

## Record number of local researchers to benefit from Diabetes Victoria funding

**Monday 13 November 2017:** A record number of 27 Victorian diabetes research projects have been selected for funding under the *2018 Diabetes Australia Research Program (DARP)*. Diabetes Victoria is delighted to have contributed \$1.4m to the \$3.6m national *DARP* funding pool for 2018.

“This means that, in this new national funding round, more than half of all funded *DARP* projects have been awarded to Victorian researchers, highlighting Victoria’s brilliant reputation for world class medical research,” says Diabetes Victoria CEO: Craig Bennett.

*DARP* provides funding support for research into the prevention, management and (*hopefully, one day*) a cure for all types of diabetes, as well as encouraging and fostering young & upcoming diabetes researchers. Each year, outstanding research projects are selected through a national, competitive, peer review process. For 2018, 52 projects were selected for funding across the nation, from 315 applications received. Among the 52 recipients are 27 Victorian diabetes researchers, each of whom will receive a general grant of up to \$60,000.

“Diabetes Victoria strives to support world class medical research, to further our understanding of this serious and complex condition and lead to the next critical development”, Mr Bennett continues. “Every dollar directed towards research is important. Each research project funded may hold a vital key to that next development, helping to make a real difference.”

Diabetes Victoria is a proud supporter of the *Diabetes Australia Research Program*. Over the last 18 funding rounds, Diabetes Victoria has contributed almost \$15.3 million to the *DARP* funding pool.

The 2018 Victorian *DARP* recipients will officially be announced at an award function in Melbourne on *World Diabetes Day*, which falls this year on Tuesday 14 November. The successful researchers work at some of Victoria’s most prestigious institutions such as: Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute, Monash University, The University of Melbourne, RMIT University, Victoria University, the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, St Vincent’s Institute of Medical Research, the Royal Melbourne Hospital and St Vincent’s Hospital.

While there is no cure for any type of diabetes, prevalence rates are steadily increasing for type 1 diabetes, type 2 diabetes and gestational diabetes. “We know that almost 320,000 Victorians have been diagnosed with diabetes as they are registered with the *National Diabetes Services Scheme*,” Mr Bennett says. “We estimate that another 125,000 Victorians live with type 2 diabetes, but do not know it. They might not have any obvious symptoms and not know that irreversible damage can be done to their bodies when they do not actively manage this very serious chronic condition.”

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

### For more information:

Jane Kneebone    0416 148 845    [jkneebone@diabetesvic.org.au](mailto:jkneebone@diabetesvic.org.au)  
Sybille Taylor    0408 102 344    [staylor@diabetesvic.org.au](mailto:staylor@diabetesvic.org.au)

**2018 DARP General Grants for Victoria**

Researcher	Institute	Project Title
Dr Miles De Blasio	Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute	Targeting cardiac adiponectin deficiency with cardiac-selective gene therapy to treat diabetic cardiomyopathy
Professor Hanny Calache	North Richmond Community Health	Diabetes management: a feasible and acceptable model of shared responsibility between general practitioners, practice nurses and oral health professionals in community health services
A/Prof. Melinda Coughlan	Monash University	Targeting the C5a-C5aR1 signalling axis in type 1 diabetic kidney disease
A/Prof. Adam Deane	University of Melbourne	Improving outcomes for critically ill patients with type 2 diabetes
Dr Devy Deliyanti	Monash University	Modulating diet and the immune system to treat diabetic retinopathy
A/Prof. David Dunstan	Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute	Do frequent active breaks from sitting improve glycaemia in adults with type 1 diabetes?
Dr Colleen Elso	St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research	Identifying pathogenic CD4+ T-cells in human type 1 diabetes
Dr Judy de Haan	Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute	A novel approach combining antioxidant and inflammasome targeting to cure hypertensive type 2 diabetic heart disease
Dr Graeme Lancaster	Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute	Characterising the role of a novel macrophage free fatty acid transporter in obesity-associated metabolic dysfunction
A/Prof. Martha Lappas	University of Melbourne	BET proteins – Key players in the pathogenesis of gestational diabetes mellitus?
Mr Man Lee	Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute	Controlling platelet production to limit thrombotic risk in diabetes?
A/Prof. Itamar Levinger	Victoria University	Uncovering the therapeutic effects of osteocalcin in hind-limb immobilisation induced sarcopenia and insulin resistance
A/Prof. Dianna Magliano	Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute	Worldwide trends in diabetes incidence and mortality. Is the epidemic abating?
Dr Jo-Anne Manski-Nankervis	University of Melbourne	Epigenetic markers of vascular damage and glycaemic variability in a general practice cohort of people with type 2 diabetes and out of target HbA1c
Dr Sybil McAuley	University of Melbourne	Assessing the impact of closed-loop insulin delivery on glycaemia, physical and psychosocial wellbeing, sleep quality and cognition in older people with type 1 diabetes: a randomised, controlled study
A/Prof. David O'Neal	St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne	Evaluation of the impact of exercise and related counter-regulatory hormone changes on the performance of an artificial pancreas/closed loop system in adults with type 1 diabetes and impaired awareness of hypoglycaemia
Dr Cheng Xue (Helena) Qin	Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute	Discovering new drugs to treat diabetes-induced cardiovascular complications
A/Prof. Rebecca Ritchie	Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute	Novel gene therapy to treat the cardiac complications of diabetes
Professor Jonathan Shaw	Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute	Cell-free DNA and beta cell death: a novel method providing clinical insights into type 2 diabetes
Dr Aneta Stefanidis	Monash University	Role of brown fat thermogenesis in sleeve gastrectomy induced improvements in glucose homeostasis
Dr Nigel Stepto	Victoria University	Examining a new mechanism of insulin resistance in skeletal muscle of women with PCOS
Dr Thilini Thrimawithana	RMIT University	New strategy for managing diabetic retinopathy – evaluation of somatostatin formulations

Professor Tony Tiganis	Monash University	The role of mitochondrial versus NOX4-derived ROS in insulin sensitivity
Dr Ajithkumar Vasanthakumar	The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research	Harnessing the immunomodulatory and thermogenic functions of IL-33 and SIRT1 to restrain type 2 diabetes
A/Prof. Glenn Ward	University of Melbourne	Evaluation of the efficacy of islet cell transplantation in improving glycaemia, glucose counter-regulation, sleep quality and cardiac arrhythmias in adults with type 1 diabetes and hypoglycaemia unawareness
A/Prof. John Wentworth	The Royal Melbourne Hospital	Does empagliflozin alter the natural history of human type 1 diabetes?
Professor Robert Widdop	Monash University	A novel target to treat diabetes induced cardiovascular dysfunction in type 1 diabetes