



women & infants
research foundation
Western Australia

WIRF's VISION
is for all Western
Australian women
to enjoy the
best health for
themselves, their
pregnancies and
their babies.

WOMEN AND INFANTS RESEARCH FOUNDATION
CARSON HOUSE : KING EDWARD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL : 374 BAGOT ROAD : SUBIACO : WA : 6008
TEL 08 6458 1437 : FAX 08 6458 1642 : EMAIL INFO@WIRF.COM.AU : WEB WWW.WIRF.COM.AU

FETAL FOCUS

A pioneering Western Australian research project is taking aim at one of the most complex challenges in Fetal Medicine; how to safely and effectively treat a patient who is within another patient.



Launched at the recent Banquet for Babies, the Fetal Focus research project has the potential to revolutionise the treatment of fetuses at risk of being born too soon.

To be led by one of the country's leading experts in Maternal Fetal Medicine, Dr Scott White, the research project seeks to deliver direct fetal steroid therapy to prevent complications of prematurity.

Dr White said that preterm birth remained the leading cause of mortality and morbidity in our community and worldwide.

"Steroid medications, given to the mother for the benefit of the fetus to mature its lungs, halve the risk of severe complications of prematurity and are a lifesaving intervention. A downside of this treatment is the risk of significant maternal complications," Dr White said.

"The advantages of treating the fetus directly are twofold: it will optimise the benefit for the fetus whilst avoiding the adverse effects for the mother.

"Western Australia's smallest patients could receive the benefits of this treatment as soon as soon as 2017 with trials planned to commence at King Edward Memorial Hospital."

The Fetal Focus project is seeking a total of \$50,000 to deliver its three stages.

Stage 1 (\$10,000) – To support the initial study to demonstrate that treating the fetus directly rather than injecting the pregnant mother is a benefit to women; particularly those with diabetes.

Stage 2 (\$30,000) – To support the full study which hopes to show that injecting the fetus directly is as beneficial to the baby's rapid lung development before preterm birth as injecting the mother, and is possibly better.

Stage 3 (\$50,000) – To support the follow-up of the children born as part of this study to ensure that this treatment is as good or better than our current practice; giving the injection to the pregnant mother.

To date, the Fetal Focus research project attracted more than \$15,000 in pledged donations which will be used to support Stage 1 of the project.

To learn more about the project, and how you can support its implementation, visit www.wirf.com.au

+ contents

FETAL FOCUS
RESEARCH PROJECT
01

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
MESSAGE
02

STARS 2016
TAKES AIM AT
PRIORITY AREA IN
WOMEN'S HEALTH
02

WA HEALTH
AND BUSINESS
COMMUNITY UNITE
FOR BANQUET FOR
BABIES
03

KING EDDIES
HONOUR WALL
- YOU CAN STILL
BE PART OF THE
CELEBRATIONS
04



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

- WIRF News December 2016

The final edition of WIRF News for 2016 caps off a hugely rewarding year for the Foundation.

Our 40th anniversary year has provided us a platform to revisit our many research achievements, reconnect with key partners, and engage new generations of WIRF supporters.

The Foundation has conducted a number of highly successful anniversary events throughout the year, the pinnacle of which was the Banquet for Babies.

Our inaugural Banquet for Babies raised more than \$135,000 with net proceeds going directly to support our research activities.

As important as the financial outcome of the evening has been, the benefit to raising awareness of the importance of preterm birth, and WIRF's leading role to improve critical areas of women's and infants' health, is of immeasurable value. We look forward to hosting the Banquet in the future.

At our recent Annual General Meeting we launched our 2016 Annual Report which revisits WIRF and KEMH's anniversary years and showcases some of our key research projects. You can view the Annual Report at the WIRF website or request your own copy from the Foundation's office in Carson House.

I wish all our staff, partners and supporters a safe and happy festive season and look forward to a very busy 2017.

Professor John Newnham AM
Executive Director
Women and Infants Research
Foundation

STARS 2016 TAKES AIM AT PRIORITY AREA IN WOMEN'S HEALTH



L to R: Dr Nic Tsokos, Prof John Newnham, Charlotte Hosking and Prof Don Wilson

An opportunity to hear how Western Australian-based research is informing and improving clinical practice in women's, infants' and reproductive health drew more than 130 attendees to the Foundation's flagship scientific event for 2016.

Held at the University of Western Australia on 14 September, Stars 2016, "The Pelvic Floor: Supporting WA women", examined pelvic floor dysfunction (PFD) and how current treatment and prevention strategies were contributing to improved patient outcomes and clinical care.

Visiting Professor, Prof Don Wilson's keynote presentation, *Prediction and Prevention of Pelvic Floor Dysfunction-UR-CHOICE*, reviewed evidence supporting the view that pelvic floor disorders may be prevented or alleviated.



Prof Don Wilson makes his keynote presentation

Prof Wilson also described prediction models using variables known before and after childbirth which aim to provide women with their individual risk of developing PFD. These models significantly advance the ability of health professionals to counsel women, before and after delivery, with the hope of preventing/reducing the impact of PFD.

His presentation was accompanied by talks from two local stars – Dr Nic Tsokos who presented exciting local research studies on pelvic floor repair, and Charlotte Hosking who spoke on innovative approaches to pelvic floor function from her perspective as a leading physiotherapist.

The following evening the Rising Stars event, a celebration and showcase of WA's top emerging medical researchers, was held at Matilda Bay Restaurant.

Early career researchers revealed their latest discoveries to a crowd of more than 110 attendees in short, sharp presentations. The 2016 Rising Stars presenters were: Paige Tucker, Natalie Williams, Joan Leong, Lucy Furfaro, Emma Allanson and Alecia-Jane Twigger.

WIRF would like to thank the Stars sponsors and supporters: Medela, Avant, SRC Health, Bayer, Boston Scientific and Postgraduate Medical Education.

WA HEALTH AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY UNITE FOR BANQUET FOR BABIES

The inaugural Banquet for Babies has celebrated the achievement of one of the State's most prolific research organisations and their critical work to improve the health of its youngest residents.

Hosted by the Women and Infants Research Foundation, Banquet for Babies showcased exquisite food and wine unique to the Western Australian region all in the name of supporting research to prevent preterm birth.

ABC reporter and presenter, Charlotte Hamlyn, emceed the event and was joined by the Governor of Western Australia, Her Excellency the Hon Kerry Sanderson AC, local ministers, private industry, and key health and medical representatives for WIRF's new flagship event held on Saturday, 29 October at Frasers State Reception Centre.

WIRF would like to acknowledge the generous support of all donors and event partners.



WIRF ON SOCIAL MEDIA

To keep up to date with the latest WIRF research, outreach and community activities, please like, tag and share with us on social media. We can be found at these addresses:

Facebook - Women and Infants Research Foundation

You Tube - Women and Infants Research Foundation

Twitter & Instagram - WIRFWA

WIRF also coordinates Facebook pages for the King Edward Memorial Hospital Op Shop and the Preterm Birth Prevention Initiative – The Whole Nine Months.



KING EDDIES HONOUR WALL - YOU CAN STILL BE PART OF THE CELEBRATIONS



Pamela Jones and her son Alex at the unveiling of the Honour Wall

The special journey of more than 550 Western Australian mothers and babies has been celebrated as part of the unveiling of the King Edward Memorial Hospital (KEMH) Honour Wall.

Unveiled by Her Excellency, the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC, Governor of Western Australia and Patron of the Women and Infants Research Foundation, the KEMH Honour Wall recognises the mothers and babies that have help shape the 'King Eddies' story.

Launched to celebrate World Prematurity Day, the Honour Wall recognises King Eddies' 100 years of delivering health care to the women, babies and families of Western Australia.

All proceeds from the Honour Wall will be used to support research to prevent preterm birth via WIRF.

Honour Wall mums are able to choose from gold and silver butterflies, colourful bunting flags, or the digital Honour Wall.

Honour Wall elements are still available for purchase and will be posted to the wall in subsequent phases of construction. For more information visit the WIRF website www.wirf.com.au



Telethon supports WIRF research that will change our world

Did you know that in your own backyard you have a research organisation that is:

Leading the world in research to prevent preterm birth

Developing critical public health education resources for clinicians and families

Improving outcomes for women with gynaecological cancer in WA

Developing the next generation of researchers

Did you know WIRF? Now you do.

For more than 40 years the Women and Infants Research Foundation (WIRF) has conducted and supported research to improve the health of women and infants in Western Australia.

Proudly, WIRF is the charity of King Edward Memorial Hospital, helping to raise vital funds for equipment, new initiatives and providing support to facilitate essential research studies.



women & infants research foundation
Western Australia



SHAPING THE FUTURE
through... RESEARCH
DISCOVERY
DEVELOPMENT

Research for treatments and cures is an expensive endeavour and your donation to WIRF is an investment in our community's future.

To donate visit www.wirf.com.au/donate