

Wednesday 14 November 2018

**Leading ladies present funding boost for vital diabetes research**

On the eve of World Diabetes Day 2019 (14 November), 21 Victorian diabetes researchers have secured a large slice of the total \$3.6 million Diabetes Australia Research Program (DARP) funding pool for 2019. The prestigious 2019 DARP awards were presented by the Governor of Victoria and Patron of Diabetes Victoria, the Hon Linda Dessau AC. Diabetes advocate and Victorian of the Year, Susan Alberti AC spoke at the World Diabetes Day reception at Government House, hosted by the Governor and Mr Anthony Howard QC.

With one adult in ten projected to develop diabetes by 2040 worldwide, there is an ever growing need for all types of diabetes-related research. Latest data from the National Diabetes Services Scheme reveals that diabetes prevalence is continuously growing, with more than 328,000 Victorians currently registered on the scheme. In the last year alone, more than 28,500 Victorians were diagnosed with diabetes, or almost 80 every day. In addition, Diabetes Victoria estimates that an additional 150,000 Victorians do not know that they have type 2 diabetes and a further 750,000 Victorians have elevated blood glucose levels, which puts them at risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

Research is the key to making advances in the prevention and management of diabetes and in the search for a cure. The 2019 DARP grant awardees are from renowned organisations such as Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute, Monash University, Deakin University, University of Melbourne, the Murdoch Children's Research Institute and St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research.

Diabetes Victoria is a proud supporter of the Diabetes Australia Research Program, which was established in 1987. The research program funds basic, clinical, psycho-social and translational research into all types of diabetes – type 1, type 2 and gestational. Each year, outstanding research projects are selected through a merit-based, competitive, peer review process. This year, 52 projects were selected from the 320 applications received, bringing the total DARP funding to \$3.6 million for 2019, \$1.4 million of which was contributed by Diabetes Victoria. Among the recipients are 21 Victorian diabetes researchers who will receive a General Grant of up to \$60,000 each.

World Diabetes Day is celebrated every year around the globe on 14 November. This date was chosen because it marks the anniversary of the birth of Sir Frederick Banting in 1891. Banting was an important Canadian clinician and researcher who, in conjunction with Charles Best in the early 1920s, made some profound discoveries about the role of insulin in monitoring blood glucose levels within our bodies.

**Quotes attributed to Craig Bennett, Diabetes Victoria CEO**

“Consistent with Victoria’s brilliant reputation for world class medical research, researchers in our state have dominated the 2019 DARP grants rounds – making a real difference to people living with, or at risk of, diabetes.”



# MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“The 2019 grant awardees will undertake timely and important research in Australia, given that diabetes is the single greatest burden of disease in this country.”

“Every dollar donated to Diabetes Victoria ensures more vital research is undertaken. Each donation may lead to a critical breakthrough.”

**Quotes attributed to Susan Alberti AC, 2018 Victorian of the Year, philanthropist and diabetes advocate**

“This is an important day of reflection for those who have diabetes and their loved ones. By funding our leading researchers to find better ways to treat, prevent and find a cure for diabetes, Diabetes Victoria will continue to be at the forefront of advocacy and empowerment for people living with this chronic condition.”

**The full list of the Victorian grant awardees of the 2019 DARP funding round can be found here: <http://bit.ly/DARP2019>**

*We support, empower and campaign for all Victorians affected by, or at risk of, diabetes.*

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