tobacco smoking among low-ses smokers: A RCT to improve compliance with treatment, smoking cessation and health economic outcomes	\$558,512
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$3,202,642</b>