



Media release

21 April 2017

\$1 million dollar donation to fast track cancer research

The Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute will announce a significant \$1 million dollar donation by Businessman and philanthropist, John Turner at a function to be held on the Friday 5 May. The funds allow for an expansion to the research program at the Institute, including additional researchers and equipment.

The donation will see the establishment of the John Turner Cancer Research Fund at the Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute to make an immediate significant difference and growth of the research program at the Institute

Following a career in supply chain management and exporting, Mr Turner founded Rapini Pty Ltd, one of Australia's largest suppliers of chrome wire storage systems to the Australian health care industry. Mr Turner maintains a major shareholding in the company since its sale in 2010 to Paragon Care. Currently, Mr Turner manages his own private investment company and philanthropic interests.

Mr John Turner said "I am pleased to assist the work of the Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute and want to see this donation make a significant difference in something that is very close to me. I am inspired by the work and vision of Professor George Kannourakis and want to see it progress."

Professor George Kannourakis, Director of the Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute said "We are fortunate and humbled to be able to set up the John Turner Research Fund to be used exclusively for projects with the Institute and are thankful. This profoundly generous donation from John will enable a quantum leap in our research to better treat cancers utilising the immune system."

"As a non-government funded organisation, the Institute relies on the generous support of the community. The John Turner Cancer Research Fund will make a significant difference to our research program" said Professor Kannourakis

The Cancer Research Fund will see the creation of the inaugural John Turner Cancer Research Fellowship. Professor Nuzhat Ahmed will be the first recipient of this fellowship. Professor Ahmed is an international recognised cancer researcher in ovarian cancer and is undertaking ground-breaking research into the Immunology of ovarian cancer.

The immune system is the first line of defence against any disease. Professor Ahmed's research is focused in area of ovarian cancer, to understand how and why the immune system of ovarian cancer patients is not able to eradicate the cancer. Currently her research is focused on the differences between responsive and non-responsive ovarian cancer protein cells which could lead to the development of new immune based therapies for treating cancer.

The John Turner Cancer Research Fund will allow the purchase of laboratory equipment and the appointment in coming months of a new post-doctoral fellow and a number of PhD scholarship students. This is instrumental to increasing the volume and speed of the projects.

Cancer is something that touches many Australia families, with current rates, it is expected that 1 in 2 Australians will be diagnosed with cancer by the age of 85.

FECRI currently has 8 PhD students from Federation University and 8 senior scientific staff. Recent achievements of FECRI have included:

- Identification of potential new immunotherapy targets for ovarian cancer
- Identification of a new immune cell subset in histiocytic disorders.
- Further immune studies in various cancer and leukaemia's.
- Identification of a new method for isolating new viruses.

For more information on the Institute or donate and support cancer research visit www.fecri.org.au.

Announcement and media call will be held Friday 5 May

Where: ***Ballarat Technology Park- Central
Lydiard Street South
Ballarat***

When: ***Friday May 5th 10am***

What: ***Announcement and morning tea***

In attendance: ***John Turner, Professor Nuzhat Ahmed, Professor George
Kannourakis and Greg & Gail Elsey.***

Additional photo opportunities and interviews can be arranged on request.

***All media enquiries, please contact Sarah Stapleton- Fundraising & Events Coordinator at
FECRI on 0475 383 687 or sarah@fecri.org.au***