



Department of State and
Regional Development



New South Wales Government

MEDIA RELEASE

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UNSW Student awarded Dr Paul Brock stem cell research scholarship

University of New South Wales (UNSW) PhD student Henry Chung has been chosen as the inaugural winner of the NSW Government's Paul Brock Scholarship for stem cell research.

Mr Chung is investigating the potential of stem cells – particularly Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells (iPS) - to treat people with Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease.

iPS stem cells are cells that are treated to resemble embryonic stem cells in that they have the ability to regenerate and form into virtually any cell in the human body. It is hoped that iPS cells can eventually be used to replace or repair damaged or diseased cells.

The Dr Paul Brock Stem Cell Scholarship is named after Dr Paul Brock AM, a motor neurone disease sufferer widely recognised for his significant contributions to public debate on stem cell science.

"The Scholarship aims to help build NSW capacity in the use of iPS cell techniques in stem cell science," Dr Brock said.

"This award is about fostering and encouraging our next generation of researchers to ensure NSW continues to produce strong research leaders and remain at the forefront of research in this area.

"I congratulate Henry on his successful application and I recognise the potential to break new ground in the exciting field of stem cell research."

Dr Brock also congratulated Henry on winning the inaugural scholarship funding and wished him well in his research efforts.

"The recent breakthrough in induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cell research pioneered in the USA and Japan, when taken with other developments in scientific research, offers hope of treating, slowing down, and eventually curing such sinister, still incurable and terminal neurological diseases like motor neurone disease as well as a range of other debilitating ailments," Dr Brock said.

Henry Chung, 24, said he was very honoured to be named the inaugural winner of the Paul Brock Scholarship.

"Winning this scholarship will help me complete my PhD research, and at the same time gain new insights into the potential treatments of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease," Henry said.

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