

*Some of our
SPONSORS & DONORS*



Wesfarmers **BankWest**
The University of Western Australia
SKG Radiology
Innovation Capital
MJB & B Advertising
Blake Dawson Waldron
Godfrey, Spowers, Puddey & Lee Architects
Barry Barr & Associates
Perth Oncology
O'Rourke Realty Investments
Cossill & Webley Pty Ltd
Barrington Partners
Ralph & Beattie Bosworth Pty Ltd
Allens Arthur Robinson
All West Uniform
Davis Langdon Silver

Prof Alan Robson
Prof Lawrie Beilin
Mr Mark Newman
Mr Frank Cornelius
Mr Don Mazzucchelli
Mr Harry Perkins
Mr Nick Kailis

MESSAGE FROM THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

I come to this role as Chairman of WAIMR with a high degree of challenge and enthusiasm, but at the same time sadness about the circumstances leading up to my appointment. The untimely death of our founding Chairman, Mr Harry Perkins, leaves us all sad for the loss of the great human being who was a tireless worker for a range of community causes in Western Australia, principal amongst which was the establishment of WAIMR.

We have a busy program ahead, including making some amendments to our constitution so that it suitably reflects the present and future needs of the Institute. Following these amendments, some additional appointments to the Board will be made and a more formal committee-style structure established, as recommended by Professors' Funder and Shine and Mr Frank Cooper, in their review of September 2001.

Meanwhile the research activities of WAIMR continue at an exciting pace, and I am so pleased and proud of the contribution that our Institute is making to medical research in this State of WA.



Professor Peter Klinken (Director) and Mr Richard Lester (Chairman)



Mr Richard Lester - Chairman

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Much has happened since our last DNAge was released in November 2002. Most significantly WAIMR lost its Chairman Harry Perkins very suddenly at the end of last year. Our sincere and deepest condolences go out to Margaret and all of Harry's family. WAIMR will truly miss its inaugural Chairman and I will particularly miss my "Siamese twin".

Dick Lester has taken over the reins as Chairman of WAIMR and in a short space of time we have developed an excellent working relationship. I am looking forward to working very closely with Dick as we move into the next phase of WAIMR's development.



Prof Peter Klinken - Director

WAIMR now has over 100 intramural researchers in its 2 facilities, and we are grateful to the founding partners UWA, RPH and SCGH for their continued enthusiastic support of the Institute. In addition, WAIMR has developed excellent partnerships with numerous research organisations including the Cancer Foundation of WA, the National Heart Foundation, the Keogh and Raine Foundations, the Diabetes Research Foundation of WA, the Health Department of WA, the Asthma and Allergy Research Institute and the Centre for Neuromuscular and Neurological Diseases. By jointly sponsoring and supporting initiatives, we are maximising our research opportunities for WA.

WAIMR's plan has been to build new facilities with State-of-the-art equipment and promote strategic re-location of researchers with complementary expertise and technology. The next phase was to pursue an active recruiting campaign designed to reverse the "brain drain". With the research teams we have in place, and our new recruits, WAIMR is well on its way to achieving these goals. Having established a strong core of basic research teams aiming to understand the causes of numerous diseases, I now look forward to the translation of fundamental scientific discoveries into improved clinical treatments. The next exciting stage of WAIMR's evolution will be enhancing clinical research and trials to provide direct benefits to the community of Western Australia.

VALE - HARRY PERKINS (5 August 1939- 14 December 2002)

The Board and staff of WAIMR and the medical research community is hugely indebted to Harry for his extraordinary contribution to medical research. He was the driving force behind the establishment of WAIMR. He firmly believed that without a high quality research environment it would be difficult to recruit and retain the best doctors in WA; as a consequence, service delivery to the community would inevitably suffer. It was his vision and drive, which convinced 3 major organizations involved in adult medical research ie UWA, RPH and SCGH to combine their research talents into WAIMR. His arguments were compelling - increased collaboration, cross fertilization of ideas, cost sharing expensive equipment and so on. By convincing researchers of this concept, Harry created a paradigm shift in medical research. Individual groups need no longer work in isolation, because they had the opportunity to be networked into a bigger organization. As WAIMR was being established Harry embarked on an ambitious fundraising campaign. He spearheaded this campaign and worked tirelessly for the fledgling Institute. He was able to convince Wesfarmers to make the largest corporate donation to medical research in Australia. His energy and enthusiasm were breath-taking. Harry often said "If you do good research and have a seat at the International table, it has to benefit the community, because you will get better access to new treatments". How right he was. Harry didn't have to become as involved as he did because he had so many other commitments. But that was Harry! To see him dive into this project was simply inspirational and his efforts went well and truly beyond the call of duty. The thoughts that everyone constantly re-iterates are that:



- he was an incredibly positive person
- he was warm, caring and generous
- he was a real giver
- he had enormous generosity-of-spirit
- he had great integrity and dignity (especially in difficult times)
- but most of all - he was a great man!

GRANTS AND AWARDS

WAIMR congratulates **Professor Alan Robson**, Deputy Vice-Chancellor at The University of Western Australia and a Board Member of WAIMR on his appointment as a Member in the Order of Australia (AM) in the Australia Day Honour's list. Alan was recognised in the General Division for service to education, particularly in the field of agricultural science, and to the development of agricultural research through a range of research committees and councils. He has been one of the major influences who shaped and supported the establishment of WAIMR.

Professor Luba Kalydjieva received the prestigious Visiting Spinoza Foundation Professorship in the Netherlands. This award, given to foreign scientists for short visits to the Netherlands, involves spending time with the host University of Amsterdam, as well as presenting seminars at other Universities in Holland.

WAIMR Intramural Researchers have been awarded more than \$3 million dollars for research grants in 2003. The majority of the money (\$1.85 million) has come from competitive National Health and Medical Research Council grants.

APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSOR IN CLINICAL GENETICS

WAIMR congratulates **Professor David Ravine** on his appointment as Professor in Clinical Genetics at UWA. David is supported by the Health Department and WAIMR. He will be academically based in the School of Medicine and Pharmacology, as well as WAIMR's UWA Centre for Medical Research, consolidating the close ties between the School and the Centre.



Professor Ravine is very enthusiastic about WAIMR and explains "An essential ingredient for good clinical practice is active participation in medical research, which strives to be world-ranking and, at the same time, is backed up by vigorous translation locally into routine clinical practice so that patient care continues to improve - something that is being achieved locally already by the focused efforts of many scientists within WAIMR".

MORE RESEARCHERS MOVING INTO WAIMR LABORATORIES (RPH)



Associate Professors George Yeoh and **Lawrence Abraham** from the UWA Faculty of Physical and Life Sciences have partially relocated with their teams into WAIMR laboratories. A/Professor Yeoh conducts research into liver stem cells and liver cancer, while A/Professor Abraham has a long standing interest in understanding how genes are regulated, especially in lymphomas and liver cancers. Their research teams have joined the WAIMR Laboratory for Cancer Medicine, bringing with them expertise which adds to the established groups.

WAIMR is delighted with the development of this exciting initiative; it provides a wonderful opportunity to work collaboratively with the Faculty of Physical and Life Sciences on cancer research.

WAIMR WORKSHOPS, SYMPOSIA AND SEMINARS

WAIMR held a **Cell Biology & Cell Signalling Workshop** on October 23rd 2002 at the Nedlands Campus. **Professor Christina Mitchell** from Monash University was the invited speaker and she presented two excellent talks on her cell signalling research. Her presentations were complemented by talks from five local experts, Dr Paul Rigby, Dr Robin Scaife, Dr Karen Kroeger, Dr Evan Ingley and Dr Marie Bogoyevitch. Once again, the WAIMR workshop attracted a capacity audience from the local scientific community.



In conjunction with the CRC for Asthma, and the Asthma and Allergy Research Institute (AARI), WAIMR held an Education Initiative entitled '**The interface between clinical and laboratory genetics**' on November 11, 2002. Invited speakers were Dr Kwun Fong from the Prince Charles Hospital, Brisbane, and Dr David Duffy from the Queensland Institute for Medical Research, while local speakers were Professor Peter Sly, Associate Professor Phil Thompson and Professor D'Arcy Holman. The importance of translating basic research discoveries to the clinical setting was highlighted at this excellent workshop.

WAIMR has recently co-sponsored two International meetings. The '**3rd Asia Pacific Symposium on Neural Regeneration**' was organised by Associate Professor Sarah Dunlop and held between December 3-5, 2002. The '**Advanced Technologies in Cancer Research - From Gene Chips to Gene Therapy**' was organised by Professor Bruce Robinson and held between December 3-4, 2002. Both were highly successful meetings which attracted very positive feedback from national and international participants.

In 2002, WAIMR's seminar program was re-established and eleven national and international visiting speakers presented their research to audiences at both WAIMR's RPH and SCGH campuses.

WAIMR INTRAMURAL RESEARCHER PROMOTED TO PROFESSOR

WAIMR congratulates **Peter Leedman** on his promotion to Professor in the School of Medicine and Pharmacology at UWA. Professor Leedman is an intramural WAIMR researcher in the Laboratory for Cancer Medicine. He has recently been appointed co-Deputy Director of WAIMR and is also Director of Research at RPH. Professor Leedman is an endocrinologist with a particular interest in hormone-dependent cancers. His team is investigating novel ways of understanding the growth of breast and prostate cancer.



How to find out more information..

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH INC

RPH Campus

Level 5 & 6 MRF Building, Rear 50 Murray Street, Perth WA 6000
Tel: +61 8 9224 0333 Fax: +61 8 9224 0322

SCGH Campus

Ground Floor, B Block, Hospital Avenue, Nedlands WA 6009
Tel: +61 8 9346 3838 Fax: +61 8 9346 1818

Website: www.waimr.uwa.edu.au

All donations to the Institute over \$2 are tax deductible.