



# Press Kit 2016



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## Fast facts

- ACRF provides multi-million dollar funding for world-class cancer research: all types of cancer, nationally.
- Approx. 1 in 2 Australians will be diagnosed with cancer by the age of 85.
- The survival rate for many common cancers has increased by 30%+ in the past two decades. This is thanks to innovations in research!
- The fight against cancer isn't cheap: microscopes used in the latest cell-based research cost more than \$1 million each & the annual cost of treating cancer in Aust is more than \$2 billion!
- ACRF has given \$120.9m to research since its inception in 1984.
- No other private organisation has invested more in Australian cancer research initiatives across all types of cancer.



## About the ACRF

Research is the key to beating cancer.

That's why, at the Australian Cancer Research Foundation, we are committed to supporting Australia's best researchers in their search for the cures.

We provide up to \$10 million in research grants every year to support Australia's most promising research ventures and collaborations for all types of cancer.

Our grants, which are usually between \$2 and \$5 million, are used exclusively to speed up discoveries in cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment. In fact, we are the only private charity in Australia to provide researchers with the advanced research technologies and facilities they need to fast-track discoveries from the lab to the hospital bedside.

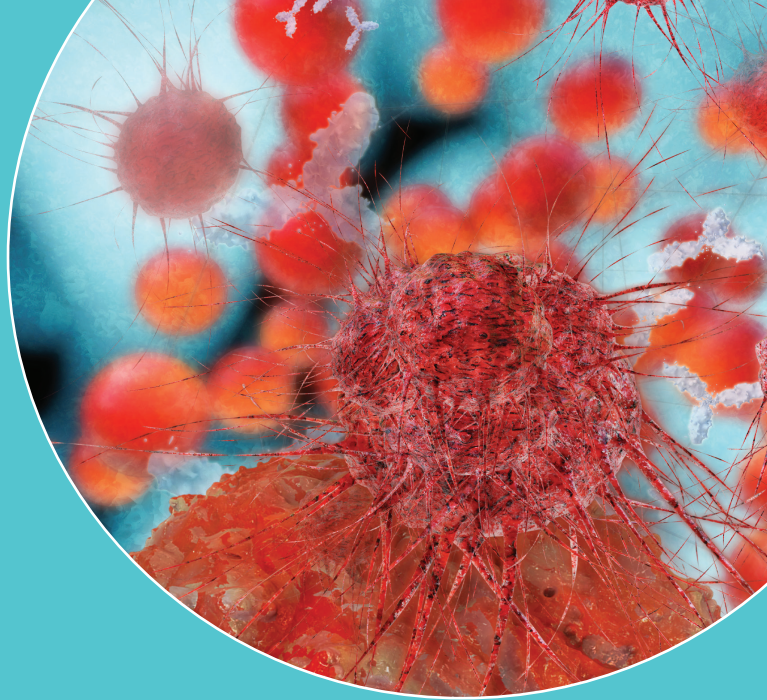
In summary, these resources provided by the Australian Cancer Research Foundation work to save lives by saving time.

We award our grants based on the recommendations of a committee of esteemed, Australian cancer scientists, including co-creator of the cervical cancer vaccine, Professor Ian Frazer AC.

The Australian Cancer Research Foundation was founded in 1984, and has awarded \$120.9 million to leading cancer research projects. We are privately funded and rely on the generous contributions and fundraising efforts of our wonderful supporters.

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## About Cancer

The survival rate for many common types of cancers has increased by more than 30 per cent in two decades, thanks to new treatments and diagnostic measures brought about by research.

Patients with prostate cancer, kidney cancer and non-Hodgkin lymphoma patients have experienced the most dramatic improvements in 5-year survival, with many other cancers such as melanoma, testicular, lip and thyroid (and prostate cancer included) recording a 5 year survival rate of 90% or more. Breast cancer currently has a 5-year survival rate of 89%.

However, cancer is still the leading cause of death in Australia with more than 39,800 Australians killed by cancer each year.

The types of cancer most commonly causing death are lung, prostate and colorectal cancers in males and breast, lung and colorectal in women, which together account for 59% of all cancers.

There has been limited improvement in mesothelioma and pancreatic cancer survival, both of which have a 5-year survival rate of less than 10%.



## Cancer Research in Australia

Cancer researchers in Australia are leaders in their field, and thanks to incredible gains in technology, they now work very closely with some of the best minds and research teams around the world.

But while the wheels are in motion and researchers are finding new answers in the fight against cancer every day, major hurdles still remain. Advanced cancers are among the most elusive research targets for scientists working towards better prevention, treatment and maintenance options for patient quality of life.

For maximum progress, the Australian Cancer Research Foundation is committed to ensuring our researchers are able to work with the most cutting-edge resources available.

Of course the fight against cancer isn't cheap. Microscopes used in the latest cell-based research cost more than \$1 million each, and the annual cost of treating cancer in Australia is more than \$2 billion. \$215 million was spent on cancer research in 2000-01, just above 18% of all health research expenditure in Australia.



# The research we fund

We've helped researchers achieve some amazing things over the years, with \$120.9 million in grants awarded to world-class research initiatives. Here are a few of our stand-out contributions.

## Ian Frazer's Cervical Cancer (HPV) Vaccine:

When our donors funded Professor Ian Frazer's research into the HPV vaccine via a \$1 million ACRF grant in 1999, we didn't realise that there would be such incredible outcomes across so many types of cancer. Approved for distribution around the world in 2006, it reached women and girls in more than 100+ countries, and has since been found to protect both boys and girls from cancers of the genital tract, and some head and neck cancers!

## The Kinghorn Comprehensive Cancer Centre:

In 2010 the Australian Cancer Research Foundation awarded a total \$5 million towards the development of The Kinghorn Comprehensive Cancer Centre, a joint research-and-patient-care initiative between The Garvan Institute of Medical Research and St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney. The ACRF's significant contribution was realised and acknowledged in the development of a world-class genetics laboratory at the Kinghorn Cancer Centre, which is now a major resource for patients, researchers and clinicians from around Australia.

## The Children's Cancer Institute Australia (CCIA) ACRF Drug Discovery Centre:

A \$3.1 million ACRF grant has provided a Drug Discovery Centre at the CCIA, which houses customised robotic technology that enables one year's research to be completed in just days. This technology rapidly screens thousands of molecular drugs to identify which ones have the potential to be developed into safer, more effective therapies. It is the only facility of its kind in Australia devoted to children's research while also servicing the host of adult cancer initiatives conducted at the University of NSW Lowy Cancer Research Centre.

## The St Vincent's Institute Laser Scanning Cytometer:

The new ACRF Rational Drug Discovery Centre at St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research, funded by a \$2 million ACRF research grant, provides Victorian researchers with state-of-the-art resources to discover new drugs for cancer. These technologies include a Laser Scanning Cytometer - the first of its kind in Australia - which shows, in more detail than ever before, how potential cancer drugs work inside the body.



Recipients of ACRF's 2016 grants will be announced publicly in December.

For the latest in cancer research discoveries visit:  
[acrif.com.au/category/research-discoveries](http://acrif.com.au/category/research-discoveries).