

Media Release

Ramaciotti Foundations commit over \$780,000 to progress Australian biomedical research

Medal of Excellence recognises ground-breaking advancements in 3D printing for implants

2 November 2018

Perpetual, as trustee of the Clive and Vera Ramaciotti Foundations, has announced the 2018 recipients of the respected Ramaciotti Awards for Biomedical Research. This year \$784,731 was distributed to seven biomedical researchers.

The awards also include bestowing the Ramaciotti Medal for Excellence, an annual award of \$50,000, to a researcher that has made an outstanding discovery in clinical or experimental biomedical research. This year, the honour was awarded to Professor Dietmar W Hutmacher, Professor and Chair in Regenerative Medicine of the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) for pioneering the field of 3D printing in medicine as well as his track record in developing clinically relevant disease models.

Notably, Professor Hutmacher developed and patented a 3D printed scaffold that has subsequently received FDA approval for the US market and the CE Mark for Europe. The technology allows the development of patient-specific implants for craniofacial, orthopaedic, plastic and reconstructive surgery and, most significantly, personalised medicine. Developments have been far-reaching with tens of thousands of patients treated worldwide with this technology.

Of his receipt of the Ramaciotti Medal of Excellence, Professor Hutmacher said: "I am honoured to be recognised by the Ramaciotti Foundations for excellence in biomedical research this year. My research is a culmination of years of continuous work alongside very talented teams of students, research assistants, collaborators and professors who have been essential in achieving the outcomes and advancements we have made in the last decade.

"The support that we have received from the Ramaciotti Foundations will help us further our research in 3D printing technology and its application in biomedicine."

Over the past decade, Professor Hutmacher has collaborated extensively, both nationally and internationally, and his research has been supported by over \$25 million of research grants at QUT. He is an inventor of more than 20 patents and has founded several companies including Osteopore International, BellaSeno GmbH, Vaccine Solutions and Biofabrication Design Solutions.

As part of the awards, the Ramaciotti Health Investment Grants has allocated up to \$150,000 for each of the six recipients to support their progress in taking their research to clinical application within five years.

This year, the inaugural Derek Hart Memorial Award was awarded to one of the grant recipients, Associate Professor Saurabh Kumar from the Western Sydney Local Health District. This award honours

the late Derek Hart’s contributions to medical research and his long association with the Ramaciotti Foundations, including as Chair from 2012-2017.

The Ramaciotti Foundations are collectively one of the largest private contributors to biomedical research in Australia and have granted over \$59 million to research projects since 1970. This has included support for internationally renowned discoveries such as the world’s first cervical cancer vaccines and the Cochlear impact.

Commenting on the significance of the awards, Perpetual’s General Manager, Community and Social Investments, Caitriona Fay, said: “Philanthropic endeavours can have a significant impact on the wellbeing and health of millions of people worldwide. We are proud to continue the legacy of Clive and Vera Ramaciotti, supporting Australia’s biomedical community and recognising the incredible contribution to medicine that Australia offers.”

The recipients of the 2018 Ramaciotti Health Investment Grants are:

Researcher	Institution	Project Title
A/Professor Saurabh Kumar	Western Sydney Local Health District	Code STORM: STandard care Or a Rapid early invasive Management of patients with life threatening heart rhythm disorders
Dr Vanessa Murphy	The University of Newcastle	Implementation of an asthma management strategy utilising measurement of airway inflammation in a hospital-based antenatal clinic setting
Dr Anna Waterhouse	Heart Research Institute	Reducing blood clotting complications from cardiovascular medical devices
Dr Jeremy Barr	Monash University	Development of a novel bacteriophage treatment regime to combat and re-sensitise multiply antibiotic resistant <i>Acinetobacter baumannii</i> infections
A/Professor Christopher Blyth	The University of Western Australia	PATRIC: a Pragmatic Adaptive Trial for Respiratory Infections in Children
Dr Kate Fox	Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology	Personalised 3D printed biomedical diamond Implants for improving the bone interface

– Ends –

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Note to editors

About the Ramaciotti Foundations

Managed by Perpetual, the Ramaciotti Foundations started off with \$6.7 million in funds in 1970 with the first major grant going to the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute in 1971. This assisted with the establishment of the new Clive and Vera Ramaciotti Research Laboratories building. Since then, the Foundations have donated over \$59 million to biomedical research and are one of the largest private contributors to the field. The Ramaciotti Foundations continue to support biomedical research and each year make significant distributions via the Ramaciotti Awards, providing funding support to areas such as molecular biology, genetics and immunology, and assisting young investigators taking up new challenges in biomedical research.

For more information about the Ramaciotti Foundations visit www.perpetual.com.au/ramaciotti

About the Ramaciotti Medal for Excellence in Biomedical Research

The Ramaciotti Medal is an annual award of \$50,000. The Medal honours an individual who has made an outstanding discovery (or discoveries) in clinical or experimental biomedical research that has had an important impact on biomedical science, clinical science, or the way in which healthcare is delivered. To be eligible for the Ramaciotti Medal, the greater part of the nominee's work leading to the discovery (or discoveries) must have been conducted in Australia and they must still be actively engaged in this work. The applicant must be peer nominated and the final recipient is selected based on a recommendation by the Ramaciotti Scientific Advisory Committee to Perpetual. Many past winners are highly regarded individuals in the top echelon of the biomedical research industry. High profile past winners include Professor Sam Berkovic, Professor Chris Parish, Professor TJ Martin, Professor Robert Baxter and Professor Ian Frazer. Professor Susan Clark was the 2017 recipient.

About the Ramaciotti Health Investment Grants

Ramaciotti Health Investment grants of up to \$150,000 are awarded to individuals in universities, public hospitals or institutes for a contribution towards the undertaking of health or medical research with the potential path to clinical application within five years. A Health Investment grant is intended to provide enabling research support for an autonomous early career investigator who is taking, or has recently taken, a substantive position. Grants are awarded by Perpetual, Trustee of the Foundations, on the recommendation of a dedicated Scientific Advisory Committee.

About Perpetual Philanthropic Services

Perpetual is one of Australia's largest managers and distributors of philanthropic funds with \$2.7 billion in funds under advice (as at 30 June 2018). Perpetual is trustee for more than 1,000 [charitable trusts and endowments](#) and provides individuals and families with advice on establishing charitable foundations and structured giving programs. Perpetual also assists charities and not-for-profit organisations with [investment advice and management](#).

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