

Profile of Centenary Institute of cancer medicine and cell biology

The Centenary Institute of Cancer Medicine and Cell Biology is one of Australia's leading medical research institutions with a portfolio of projects in cancer, immunology and molecular medicine. Its mission is to "improve the health and quality of life for all Australians through excellence in medical research".

Today's medical research discoveries promise better health and a brighter future for our children. Only through improved understanding of the molecular processes that cause diseases can better treatments be developed. It is this challenge to medical science which drives research at Centenary.

Centenary's scientists are committed to research on diseases affecting Australians, such as multidrug resistance in cancer, the genetic basis of heart disease and sudden death, gene therapy for cancer, genetic and haematological disorders, allergies, asthma, childhood diabetes, inflammatory bowel disease, HIV, tuberculosis, liver disease and organ transplantation.

Sudden cardiac death kills young healthy Australians. With no warning signs even athletes are targets, with some of our

fittest sports stars struck down in their prime. Centenary scientists have found several faulty genes that are to blame for a severe form of the disease and the aim of ongoing molecular research is to develop tests that can detect people who are at risk and invent treatments that stop it happening.

Too many of us know someone affected by cancer. Unfortunately for many people diagnosed with cancer their tumours become resistant to anticancer drugs. Centenary scientists are investigating the molecular basis of this resistance in order to improve chemotherapeutic treatments for cancer patients.

Gene therapy has the potential to treat diseases as diverse as haemophilia and cancer. Scientists at Centenary are developing therapeutics that may one day lead to cures for cancers, heart and genetic

diseases as well as degenerative diseases. This year we reported a major milestone in gene therapy by harnessing a harmless virus to transport a missing gene into the liver of men suffering from haemophilia.

Obsessive hygiene has been linked to the increasing incidence of autoimmune disease and allergy in Australia. Scientists at Centenary have developed a blood test that can predict whether someone in our community is susceptible to diseases such as inflammatory bowel disease and asthma. The test is also being applied to individuals in the third world, where the incidence of these diseases is very low, to confirm the effect of hygiene on the blood test results.

Community support is crucial in assisting Centenary researchers continue their quest to improve the health and quality of life for all Australians.



A BEQUEST IS YOUR LIVING LEGACY

By leaving a Bequest to Centenary your support guarantees our scientists can continue their invaluable medical research to find cures for the diseases that affect us and those we love.

If you would like more information or wish to discuss a bequest please call our Bequest Manager on 1800 677 977



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