SHINING LIGHTS
AUSTRALIA’S MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTES
AAMRI is the peak body for medical research institutes (MRIs) across Australia.

Our member organisations work on a broad spectrum of human health areas such as chronic disease, mental health, immunology and indigenous health. Their research ranges from fundamental biomedical discovery through to clinical research, and the translation of research findings from bench to bedside.
The range of health challenges facing Australia are substantial: we have an ageing population at risk of debilitating and expensive health conditions such as dementia, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases; our Indigenous people have much lower life expectancies than they should; and our children have among the highest asthma and allergy rates in the world.

Australia’s medical research institutes lead the way in finding cures and treatments to improve health outcomes for some of the most intractable diseases and conditions. Our institutes have strong links with hospitals and the healthcare system, ensuring patients are the focus of our work and that our discoveries translate from the bench to the bedside. In doing this we save our economy millions of dollars via improved health diagnostics, treatments and cures, while also building a knowledge-rich industry with tremendous export capacity. With an estimated $3 return for every $1 invested, supporting health and medical research delivers both better health and wealth for our nation.

Please join me in celebrating the achievements of our medical research institutes, and the people behind these success stories, who deliver enhanced quality of life for us all.

Professor Tony Cunningham AO
President
Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes (AAMRI)
20 MILLION+ PEOPLE WITH LEUKAEMIA HAVE BENEFITED FROM BEING TREATED WITH COLONY STIMULATING FACTORS, WHICH WERE DISCOVERED IN AUSTRALIA.
A picture of health

15,600+ staff and students
work at AAMRI member institutes, including...

9,000+ researchers and PhD students

Investigating 20+ research areas
including cancer, dementia, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, mental illness, public health, genomics, bio-informatics, autoimmune and infectious diseases

Located in all states and territories
across Australia, working on research that benefits children and adults

When combined, AAMRI member institutes employ more than twice as many researchers as many of Australia’s leading universities
Opening the books

$1.32 billion is the combined annual revenue of AAMRI members

Less than half of this revenue is from government sources

Other revenue comes from philanthropy, the commercialisation of research, non-government grants, and other sources
AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN HAVE THE WORST FOOD ALLERGY RATES IN THE WORLD

BUT OUR RESEARCHERS HAVE DISCOVERED THAT BY INTRODUCING EGGS AND PEANUTS EARLY INTO A CHILD’S DIET, THEY HAVE A MUCH LOWER RISK OF DEVELOPING ALLERGIES TO THESE COMMON FOODS
Australian researchers were the first in the world to define the differences between type 1 and type 2 diabetes. They are once again leading the world with islet transplantation, resulting in insulin independence for many patients with type 1 diabetes.
Leading discovery & innovation

$84 million was earned by MRIs commercialising their research in 2014

AAMRI members’ commercial revenue doubled in 2014, with this revenue reinvested into further research by MRIs

207 patents were awarded to AAMRI members in 2014-15

1220 clinical trials were underway in 2015

THEY ARE ONCE AGAIN LEADING THE WORLD WITH ISLET TRANSPLANTATION, RESULTING IN INSULIN INDEPENDENCE FOR MANY PATIENTS WITH TYPE 1 DIABETES

TYPE 1 AND TYPE 2 DIABETES
Community & international support

**Around $190 million** is donated by Australian individuals, businesses and philanthropic funds to AAMRI members each year.

Australian research helps improve the lives of people everywhere, not just in Australia. To support the high quality research conducted by MRIs, prominent international organisations often award grants to AAMRI members, including:

- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- The Atlantic Philanthropies
- Wellcome Trust
- The Rockefeller Foundation
- United Nations
- World Bank
AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH IS HELPING SAVE THE LIVES OF MILLIONS AROUND THE WORLD, LEADING THE WAY IN THE TREATMENT AND PREVENTION OF MALARIA, TUBERCULOSIS, HEPATITIS AND HIV.
AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL RESEARCH DISCOVERED THE LINK BETWEEN BABIES SLEEPING ON THEIR TUMMIES AND SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME. SINCE THIS DISCOVERY, THE NUMBER OF BABIES DYING FROM SIDS HAS DROPPED FIVE-FOLD FROM SIX BABIES DYING PER 3000 TO FEWER THAN ONE BABY PER 3000
Healthier and happier lives

At least 50,000 lives have been saved in Australia thanks to medical research that led to the introduction of compulsory seatbelts, improved child restraints and advancements in trauma medicine.

There has been a 70% reduction in the number of babies born with spina bifida thanks to food policy changes after the discovery of the link between increased folate in a mother’s diet and reduced neural tube defects.

The ProCan study is analysing 20,000+ cancer samples from around the world to develop a library of information to advance scientific discovery and enhance clinical treatment worldwide. This database will mean doctors can effectively narrow down the best type of available treatment to target a cancer patient’s individual diagnosis.
A sustainable future

Health and medical research is crucial to Australia’s future – to secure improved quality of life, reduce healthcare expenditure, and to ensure Australia’s economy continues to prosper in an age where knowledge and innovation become the most valued commodities.

$155 billion+ is spent on health in Australia each year.

$3 is saved for every $1 invested in health and medical research, via improved diagnostics, treatments, prevention and cures.
AUSTRALIA’S FIRST CLINICAL WHOLE-GENOME SEQUENCING SERVICE BRINGS US TO THE PRECIPICE OF A TREMENDOUS REVOLUTION IN HEALTH CARE

GENOMICS RESEARCH DELIVERS QUICKER, MORE ACCURATE DIAGNOSES AND ALLOWS FOR PERSONALISED TREATMENT WITH FEWER SIDE-EFFECTS