

## Palmerston North Medical Research Foundation

### President's Report

for the year ended **31 March 2016**

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 Tuesday, 16 August 2016. 59 people attended. Presentations were made by six PNMRF grant recipients. The Foundation is grateful to Dr Nicole Roy for her organisation of this most successful event and to the six grant recipients who presented talks on their work.

This year, applications for grants were of a high standard and it was pleasing to note the large number of applications. The Foundation thanks its Technical Committee for their detailed evaluation of the applications. This year, disbursements by way of grants totalled just under \$94,000. Grants made were as follows:

#### **General Grants:**

1. Dr Adrian Cookson "**Genomic Epidemiology of STEC0145**" \$10,000.00
2. Dr Karen Dittmer "**Changes in skeletal gene expression in a sheep model of osteoporosis**" \$10,000.00
3. Mr James Hansen "**Female reproductive organoid combination to progress regenerative medicine**" \$10,000.00
4. Mrs Haley Hunt "**Investigation of an unexplained myopathy in dogs**" \$10,000.00
5. Dr Jasna Rakonjac "**Novel synergies for combat against Gram-negative bacteria**" \$9963.00
6. Dr Anja Schiemann "**Exploring RyR1 channel function in an inducible system**" \$10,000.00
7. Dr Rutvik Vanamala "**In vitro susceptibility of Propionibacterium acnes to surgical preparation agents**" \$10,000.00

### **AM & GA Wilson Grants:**

1. Dr Laryssa Howe **'Human Papillomavirus (HPV) associated oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma'** \$14,140.00
2. Dr Geoff Kira **"Simple strategies for improving cardiac rehabilitation uptake and attendance"** \$19,934.00

### **PNMRF Summer Scholarships:**

1. Ms Tessa Nielson **"Physiological and gene responses in CFS patients"** \$6,000.00
2. Mr Liam McRedmond **"Follow up on malignant hyperthermia patients listed MHS (susceptible) to either caffeine or halothane"** \$6,000.00

### **Duncan Fellowship:**

1. Miss Remai Parker **"Calcium Regulation in Skeletal Muscle"** \$5000.00

Foreign exchange gains, a reduction in expenses, profit on the sale of shares were offset against a decrease in the value of stocks held allowing the Foundation to modestly increase its funds held in trust to \$2.275 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 Colloquium)	\$32,000	(including

Guardian Trust continues the management of the Foundation's portfolio. Naylor Lawrence and Associates Ltd provide secretariat services for the Foundation. There has been an update of the website. [www.pnmrf.org.nz](http://www.pnmrf.org.nz)

The Foundation expresses its gratitude and appreciation to all who contribute on its behalf. In particular, to Dr Owais Chaudhri who has stepped down as a Board Member and Trustee. We wish him well in his new post in Australia.

**John Chrisp**  
**President**

10 September 2016