

## Commercial Development

The Commercial Office within the Monash Institute of Medical Research acts as the interface for external investors and partners seeking opportunities in the commercial aspects of the Institute's research. Its primary role is to capture value for the Institute and its scientists by securing investment in the development of and/or partnering with technology arising from promising early stage technologies developed during the course of research within the Institute. It also plays a leading role in the identification and protection of Intellectual Property and its subsequent commercial development.

Commercialization of research is a necessity if the benefits of the research are to be transferred to the community through innovation in diagnostic and/or therapeutic technologies. It has also become a necessity in the funding mix of Universities and their need for greater self-reliance into the future. Furthermore, the activities of this office extend beyond the traditional patenting and licensing of inventions to the development of a variety of relationships with businesses and industry.

#### 2005 Achievements

The Commercial Office managed 17 families of patent applications through National Phase entry, 3 new PCT applications and 4 new provisional applications. In addition, the Commercial Office negotiated and assisted in generating \$6 million in income through either license, research income or equity realization.

The Office addressed ongoing linkages with existing startup companies including:

- Pulmosonix Pty Ltd (now part of Premier Bionics Ltd),
- ES Cell International Pte Ltd (originated from the Institute),
- Cortical Pty Ltd.

The relationship with the Australian Stem Cell Centre was consolidated.

The Institute is committed to fostering talented scientists of the future. It provides a wide range of postgraduate opportunities in research, for ambitious and enthusiastic young scientists interested in pursuing careers at the forefront of medical research.









## Collaborative Ventures



#### Andrology Australia

Andrology Australia (The Australian Centre for Excellence in Male Reproductive Health) is a Federal Government initiative administered by MIMR.

Led by former MIMR Director Professor David de Kretser, with contributions from key personnel at the Centre for Urological Research, Andrology Australia has strong ties to MIMR. The Institute is proud to be associated with this collaborative program to improve men's health through educational initiatives and collaborative research programs.

A highlight of 2005 was the publication of the 'Men in Australia Telephone Survey' which is the first Australian study to describe the self-reported prevalence of reproductive health disorders, related to health issues and behaviors in men aged 40 years and over. This unique and quality work was recognized with an award for research innovation at the Victorian Public Health Awards for Excellence in Innovation.

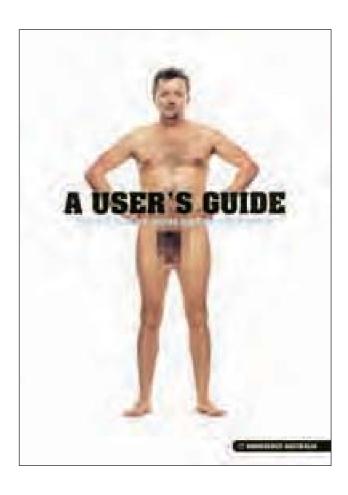
Ongoing education of the medical community is a high priority for Andrology Australia. Activities in 2005 included the development of a clinical audit and online education program on erectile dysfunction to increase professional awareness and improve management of this disorder. Seminars and symposia were conducted for the benefit of a range of health professionals.

Research initiatives supported by Andrology Australia in 2005 included an examination of the different methods of testing hormone levels to standardize testosterone level testing in Australia. There was also an investigation into the psychosocial and behavioral issues of anabolic steroid users to develop preventative programs and improve health education. A further six one year research programs into the psychosocial aspects of male reproductive health disorders and their impact on quality of life and relationships were also supported in 2005.

Andrology Australia provides independent, user-friendly, authoritative information to the community. Distribution of the newsletter The Healthy Male increased to 5500 per quarter. The website <a href="www.andrologyaustralia.org">www.andrologyaustralia.org</a> received on average 550,000 hits per month. More than 30,000 copies of the series of five Men's Health Matters consumer guide were distributed. Three fact cards on men's health issues, prostate problems and erectile dysfunction were developed and distributed through pharmacies across Australia.

Other community education activities included support of "International Men's Health Week" in June 2005, community and workplace seminars on men's health, and the translation of the brochure "A User's Guide: What Every Man Needs to Know" into 12 different languages to provide information on male reproductive health to men from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

An independent panel of medical and health experts, including international members, strongly endorsed the Centre's programs during the year and provided a series of recommendations to further enhance its work.



## Collaborative Ventures



#### CRC for Innovative Dairy Products

MIMR's Centre for Reproduction and Development undertakes several projects in collaboration with the Federal Government's Co-operative Research Centre (CRC) for Innovative Dairy Products.

#### **Advanced Breeding Technologies**

Through a range of advanced molecular and reproductive technologies, this program delivers improved genetics to the dairy industry and so contributes to the national research priority: 'Frontier technologies for building and transforming Australian industries'.

#### **Bovine Cloning**

A leader in its field, this program aims at rapid amplification of elite genotypes. Despite considerable improvements in efficiency and the production of a number of healthy cloned animals, cloning remains a relatively inefficient process. Many pregnancies are lost, some around birth, and a few animals are born with deformities. These issues need to be overcome before cloning technology can deliver a clear industry benefit. In addition, government and regulating agencies need to provide an assured path to market for this technology. Studies focus on in vitro reprogramming and the critical early (45 day) period of development, particularly preimplantation embryo gene expression and proteomics. Genetic and/or biomarkers which can be used to enhance transfer success for any in vitro-produced embryo are also being sought.

#### **Bovine Stem Cells**

Significant progress has been made in the quest to use adult and embryonic stem cells in both autologous transplant and in accelerated breeding applications, with the first production of a fully characterized stem cell line from a livestock species. In conjunction with the Australian Stem Cell Centre (ASCC), efforts to reprogram differentiated cells into new tissue-types have yielded four patents to date. The CRC maintains commercial rights in agricultural fields and the ASCC in human applications. Each party provides half the research funding, and IP is jointly owned.



# CRC for Chronic Inflammatory Diseases

Scientists from MIMR's Centre for Funcational Genomics and Human Disease (CFGHD), are making significant contributions to the discovery of new treatments for serious chronic inflammatory disease through their involvement with the Co-operative Research Centre (CRC) for Chronic Inflammatory Diseases.

This CRC is focused on finding better treatments for widespread diseases such as osteo arthritis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

Using sophisticated techniques including genome-wide expression profiling, gene targeting, stem cell biology and animal models, the CFGHD team made some significant progress in 2005 towards identifying potential disease-causing genes. Work also progressed in the development of novel tests for validating these possible disease targets.

The validated targets are then used by collaborating researchers at the University of Melbourne and University of Queensland, who have complementary expertise in inflammatory disease, and by the international pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca to further the drugs' development.

MIMR's participation in this CRC is also providing special students with a unique experience in translational research in the discovery and drug development arenas. Not only do students participate in collaborative projects with leading scientists from a number of Australian universities, but they also have the opportunity for placement in AstraZeneca laboratories in the UK and Sweden.



## Education



Dr Mulyoto Pangestu and EPRB student Amanda Leslie

#### PhD Graduates

#### Simon Chu

The molecular pathogenesis of ovarian granulosa cell tumours

#### Fiona Chow

The role of macrophages in diabetic nephropathy

#### Mark Denham

Environmental regulation of stem cell differentiation in vitro

#### **Paul Hutchinson**

Quantitation of immune competence in renal transplant patients

#### Claire Kennedy

Studies to identify key male fertility related genes using enu mutagenesis

#### Sandra Levasseur

Can a structured identification of the things that are important increase one's chances of quitting smoking after stroke or TIA?

#### Amanda-Jane Ruth

The effector mechanisms of glomerular injury in experimental crescentic glomerulonephritis

#### **Elaine Stockx**

Ontogeny of supraspinal control of spinal circuits

#### Shamith Samarajawa

The role of soluble IFNAR2 in modifying interferon response in vivo

#### Wen Mei Zhu

Altered dopamine pharmacokinetics and I-dopa induced dyskinesia in rodent and primate models of Parkinson's disease

# Education Program in Reproductive Biology

The Education Program in Reproductive Biology (EPRB) is a unique program dedicated to providing vocational post-graduate training in the reproductive sciences and clinical embryology. Established in 1987, the EPRB draws on Melbourne's wide range of expertise in reproductive biology.

Administered jointly by MIMR and Prince Henry's Institute, teaching staff are also drawn from the Monash University Departments of Physiology, Pharmacology, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Microbiology, Biological Sciences, Anatomy and Cell Biology, Centre for Human Bioethics and the Monash Immunology and Stem Cell Laboratories. A number of external organisations, including the Australian Stem Cell Centre, Monash IVF and Melbourne IVF also make valuable contributions to the program.

The EPRB offers three post-graduate research and coursework degrees:

#### **Graduate Diploma of Reproductive Sciences**

This coursework degree provides broad theoretical education and practical training ranging from basic reproductive anatomy to clinical human and veterinary medicine. It is an alternative for those with Bachelor's degrees who do not want to do honors, as well as a chance for professionals currently working in this area, to update their knowledge and skills and gain professional accreditation. At the completion of this degree many students upgrade to the Masters program.

#### **Master of Reproductive Sciences**

This higher research degree has a strong theoretical focus. Students gain detailed understanding and advanced research skills in an area of specific interest in reproductive biology. The course consists of five course-work subjects followed by a research project (thesis) supervised by research staff from one of the participating institutes or departments. Three Masters students graduated in 2005:

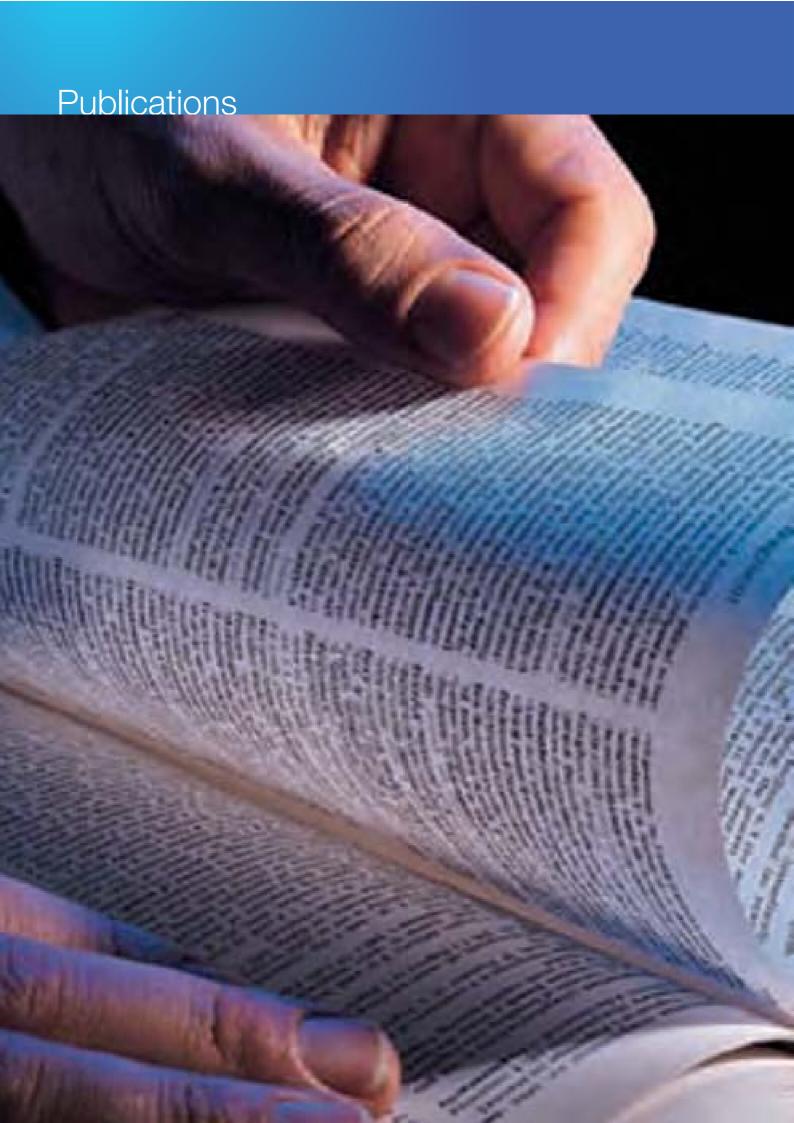
- Jean Bligh Loren: The employment of strontium to activate mouse oocytes (supervised by Orly Lacham-Kaplan)
- Natasha Czarny: Breeding, growth and genetics of the captive Mainland Eastern Quoll, Dasyurus viverrinus (supervised by David Galloway and Ian Gunn)
- Simon Degen: In vitro assessment of the FSH impact on sertoli and germ cell function in the day 17 rat testis (supervised by Kate Loveland)

#### **Master of Clinical Embryology**

Rapid advances in the development and application of reproductive technology, led largely by staff at MIMR's Centre of Reproduction and Development have resulted in a strong demand for specialised scientific expertise in clinical embryology. This course has a strong focus on development of practical skills in IVF, and is designed to train people specifically wanting to work in infertility clinics and research programs focused on assisted reproduction.

We were delighted to have Dr Sally Catt join the EPRB as Course Coordinator in 2005. Sally brings considerable expertise and experience in the reproductive sciences, particularly clinical embryology.

Throughout 2005, enrolment numbers remained relatively small, with no more than 10 students enrolled in each course. These small class sizes allow for intensive practical training and ensure much individual interaction with academic staff.



#### Refereed Papers

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Community interaction and support is essential to MIMR, and the Institute is extremely fortunate to have an impressive range of supporters including philanthropic trusts, corporate donors, business leaders on our Board and committees as well as a growing numbers of private donors. MIMR's Development Office manages these key relationships, which are vital for the continuing growth of the Institute.

Ensuring MIMR's stakeholders, including supporters, scientific collaborators and prospective students, are fully informed about the Institute's research is vital. Scientific progress cannot succeed in a vacuum or without community understanding.

# Launch of Monash Institute of Medical Research

The merger of several of Monash University's key research entities to create Monash Institute of Medical Research not only marked the dawn of a new era in medical research in Victoria but also saw the birth of the MIMR brand. The occasion was celebrated in style on 1 February, 2005. Victorian Premier, the Honorable Steve Bracks officially launched the new Institute in the presence of over 100 guests and scientific colleagues.



Professor de Kretser, Premier Bracks, Professor Cornish, Professor Byrne and Ms Linda Sorrell at the MIMR launch

#### Communications

Newsletters, brochures, banners, fact sheets, stationery and the MIMR website form part of the communications tools produced to increase awareness, understanding and support for MIMR.

Institute scientists continued to make regular appearances in the media in 2005. While "Brandy the first serial nuclear transfer cloned cow" and the "Discovery of stem cells in the uterus" made headlines around the world, other advances in arthritis research, male infertility, ovarian health and SIDS research also received positive coverage.

#### Community Support

In the second year of direct mail appeals, the Institute's database of supporters grew considerably. Profiling a different aspect of the Institute's research with each appeal, donations were sought on a quarterly basis. These funds have assisted in the purchase of vital scientific equipment and expanding existing research programs.

The sale of Christmas cards through charity shops and direct mail raised considerable funds to support MIMR's research endeavours. The response to this fundraiser in its first year was excellent.

#### Scholarships

Scholarships play an important part in creating opportunities for scientists to further their careers. In 2005 Emeritus Professor John Maloney, Founding Director of the Centre for Early Human Development, the forerunner to the Ritchie Centre, created a scholarship in honor of his mother and father to assist Ritchie Centre staff and students advance their skills in technology and research.

Laboratory Manager Mr Votja Brodecky was the inaugural recipient of the JE & HTE Maloney Travel Scholarship. With this assistance, Votja visited the Liggins Institute in Auckland, New Zealand, and Masimo Corporate in California to gain insight into the latest applications of technology for tissue, blood and oxygen measurement.

#### **WISE**

The Women in Scientific Excellence (WISE) program brings together women who value wisdom and learning and recognize the enormous contribution young scientists can make given sufficient support. Through an Awards program, these supporters are helping talented young women further their scientific careers. Membership to WISE requires a set annual contribution. In a bid to recruit more supporters a luncheon program began in 2005.

#### MIMR on Show

Showcasing the work of the Institute is an important part of the Institute's communication with the wider community. During 2005, the Discovery Tour program continued. Tours are conducted on request for corporate and private donors, trustees from philanthropic organizations, as well as clubs, community and school groups, gave participants the opportunity to see first-hand the cutting-edge research carried out in our laboratories.

During the year MIMR scientists also ventured out of their labs to present their latest research findings to community groups such as Rotary, Freemasons and Probus.

#### 2005 Student Open Days

Recruiting enthusiastic and talented students to undertake postgraduate studies at MIMR is important for the longevity of medical research in Australia. To highlight the opportunities for young scientists, MIMR conducts Annual Student Open Days. Students are taken on tours of the Institute and provided with resources outlining the diverse number of research projects available.



Open Day

#### Kaarene Fitzgerald Lecture

As a tribute to Ms Kaarene Fitzgerald AC, the inspirational woman who set up SIDS and Kids, a free public lecture is hosted each year by the Ritchie Centre. On 3 November 2005, Monash Medical Centre's Director of Newborn Services Dr Andrew Ramsden, Professor Brad Thach from Washington University and Associate Professor Peter Eastwood from Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital in Perth shared their knowledge and expertise on newborn breathing disorders in sleep, with members of the public.

#### David de Kretser Festschrift

When the Institute's Founding Director Professor David de Kretser AO retired, colleagues from around the world gathered to honor this great man and his work. A full day symposium and gala dinner were held, where this array of internationally recognized scientists recounted stories of David's influence on their careers and major milestones in medical history. Messages and tributes from David's scientific colleagues who could not attend were played throughout the evening. The Festschrift Committee acknowledges all who contributed to David's Festschrift, especially those who traveled from overseas to take part.

Following the Festschrift, the Governor of Victoria, John Landy, hosted an evening at Government House for David, his family, members and former members of the Management Advisory Board, Monash University staff and Institute staff who had worked with David for a long time. The Institute thanks former Board Member and the Official Secretary to the Governor of Victoria, Dr Charles Curwen CVO OBE, for organising this special event.



The de Kretser family at David's Festschrift

#### Management Advisory Board

Special thanks to the members of the MIMR Fundraising and Communications Committees, under the leadership of David Evans and Barbara Crook respectively, for their positive advice and assistance throughout the year.

#### Philanthropic Support

MIMR is sincerely grateful for the many contributions made by organisations and individuals that have provided support throughout 2005. Each gift assists the Institute to continue its important research.

#### The Institute acknowledges the following generous donations:

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## Monash Health Research Precinct



#### **DNA Sequencing**

The service provided by the DNA Sequencing Laboratories was in high demand throughout 2005. In addition to MIMR, these facilities are accessed on a regular basis by Prince Henry's Institute and a number of other groups associated with Southern Health. This essential technology facilitates greater understanding of gene structure and function by determining the sequence of base pairs within a gene, which assists in understanding diseases, developing early diagnostics and innovative therapies.

During 2005 it became apparent that a new Sequencer was required in order to maintain the quality services which had been provided since 1998. The technology has moved on considerably over the last seven years and now offers improved capability, flexibility and reliability. A grant application was submitted to the Gandel Trust to enable the purchase of this valuable piece of equipment. The submission was favorably received, and details of the application outcome will be reported in 2006.

#### Histology

The Histology Laboratory offers a range of functions including processing for electron microscopy and all aspects of paraffin, frozen and resin histology from cut up through to stained slides in a range of stains. During 2005, long term manager of this facility Anne Davies retired from the Institute, creating a short term hiatus in the service. However the laboratory and equipment remained accessible to Institute staff.

# Animal Facilities, Monash Medical Centre

The Animal Facilities at Monash Medical Centre provides vital support services to researchers across various University departments in the Southern Clinical School, including MIMR. The facility breeds and cares for a range of animals, including unique strains of SPF mice which require elaborate individually ventilated cages. Ethics Committees oversee the operations of the Animal Facilities to ensure the animals are maintained and used in a humane manner according to the highest ethical standards and in compliance with various legislations. Sincere thanks to the following people for their services on the Animal Ethics Committees and for their commitment to this vital aspect of the Institute's operations:

- Shirley Andersson
- Janice Bate
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- Peter Crack
- Sari Cuce
- Ann Drummond
- David Galloway
- Monika Generowicz
- Jane Girling
- Mark Hedger
- Michael Hickey
- Margaret Kingman
- Joan Liley
- Lisa Mc Coll
- David Nicolic-Paterson
- Denise Noonan
- Robin Stevens
- Trevor Wilson

# Network Services, Monash Medical Centre

The IT Service and Support group manage computer installations, email accounts, security issues, and network management for all University departments based at Monash Medical Centre. As the Institute continues to grow, the need for simplified and efficient systems of communication and interface with the University is increasingly important. At the end of 2005 the Institute had 289 registered users on the network.

# Administration Services iaition only and CANN PURCHASING GRO

## Administration Services



The Administration Team

The creation of MIMR at the beginning of 2005 brought with it significant administrative change and considerable challenges. A key factor in the birth of MIMR was the consolidation and streamlining of resources and administration. Bringing the various Centres and Institutes under the MIMR banner has been a major undertaking and we acknowledge the assistance of Centre Directors and Administrators with this task.

Construction of the new Monash Health Research Precinct building was completed in 2005. The Logistics team was instrumental in ensuring that this four-storey laboratory and office facility was on track and appropriately fitted out to meet the needs of MIMR and Precinct scientists. Occupancy of the building began in September 2005.

With the increase in Institute size, the annual budget increased dramatically in 2005. Approximately \$24.5 million of funding was received from a diverse range of sources to support the Institute's work. (This amount does not include funds for the construction of the new precinct building.)

## Administration Services

### Summary of Income and Expenditure

	2005	2004
Income		
General Revenue	4,730,423	2,429,985
Other Income	1,074,591	465,823
Commercial Income	531,524	517,683
Investment Income	216,941	1,166
Non Research Funding	1,202.353	457,368
Research Income	16,811,662	13,359,580
	24,567,494	17,231,606
Salaries Expenditure		
All Salary Expenses	14,809,545	10,502,197
	14,809,545	10,502,197
Non Salary Expenses		
Other Expenses	276,688	1,600,634
Financial and Admin Services	499,823	157,788
Travel and Related	818,649	576,392
Book and Library	45,494	19,790
Print and Stationery	421,384	324,696
Computer Related	472,492	336,478
Communications	290,373	385,714
Equipment Related	863,857	14,783
Lab and Operating	3,572,028	3,063,822
Student Related	816,443	347,154
Staff Related	188,305	87,854
Motor Vehicle	34,981	24,633
Building and Property	287,441	98,120
	8,587,958	7,037,858
Operating Surplus/Deficit	1,169,991	-308,449

