

Palmerston North Medical Research Foundation

President's Report

for the year ended 31 March 2015

The Foundation has had a good year. It is pleasing to note the inaugural award of the Duncan Fellowship in Neuromuscular Research, a joint initiative between the Foundation and the Duncan Family Trust.

An excellent **Colloquium** was held at Massey University on Wednesday, 12 August with 65 people attending. Presentations were made by seven PNMRF grant recipients. The Foundation is grateful to Dr Nicole Roy for her excellent organisation of this most successful event.

This year, disbursements by way of grants totalled just under \$95,000. Had the Duncan Fellowship expenses grant been uplifted, the total would have been similar to last year's. Disbursements were as follows:

General Grants:

1. Dr Jane Coad "Paneth cells in inflammatory bowel disease" \$10,000.00
2. Dr Helen Fitzsimons "Investigating the role of Moesin in memory formation" \$10,000.00
3. Dr Tracey Hale "TERRA in Telomere function" \$10,000.00
4. Dr Jeong Park "Novel molecular mechanisms underlying neurodegenerative diseases" \$10,000.00
5. Dr Raewyn Poulsen "Producing lenti-vectors to over-express and knockdown bmal1 in primary chondrocytes" \$10,000.00
6. Dr Jasna Rakonjac "Secretin stress in Escherichia coli" \$8689.00

AM & GL Wilson Grants:

1. Dr Jeong Park "Therapeutic intervention of a novel enzyme target for cancer therapy" \$18,000.00

PNMRF Summer Scholarships:

1. Miss Amy Lynch **“Does a live probiotic improve GI motility in in-vitro models?”** \$6,000.00
2. Mr Sean Massey **“Candidate genes for malignant hyperthermia”** \$6,000.00
3. Miss Rebecca Wong **“HLA B27 patient survey”** \$6,000.00

Duncan Fellowship:

1. Miss Remai Parker **“Calcium Dysregulation in Skeletal Muscle”**

The Foundation has been the recipient of a bequest of \$25,000 from the Estate of Larry Florentine, a solicitor late of this city. Our thanks for this have been conveyed to the Estate.

A reduction in foreign exchange losses, a reduction in expenses, improvement in the value of stocks held, plus the above result in a net improvement in the value of the Foundation by \$58,000 to just over \$2.2 million.

The Foundation's indicative budget is unaltered.

• Duncan Trust Grant	\$5,000
• Summer Scholarships (3max)	\$18,000
• Wilson Grants (2max)	\$40,000
• General Grants (4max)	\$40,000
• Operating expenses (Including Colloquium)	\$32,000

Guardian Trust continues the management of the Foundation's portfolio. The general economic climate remains difficult. Naylor Lawrence & Associates Ltd. provide secretariat services for the Foundation. The Foundation's website has recently been updated. www.pnmrf.org.nz

The Foundation expresses its sadness in noting the death of Dr R A D Wigley, a Life Member of the Foundation and long time stalwart of medical research in this area.

The Foundation expresses its gratitude and appreciation to all who contribute on its behalf.

John Chrisp
President

11 September 2015