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Centenary Institute research boost with NHMRC Investigator Grants

Professor Philip Hansbro, Deputy Director at the Centenary Institute and Professor John Rasko AO, Head of the Centenary Institute's Gene and Stem Cell Therapy Program have both been awarded prestigious National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Investigator Grants. The Investigator Grants scheme is one of the NHMRC's new flagship funding arrangements supporting outstanding health and medical researchers.

Professor Philip Hansbro's funding will support further research into the development of new preventions and treatments for chronic respiratory diseases.

"Respiratory diseases are among the leading causes of all deaths world-wide," says Professor Hansbro.

"This grant will fund our research into developing a comprehensive 'molecular map' for specific respiratory diseases including Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), lung cancer and severe asthma. This will increase our knowledge of how these diseases develop and progress, providing us with new opportunities to attempt treatments and cures."

Professor John Rasko AO, Head of the Centenary Institute's Gene and Stem Cell Therapy Program and Head of Department, Cell & Molecular Therapies at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital will receive funding for his research focused on driving clinical cell and gene therapy in Australia.

"Harnessing the power of our body's own cells and genetic therapies, we are witnessing a medical revolution in curing serious diseases including hereditary bleeding and anaemia as well as specific forms of cancer. This new federal funding will facilitate our internationally acclaimed basic and clinical research Program designed to improve the health of Australians", says Professor Rasko.

The objective of the Australian Federal Government's NHMRC Investigator Grants scheme is to support the research program of outstanding investigators. Research support packages range in size from \$250,000 to \$3 million in total over five years, providing researchers with flexibility to undertake innovative research that will lead to health and medical advances for Australians. Further information on the Investigator Grants can be found on the NHMRC web site: <https://tinyurl.com/y629ajl2>

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IMAGES:

Professor Philip Hansbro
<https://tinyurl.com/yybqjgsx>

Professor John Rasko
<https://tinyurl.com/y2uz5s99>

For all media enquiries and to interview the researchers, please contact

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About the Centenary Institute

The Centenary Institute is a world-leading independent medical research institute, closely affiliated to the University of Sydney and the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. Our research focuses on three key areas: cancer, inflammation and cardiovascular disease. Our strength lays in uncovering disease mechanisms and applying this knowledge to improve diagnostics and treatments for patients.

For more information about Centenary Institute, visit www.centenary.org.au