

November 19, 2008

Media Statement

**AN INSPIRATIONAL LEGACY**

The tragic passing of Olympian and medical research advocate Tim Willoughby earlier this year has inspired a legacy that will carry on his passion for an Institute he helped to found 10 years ago.

Launched last Thursday November 13, the Tim Willoughby Foundation for Medical Research, based at the Western Australian Institute for Medical Research (WAIMR), will raise funds to award four annual prizes and fellowships for outstanding medical research efforts being undertaken in the State.

Helping to launch the new Foundation were Tim's son Angus Willoughby, wife Anne-Louise Willoughby, and founding patron His Excellency Dr Ken Michael AC Governor of Western Australia.

Speaking to guests at the event, Mrs Willoughby said: "When our dear friend Harry Perkins (WAIMR's founding Chairman) first discussed the idea of a medical research institute with Tim in 1997, Tim was galvanised by the idea of an institute for excellence in Western Australia."

"An efficient and effective collaborative research centre made sense to him and he put his energy into it. His expertise was in tapping into resources and making sure they were effectively applied, by bringing different parties together and facilitating a good outcome. We aim to continue Tim's work."

The Foundation plans to award two five-year fellowships worth \$750,000 for researchers to pursue projects in their chosen fields – one of which will be awarded to the WAIMR-based National Centre for Asbestos Related Diseases (NCARD) stemming from Tim's commitment to the Centre, having been a founding member of the inaugural board.

In addition, one young WA researcher under the age of 35 will receive a three-year PhD scholarship for \$120,000, reflecting the passion Tim held for the potential of every young person in realising their dreams.

As well, the \$50,000 Tim Willoughby Prize for Excellence in Medical Research will be awarded each year to honour a WA-based researcher for scientific excellence.

Finally, the Tim Willoughby Medal for Community Service to Medical Research will be awarded to an individual, community group or corporate contribution to medical research.

The Foundation has been established under the auspices of WAIMR. Under the guidance of its Chairman, former Chief Justice David Malcolm, the Tim Willoughby Foundation for Medical Research will take on the task of raising funds for the awards and prizes in Tim's memory.

WAIMR Director Professor Peter Klinken said the Foundation would enable some of the brightest minds in the state to answer the truly big questions about diseases that affect our community.

"Tim understood the value of medical research and had an infectious enthusiasm – striving for his best, and was a great source of confidence and strength that we hope to pass on through this fantastic initiative," he said.

"The Tim Willoughby Foundation is something very special that will impart enormous benefit to medical research in this State and help to improve the health of our community.

"Tim was one of the first supporters of WAIMR and had a passion for the significance of medical research, his enthusiasm for causes and widespread community commitments are an inspiration to us all."

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