

MEDIA RELEASE

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2014 Intensive Care Foundation Grants fund major research projects

The Intensive Care Foundation announced \$175,000 in grants for eight Australian and New Zealand world-leading clinical research projects at the ANZICS/ACCCN Intensive Care Annual Scientific Meeting in Hobart on Saturday, 19 October.

Dr Gillian Hood, Chair of the Intensive Care Foundation, announced the grants for projects which included research into:

- improving neurological recovery following cardiac arrest by increasing partial pressure of carbon dioxide to the brain immediately afterwards
- identifying novel biomarkers for sepsis, leading to the development of anti-inflammatory therapies for sepsis which is a major problem worldwide
- a drug therapy technique that will 'recondition' donated lungs thereby increasing the number of lungs suitable for life-saving transplants
- the effect of Vitamin D supplementation on outcomes for ICU patients

Hospitals and institutes throughout Australia and New Zealand will be taking part in these research projects. A complete list of projects is attached.

Dr Hood 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. Since 2000 we have made grants totalling more than \$2.6 million to Australian and New Zealand research projects and we are really pleased at the quality of the projects and outcomes achieved over the years."

In any one year more than 165,000 people, including over 10,000 children, are admitted to Intensive Care Units in Australia and New Zealand.

The funds for the research grants are achieved through a combination of public donation and sponsorship and support from corporates and individuals

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About the Intensive Care Foundation

The Intensive Care Foundation is dedicated to improving the care of critically ill patients in Australia and New Zealand 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 life-saving work that intensive care doctors, nurses and researchers perform as part of their daily jobs.

Online donations to the Intensive Care Foundation can be made at:
www.intensivecarefoundation.org.au

Granted projects for 2014

- **Prophylactic intra-aortic balloon counterpulsation in high-risk cardiac surgery: The PINBALL Pilot Randomised Controlled Trial**
Funding: \$34,000
- **Intestinal GLP-2 as novel target in critical illness-induced malabsorption**
Funding \$30,900
- **Vitamin D dosing study in Intensive Care Unit patients with Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome**
Funding \$29,000
- **Hydrogen sulfide and substance P: novel biomarkers for sepsis**
Funding: \$26,000
- **Endothelin blockade in ex-vivo lung perfusion**
Funding: \$25,000
- **Therapeutic hypercapnia after cardiac arrest, a multi-centre pilot feasibility and safety randomized controlled trial**
Funding: \$13,320
- **Gene expression profiling in critically ill patients with septic shock: a pilot study**
Funding: \$11,625
- **ADRENAL Consent Study - a multi-centre, prospective, observational study of the process of obtaining consent from potential participants or their substitute decision-makers in the adjunctive corticosteroid treatment in critically ill patients with septic shock**
Funding: \$5,000