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From: hcra-members-bounces@newcastle.edu.au on behalf of HCRA
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Sent: Monday, 28 October 2019 11:01 AM
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Monday 28 October, 2019

The review process has highlighted that some members would like clarity around what HCRA is, and what the purpose of HCRA is.

The Hunter Cancer Research Alliance (HCRA) is a partnership between:

- The University of Newcastle
- Hunter Medical Research Institute
- Hunter New England Local Health District, including Calvary Mater Newcastle

The purpose of HCRA is to enable world class translational cancer research.

HCRA brings together over 400 researchers, clinicians and health service professionals working in cancer research areas across our partnering institutions.

HCRA is the umbrella organisation for three key cancer research programs:

1. Cancer Institute NSW Translational Cancer Research Centre (TCRC)
2. UON Priority Research Centre for Cancer Research, Innovation and Technology (PRC CaRIT); and
3. HMRI Cancer Research Program

Key Research Programs

CINSW TCRC

HCRA is one of seven **Translational Cancer Research Centres (TCRCs)** funded by the Cancer Institute NSW, a pillar organisation of NSW Health. These centres bring together research, clinical training, education and service delivery within a formal framework. The key focus of TCRCs is the translation of basic research into a clinical setting, as well as being applicable to the translation of population health and health services research, informing programs and service delivery.

The CINSW TCRC funding is provided to HCRA for:

- Appointment of Director and Co-Deputy Directors – the funds are used for backfill positions to release time for the directors to work on HCRA responsibilities.
- Essential salary support for positions relating to the management, implementation and execution of TCRC centre initiatives, activities and Flagship Programs (the next update will cover details of the initiatives offered and managed by the HCRA operations team).
- Clinical Research Fellowships.
- Support for Flagship Programs through seed funding grants.
- Infrastructure support for the Hunter Cancer Biobank.
- Capacity building initiatives for centre members such as conference travel, statistical support, education and training.

Importantly, additional CINSW funding schemes are only available to researchers within a TCRC, therefore the HCRA TCRC provides the opportunity for Hunter based researchers to apply for schemes such as CINSW Fellowships; CINSW Infrastructure Grants; and CINSW Equipment grants, for which HCRA members have been highly successful in attracting.

The TCRC funding was also leveraged to attract 9 PhD scholarships from UON (over the 7 years of TCRC funding).

UON PRC CaRIT

The University of Newcastle provides infrastructure funding to the Priority Research Centre for Cancer Innovation Translation and Innovation (PRC CaRIT). The PRC CaRIT is currently led by Prof Stephen Ackland and Prof Xu Dong Zhang. Dr Liz Fradgley holds the position of Chair for the Future Leaders Group in 2019, a major initiative of PRC CaRIT. The PRC is currently developing a succession plan for future leadership. More information on this process will come at the completion of the HCRA Review. PRC CaRIT funds are allocated to:

- Future leaders Group initiatives (as decided by FLG Committee)
- Infrastructure – for example as a top up to the MRSP funding allocated annually, to support salaries (see below for more information)

HMRI Cancer Research Program

Medical Research Support Program (MRSP) funding is provided to HMRI through the NSW Ministry of Health and Medical Research. The funds allocated to the HMRI Cancer Research Program are specifically for research infrastructure. HCRA allocates these funds annually to salary funding requests for infrastructure positions that support programs of research (not individual research projects). These funds have been topped up in 2018 & 2019 by PRC CaRIT funds to enable HCRA to support as many eligible salary requests as possible. These funds are allocated on a competitive basis through yearly applications and peer review.

Philanthropic donations

Occasionally HCRA receives philanthropic donations via the UON Philanthropy Office. These funds may be provided with conditions and/or guidance from the donor as to how the funds are to be used, for example, support for early career research or research into specific cancer types. If there is no guidance from the donor, the HCRA Executive Committee will decide how to use the funds. For example, in 2018 and 2019 funds were made available for Career Development Fellowships as a result of a generous donor.

PHASE 2, Workshops: Future Vision for HCRA

This is an opportunity to develop our vision and research focus for the Hunter and beyond. This phase will gather 'blue-sky' ideas from our members and help us to focus our collaborative efforts. We welcome you to attend an upcoming workshop and have your say.

Friday 15 November, 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Room 2065, Level 2, Calvary Mater Newcastle

Tuesday 19 November, 1.30pm – 4.30pm

Room 414, Level 4, Medical Sciences Building West, Callaghan Campus

Wednesday 20 November, 9.00am – 12.00pm

Caves Lecture Theatre, Hunter Medical Research Institute

If you are unable to attend the workshops but would like to contribute points for consideration during these discussions, please contact yourteam@seedpeopleconsulting.com.au by Monday 11 November 2019.

REGISTER TO ATTEND A WORKSHOP

More information about the HCRA Vision and Strategy Review:

Regular updates will be circulated to HCRA members regarding the progress of the review, notifying when and how members can contribute and participate.

The next update will explain the initiatives offered by HCRA and managed by the HCRA Operations team.

If you feel you have questions outside of these regular updates, please contact:

L/Prof Rodney Scott, HCRA Director

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