

Media release  
For immediate release

## **Intensive Care Foundation 2008 research grants announced**

**30 October 2007:** The Intensive Care Foundation announced their 2008 funding for six new Australian and New Zealand world leading clinical research projects and an education grant at the ANZICS/ ACCCN ASM gala dinner at the weekend.

A total of \$248,028<sup>1</sup> was granted to the projects which included research into pressure in the skull following severe head injury and a look into the feasibility of a large population based research study which would have the potential to substantially improve the understanding of all aspects of critical illness.

Hospitals and institutes throughout Australia and New Zealand will be taking part in these research projects.

The annual Mike Cowdroy and Intensive Care Foundation Education Grant for Rural Nurses<sup>2</sup> was awarded to Associate Professor Cheryl Benn for her project 'Breast feeding after intensive care'.

Associate Professor George Skowronski, Chairman of the Intensive Care Foundation, said that continued research into intensive care is vital as it can mean the difference between life and death.

"The granting program is the largest single component of the work we do at the Foundation and we are really pleased that we were able to award almost a quarter of a million dollars."

"This year we upgraded the grant assessment process with the implementation of the Scientific Committee who are tasked with managing the review process to ensure that only the very best research is funded," said Skowronski.

In any one year over 143,000 people<sup>3</sup>, including 7,700 children, are admitted to Intensive Care Units in Australia and New Zealand.

The funds for the research grants were raised by the Foundation during its annual Intensive Care Appeal in April with the help of volunteers, ANZ Branches in Australia, Jesters pie stores in New Zealand and Intensive Care Units across Australia and New Zealand.

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<sup>1</sup> This figure excludes the Mike Cowdroy and Intensive Care Foundation Education Grant for Nurses

<sup>2</sup> The Mike Cowdroy & Intensive Care Foundation Education Grant for Rural Nurses supports travel, registration and per diem of one rural nurse to attend the ANZICS/ ACCCN Annual Scientific Meeting

<sup>3</sup> Martin J, Warne C, Hart GK & Hicks P (2007) Intensive Care Resources & Activity: Australia & New Zealand 2005/ 2006. ANZICS, Melbourne



### **The Intensive Care Foundation**

The Intensive Care Foundation is dedicated to improving the care of critically ill patients by raising funds for clinical research projects as well as the education of health professionals for Intensive Care Units each year.

The Foundation aims to raise awareness and profile of intensive care throughout the community, highlighting the miracle work that intensive care doctors, nurses and researchers perform as part of their daily jobs.

To date the Foundation has provided 52 grants to Australian and New Zealand research projects totalling more than \$1.7 million dollars since 1999. This year almost a quarter of a million was granted.