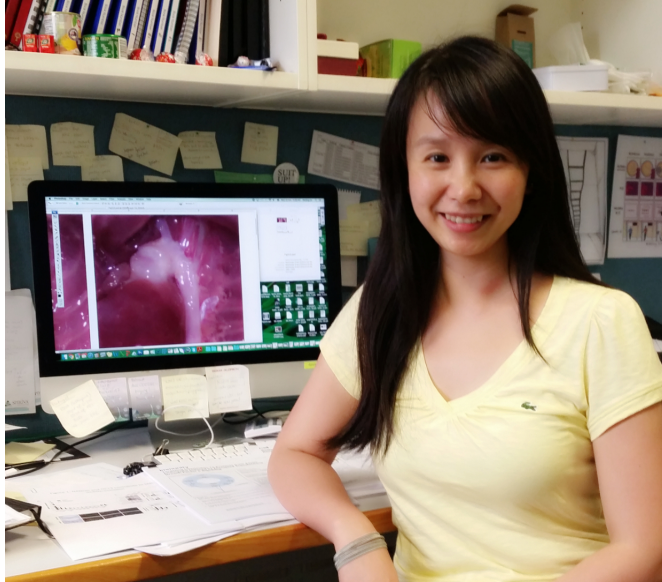


# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Centenary Institute's Dr Renjing Liu awarded competitive grant to fund life-saving research into aortic aneurysms



The National Heart Foundation has awarded grants to the best and brightest Australian researchers investigating the causes, treatment and the prevention of heart, stroke and blood vessel diseases. Competing with more than 370 other funding applications, Centenary Institute's Dr Renjing Liu has received the highly sought after Future Leader Fellowship, supporting her promising research into identifying a new protective gene against aortic aneurysm formation and progression.

In a highly competitive environment, with limited funding available for medical research, support from non-government funding bodies (such as the National Heart Foundation) is vital if we are to move forward and increase our understanding of disease in order to find cures for cardiovascular diseases - Australia's number one killer. In 2016, heart disease was attributed to nearly 35,000 deaths and 640,000 Australians live with heart disease every day.

Dr Renjing Liu is Head of the Agnes Ginges Laboratory for Diseases of the Aorta within the Vascular Biology Program at the Centenary Institute, and Conjoint Senior Lecturer at the University of Sydney. Her lab is investigating new ways to treat aortic aneurysms, which are weakening or bulging of the aorta that can lead to vessel rupture and death. Treatments for this disease are currently limited to surgical interventions, which themselves are associated with high morbidity and mortality.

The National Heart Foundation funding will support Dr Liu's research which will determine how manipulation of this new protective pathway can lead to the development of new drugs to halt and reverse aortic aneurysm progression. "I'm very humbled and excited by this opportunity offered by the National Heart Foundation. I hope my work will translate to better outcomes for patients and their families suffering from this cardiovascular complication" said Dr Liu. The funding will support Dr Liu's vital research over the next three years.

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