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Funding boost to find the missing pieces in the diabetes puzzle

On the eve of World Diabetes Day 2015 (Saturday 14 November), 23 Victorian diabetes researchers have secured a large slice of the \$3.9 million Diabetes Australia Research Program 2016 funding pool.

“Consistent with Victoria’s brilliant reputation for world class medical research, these grants can make a real difference,” said Diabetes Victoria CEO Craig Bennett at last night’s award reception at Government House.

With one adult in ten projected to develop diabetes by 2040, there is an ever growing need for all types of diabetes-related research. Statistics released in the lead-up to World Diabetes Day by the International Diabetes Federation paint a grim picture. Worldwide, 415 million adults have diabetes and an additional 318 million are at risk. Every six seconds, someone dies from diabetes-related complications.

The grant awardees are from such prestigious organisations as Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute, Monash University, Deakin University, The University of Melbourne, RMIT University, Victoria University and the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research. It is hoped that this research will lead to better ways of preventing diabetes, or managing what is a serious and complex condition.

Mr Bennett said that the wonderful generosity of Australians has made it possible to provide such an impressive amount of funding for diabetes research. “Every dollar donated ensures more vital research is undertaken. Each donation may lead to a critical breakthrough.”

“The grant awardees will undertake timely and important research in Australia, given that diabetes is on track to become the single greatest burden of disease in this country within the next few years,” Mr Bennett said.

The Diabetes Australia Research Program funds basic, clinical, psycho-social and translational research into all types of diabetes – type 1, type 2 and gestational. Diabetes Victoria is proud to have contributed \$1.3 million to the 2016 funding pool.

Grants were awarded after a peer-reviewed and competitive process, overseen by a Research Advisory Panel involving 34 expert reviewers and 13 specialist sub-committees. This year, more than 340 applications were received, with an overall success rate of 16%.

A total of 54 general grants (for up to \$60,000 each), a type 1 Millennium grant, a type 2 Millennium grant (each valued at \$150,000), and a number of specialist grants have been awarded this year.

*We **support, empower and campaign** for all Victorians affected by diabetes.*

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