

Early-career cancer researchers get the nod from Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir

On Thursday 12 May, 19 Cure Cancer Australia cancer research grant recipients were presented to Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AO CVO, Governor of NSW at Government House, Sydney.

“It is an extremely proud moment, having the opportunity to present these exciting and innovative young cancer researchers to Her Excellency,” explained Leanne Warner, CEO Cure Cancer Australia.

Ms Warner sees Cure Cancer Australia’s work as an investment in the future health of Australia.

“Government funding does not adequately support the work of young, enthusiastic cancer researchers, so our role, being at the forefront of early-career funding, is hugely important,” Ms Warner stated.

Since 1967 Cure Cancer has specialised in funding early-career researchers covering all areas of cancer, hoping to ultimately find a cure.

Past recipients have included Professor Robyn Ward who is now internationally recognised for her breakthrough work in identifying factors determining people at risk of developing bowel cancer, Professor Andrew Biankin who is currently the head of Pancreatic Cancer Research at the Garvan Institute of Medical Research, and Dr Catherine Suter currently Head of Epigenetics at the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute.

“Without the early support from Cure Cancer, these incredible researchers may not be where they are today, and may not have achieved the amazing outcomes they have in improving treatments and bringing us closer to a cure.

“One day, one of our enthusiastic, bright researchers will find that cure...it could even be one of our 2011 recipients...”

The 2011 grant recipients are:

Queensland

- Dr Steven Lane - Queensland Institute for Medical Research, Herston
- Dr Susan Woods - Queensland Institute for Medical Research, Herston

New South Wales

- Dr Caroline Ford – Lowy Cancer Research Centre, University of NSW
- Dr Joshua McCarroll – Lowy cancer Research Centre, University of NSW
- Dr Heidi Hilton – Westmead Institute for Cancer Research
- Dr Jeremy Henson – Children’s Medical Research Institute, Westmead Hospital
- Dr Loretta Lau – Children’s Hospital at Westmead
- Dr Yuyan Chen – Children’s Hospital at Westmead
- Dr Liz Caldon – Garvan Institute of Medical Research, Darlinghurst
- Dr Vibeke Catts – University of NSW
- Dr Xue Qin Yu – Cancer Council NSW, Darlinghurst
- Dr Katie Ashton, University of Newcastle
- Dr Flora Tzelepis – University of Newcastle
- Dr David Ziegler – Sydney Children’s Hospital, Randwick

Victoria

- Dr Nai Yang Fu – The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute at the Victorian Breast Cancer Research Consortium, Bundoora
- Dr Ashley Ng - The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Bundoora
- Dr Jennifer Stone, University of Melbourne
- Dr Luc Furic – Monash University
- Dr Xiaomeng Zhang - Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, East Melbourne

For information on each of the researchers’ projects please go to:

www.curecancer.org.au/Research/Researchersfunded2011.aspx

For more information contact:

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Cure Cancer Australia is focused on finding a cure for all types of cancer and has channelled close to \$15 million to 400 extraordinary young Australian research scientists, giving them critical support early in their careers. Find out more at: www.curecancer.org.au