

Media Release

For immediate release: 16 October 2009

The Judith Jane Mason & Harold Stannett Williams Memorial Foundation announces its 2009 Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and Alzheimer's disease medical and scientific grant recipients

The Judith Jane Mason & Harold Stannett Williams Memorial Foundation (The Mason Foundation) has awarded 18 grants totalling \$1,078,136 in its fourth open round of medical and scientific research grants for Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and Alzheimer's disease research.

Researchers from around Australia were invited to apply, with all applications assessed by the ANZ Trustees National Medical Advisory Panel.

The Mason Foundation grants are awarded to Australian based organisations, with grants of up to \$100,000 available for research into Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and Alzheimer's disease. The Mason Foundation will distribute close to \$900,000 each year, with 60% dedicated to Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. Under the terms of the Foundation, should cures for Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and Alzheimer's disease be found, the Foundation will focus on research into other debilitating diseases.

Applications for the 2010 funding round will close on 1 July, where applicants are advised to check this date on the ANZ Trustees' website prior to applying.

"I don't believe that many people understand how debilitating Chronic Fatigue Syndrome can be. And as far as Alzheimer's is concerned I cannot think of anything worse. To be alive but not having your brain working, to me this is terrifying. These are the reasons I am supporting medical research into Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and Alzheimer's and I hope that my Foundation helps to produce cures. I have given almost everything I own to this Foundation (including my home), for my dog and myself can live frugally, for I have been very poor for the most part of my life, so I know how to cope with it. I feel that it is more important that this Foundation may help many people." said Judith Mason, benefactor of The Mason Foundation.

The Mason Foundation was established in 2003 to support research into Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and Alzheimer's disease. "The perpetual foundation is named after myself (as my sister says, this may encourage other people to do the same) and also in memory of my father, Harold Stannett Williams, who was a most charitable man and also the most helpful to people in trouble. (In fact my mother never forgave him for helping to save people who were trapped in landslides whilst I was being born.)"

ANZ Trustees is the trustee of The Mason Foundation and is one of the leading managers of charitable funds under management in Australia. The Mason Foundation is one of over 235 charitable foundations managed by ANZ Trustees. More information about The Mason Foundation and ANZ Trustees are available at www.anz.com/anztrustees or contacting 1800 011 047.

**Attachment 1: Grant recipients recommended by ANZ Trustees
National Medical Advisory Panel**

Project Title	University / Institute	Chief Investigator
Investigation of the Progression of Brain Abnormalities in CFS Using MRI in a Longitudinal Study Of Post-Viral Fatigue Subjects	Queen Elizabeth Hospital	Dr Richard Kwiatek Dr Leighton Barnden
A Comprehensive Study of Autonomic Activation In Post-Infective Chronic Fatigue Syndrome	University of New South Wales	Dr Ute Vollmer-Conna
Variation in the P2X7 Gene Predicts Onset of Post-Infective Fatigue Syndrome	University of New South Wales	Dr Barbara Piraino
Does Omega 3 Fatty Acid Supplementation Attenuate Telomere Length Erosion in an Elderly Cohort With Mild Cognitive Impairment?	Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organisation	Dr Nathan O'Callagan
Does Omega-3 Fatty Acid Supplementation Attenuate Telomere Erosion Leading To A Reduction In Cognitive Decline?	Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organisation	Dr Nathan O'Callagan
MRI Techniques for Visualising Amyloid Plaques in a Live Model of Alzheimer's Disease	Florey Neuroscience Institutes	Prof Gary Egan
Regional Pain-Related Levels of Brain Metabolites & Blood Flow in Patients With Alzheimer's Disease and a Control Group	Florey Neuroscience Institutes	Dr Michael Farrell
Identification of Plasma Based Biomarkers for Alzheimer's Disease	Mental Health Research Institute of Victoria	Dr James Duce
Mapping the Distribution of Pathological Tau in Alzheimer's Disease & Progressive Supranuclear Palsy	Monash University	Assoc Prof David Williams
A Clinical Trial of Personalised Goal - Directed Activity to Treat Agitation in Dementia	Monash University	Prof Daniel O'Connor
Does Transdermal Testosterone Therapy Significantly Improve Cognitive Performance in Postmenopausal Women: A Randomised Placebo Controlled Trial Over 26 Weeks	Monash University	Prof Susan Davis

Reversal of blood-brain barrier dysfunction by minocycline for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease	Monash University	Dr Joseph Nicolazzo
New Strategies to Fight Alzheimer's Disease: Structured Studies of the Interactions of Gamma-Secretase Modulators with Amyloid Beta Peptides	St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research	Prof Michael Parker
Improving Synaptic Function in Alzheimer's Disease by Increasing Neuronal Copper Bioavailability	University of Melbourne	Dr Anthony White
Synaptic Dysfunction and Pathology in Alzheimer's Disease	University of Queensland	Dr Peter Dodd
A New Animal Model of Alzheimer's Disease	University of Queensland	Dr Elizabeth Jane Coulson

Special grants at the discretion of the Trustees were awarded to:

Project Title	University / Institute	Investigator
Assessment of Cytotoxic Lymphocyte & Natural Killer Cell Genotypes & Cytotoxic Lymphocyte Function for Diagnosis of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome / Myalgic Encephalomyelitis	Bond University	Assoc Prof Sonya Marshall-Gradisnik
The Role of Lewis Phenotype & ABH Secretor Status in Relation to Nasal Carriage of Staphylococcal Species in Patients with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: A Pilot Study	University of Newcastle	Assoc Prof Hugh Dunston

Attachment 2: National Medical Advisory Panel Members

Lawrence John Willett AO – Chair. Non-executive Director of ANZ Trustees Limited and Chancellor of Charles Sturt University.

Professor Malcolm Horne – Deputy Director of the Howard Florey Institute.

Professor Steve Wesselingh - Dean Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Monash University.

Professor John Shine AO - Executive Director of the Garvan Institute of Medical Research.