



Media release

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Chair of FECRI retires

- *Emeritus Professor Wayne Robinson, Chair of the Board of Directors, Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute steps down.*

Long serving Chair of the Board of the Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute, Emeritus Professor Wayne Robinson is stepping down after 14 years on the Board of the Ballarat based cancer research centre.

Emeritus Professor Robinson was a foundation member of the Board of Directors, joining the Board in 2004, becoming the Chair in 2012. During his tenure he has brought an understanding and in-depth experience of the university sector, especially in relation to research. Emeritus Professor Robinson recently retired as Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Federation University, where he had responsibility for higher education learning, teaching and research. Due to this, he acted as a vital direct link between the University and the Institute in the research program.

This year the Institute celebrated its twentieth year, having grown to be a world class cancer research facility based in Ballarat. As Australia's only regionally based cancer research centre, it is non-government funded, and relies on the generous support of the community to continue research into more effective ways to diagnose and treat cancer.

Emeritus Professor Robinson said "It is a source of great delight and satisfaction that the Institute is making a significant contribution to cancer research, with recent recognition of achievements in ovarian cancer and histiocytic disorders, along with significant new findings in immune studies of leukaemia"

'The last few years have seen the re-location of the Institute to the most wonderful new research laboratories at Federation University. This combined with the expansion of the Institute's research effort, an increase in scientific staff and students, and a strong focus on a governance structure, ensures the researchers can carry out high quality research into the prevention and cure of cancer.'

'The Institute's Board of Directors oversees the proper governance and sustainability of the Institute. This provides our community of donors and volunteers with the confidence that their most generous support is managed responsibly and put to best use', said Emeritus Professor Robinson.

He continued, 'I am happy to say that the future of the Institute, as one of the few truly regional cancer research institutes in Australia, is both bright and enduring'.

Opened in 1998, the Institute was inspired by Ballarat teenager, Fiona Elsey who lost her fight with cancer in 1991. The Institute started in a shed in the back of St John of God Hospital with one part time researcher, and today has a state of the art facility at in the Ballarat Technology Park, employing nine PhD students from Federation University and ten

senior scientific staff. Current projects include research into Chronic Lymphoid leukemia, ovarian cancer, Histiocytic Diseases and the immunology of cancer.

The ground-breaking work conducted and with the centres international collaborating partners, continues to gain recognition with over 40 papers published in medical journals.

Professor George Kannourakis, Honorary Director at FECRI said. “The leadership and service of Emeritus Professor Robinson as Chair of the Institute has been a key element to our growth and success. Wayne has provided a stable hand and good governance to our operations”

The position of Chair of the Institute is currently being advertised for.

All media enquiries, please contact Sarah Stapleton- Marketing and Fundraising Manager at FECRI on 0475 383 687 or sarah@fecri.org.au

Please tag the Institute on all social media using @fionaelseycr