

## Jodi McKay

Minister for Tourism  
Minister for the Hunter  
Minister for Small Business  
Minister for Science and Medical Research  
Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)



Embargoed until December 10, 2008

### **\$9 MILLION FOR NSW CANCER SPECIALISTS**

Local cancer researchers and clinicians are set to share in new grants collectively worth \$9 million, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer) Jodi McKay announced today.

“This unique project invests in the people who have the potential to become our leaders in cancer care and those who are already at the pinnacle of success,” Ms McKay said.

“The grants are part of a long term strategy to keep NSW at the forefront of international efforts to better understand, prevent and treat cancers and to ensure the NSW health system has enough highly-trained doctors to treat the expected rise in new cancer cases.

“The grants ensure laboratory breakthroughs are translated directly into practical treatment options for patients.”

Ms McKay said thirty-two cancer researchers and specialists have been awarded grants of up to \$750,000.

“These grants will allow them to continue their promising research into Australia’s most threatening disease,” Ms McKay said.

Ms McKay said the Cancer Institute NSW predicts there will be over 30 per cent more cases of cancer in the next 10 years than there were in the last, increasing the risk of premature death and the loss of years of productive life.

“Despite the progress made over the last decade, cancer remains the biggest single cause of premature death in NSW, with one in two men and one in three women likely to be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime,” Ms McKay said.

“The impact on the community is devastating. Each year more than 12,000 families lose a loved one to cancer.

“Over the past decade, better biological drugs, new surgical techniques, more effective early detection, falling smoking rates and record health budgets have improved survival rates and continue to reduce cancer deaths.

“One day the research conducted by people like Dr Viive Howell, who is researching the causes of ovarian cancer, will affect the way we diagnose and treat cancer,” Ms McKay said.

“We are planning and investing now to ensure our health system is better equipped to meet the needs of a growing number of cancer patients and ultimately defeat this disease.”

**Media Contact: Hayley Thomas 0403 732 227**

**Cancer Institute NSW Clinical Research Fellowship:**

The Cancer Institute NSW Clinical Research Fellowships are aimed at strengthening and supporting clinical research in hospitals by providing opportunities for cancer clinicians to develop and sustain long-term careers in clinical research.

<b>Clinical Research Fellow</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Research Institution</b>	<b>Research Project (brief lay description)</b>
<b>Rosemary Balleine</b>	\$577,151	University of Sydney, Westmead Hospital	Research into improving the prognosis and management of invasive breast cancer.
<b>Michael Buckland</b>	\$754,453	St Vincents Hospital	Research into the genetic mapping of brain tumours to identify new targets for the treatment and diagnosis.
<b>Stan Sidhu</b>	\$564,126	Kolling Institute of Medical Research, Royal North Shore Hospital	Developing the molecular markers to identify malignant adrenal cancer.

**Cancer Institute NSW Early Career Development Fellowship:**

The Cancer Institute NSW Early Career Development Fellowships are aimed at encouraging the very best researchers to choose cancer as their selected field of research endeavour. The Early Career Development Fellowships are intended to provide funding opportunities to develop and support researchers who have no more than a total of 5 years post doctoral experience and can demonstrate substantial ability and potential as a future cancer research leader.

<b>Early Career Development Fellow</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Research Institution</b>	<b>Research Project (brief lay description)</b>
<b>Alexander Swarbrick</b>	\$593,996	Garvan Institute of Medical Research, St Vincents Hospital	The role of gene regulation in the development of cancer.
<b>Viive Howell</b>	\$598,790	Kolling Institute of Medical Research, Royal North Shore Hospital	The role of hormones and genetic changes in experimental models to develop more diagnostic markers for ovarian cancer.
<b>Phoebe Phillips</b>	\$598,507	University of New South Wales	Research into the interaction of pancreatic cancer cells with their micro environment.
<b>Di Yu</b>	\$587,680	University of New South Wales	The role of anti-tumour helper T cells and novel approaches for cancer therapy.

<b>Marcel Batten</b>	\$574,412	Garvan Institute of Medical Research, St Vincents Hospital	Research into anti-tumour responses to lymphoma and breast cancer.
<b>Anthony Don</b>	\$523,173	University of New South Wales	Research into drug-induced suppression of leukaemia cells.
<b>Yohan Suryo Rahmanto</b>	\$593,197	University of Sydney	Research into melanoma progression and treatment.
<b>Luke Wolfenden</b>	\$586,101	University of Newcastle	Supporting parents to increase children's consumption of fruits and vegetables: a randomised controlled trial of a telephone based intervention.
<b>Danuta Kalinowski</b>	\$588,598	University of Sydney	Development of new chemotherapeutic drugs.

**Cancer Institute NSW International Clinical Research Fellowship:**

The Cancer Institute NSW International Clinical Research Fellowships are aimed at providing NSW cancer clinicians and researchers the opportunity to work at international centres of clinical and research excellence

<b>Clinical Research Fellow</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Research Institution</b>	<b>Research Project (brief lay description)</b>
<b>Mi Joung Lee</b>	\$158,961	Stanford University School of Medicine (California)	Evaluation of a new tool to diagnose lower limb lymphoedema

**Cancer Institute NSW Research Scholar Award:**

The Cancer Institute NSW Research Scholar Awards will provide funding opportunities to develop and support outstanding students enrolled in a higher degree who have the potential to develop highly significant careers in cancer research.

<b>Research Scholar</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Research Institution</b>	<b>Research Project (brief lay description)</b>
<b>Zeenia Kaul</b>	\$75,000	Children's Medical Research Institute, Westmead Hospital	Exploring the role of shortening chromosome ends (telomeres) in the protection against cancer development.
<b>Lyndall Tacon</b>	\$50,000	Kolling Institute of Medical Research, Royal North Shore Hospital	Research into the cause and treatment of cancer of the adrenal gland.
<b>Simon Junankar</b>	\$50,000	Garvan Institute of Medical Research, St Vincents Hospital	Recognition of senescent (alive but unable to replicate) cancer cells by the immune system.

<b>Scott Penfold</b>	\$25,000	University of Wollongong: Loma Linda University Medical Centre	The use of imaging technology to improve targeted radiotherapy treatment.
<b>David Chang</b>	\$50,000	Garvan Institute of Medical Research, St Vincents Hospital	Phenotype, prognosis and response to therapy in pancreatic cancer.
<b>Vivienne Ong</b>	\$50,000	Garvan Institute of Medical Research, St Vincents Hospital	The role of molecules in pancreatic cancer prognosis and treatment.
<b>Sarah Walker</b>	\$75,000	Westmead Hospital and Westmead Millennium Institute	Exploring the effect of obesity in the development of liver cancer.
<b>Elizabeth Shelley</b>	\$50,000	Garvan Institute of Medical Research, St Vincents Hospital	Preclinical studies of a novel plant toxin as an anti-cancer agent.
<b>George Sharbeen</b>	\$25,000	Centenary Institute of Cancer Medicine and Cell Biology, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital	Investigation into new colon cancer treatments.
<b>Prunella Blinman</b>	\$35,000	University of Sydney	Determining patients and doctors preferences for chemotherapy and incorporating them into clinical decision making.
<b>Jamie Bryant</b>	\$55,305	University of Newcastle	Tackling Tobacco: An exploration of methods to reduce smoking in socially disadvantaged populations.
<b>Christopher Lavis</b>	\$50,000	Newcastle Mater Hospital and University of Newcastle	Drug resistance in melanoma cells.
<b>Cathy Payne</b>	\$50,000	Kolling Institute of Medical Research, Royal North Shore Hospital	Identifying new genetic targets to develop new therapies for malignant brain tumours.
<b>Joanna Fardell</b>	\$50,000	University of Sydney	Chemotherapy and cognitive decline: Is exercise a remedy?

### Cancer Institute NSW Clinical Fellowship:

The Cancer Institute NSW Clinical Fellowship Program is designed to specifically address the need to provide a year of in-depth training and research for newly qualified specialists. The program aims to build upon and further support clinical cancer improvement, research and best practice.

<b>Clinical Fellow</b>	<b>Lead Supervisor</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Research Institution</b>	<b>Research Project</b>
<b>Georgina Long</b>	Prof Rick Kefford	\$163,480	Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and Westmead Hospital	Clinical and biomarker correlates of melanoma chemosensitivity.

<b>Currently Recruiting</b>	Prof Robyn Ward	\$163,480	Prince of Wales Hospital	Building capacity in resource allocation decision-making: Using evidence based models and local data to inform the funding of high cost medicines.
<b>Currently Recruiting</b>	A/Prof Neil Merrett	\$163,480	Bankstown Hospital	Clinico-pathological characteristics and the current management of Cystic Premalignant Neoplasms of Pancreatic Cancer in NSW. The aim is to define the clinico-pathological characteristics and the current management of precursor lesions of pancreatic cancer in NSW.

**Cancer Institute NSW Psycho-oncology Fellows:**

The Psycho-oncology Clinical Fellowship Program aims to further develop the in-depth expertise of qualified psycho-oncology health professionals under the supervision of experts in the field.

<b>Clinical Fellow</b>	<b>Lead Supervisor</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Research Institution</b>	<b>Research Project</b>
<b>Julie Garrard</b>	Dr Lindsay Napier	\$110,000	Calvary Health Care Centre Sydney	Uncertainty at the end of life: the impact of changes in care planning for frail elderly palliative care patients.
<b>Ben Britton</b>	A/Professor Gregory Carter	\$110,000	Calvary Mater Newcastle Hospital	Improving malnutrition in Head and Neck cancer radiotherapy patients: a phase II trial of psychological intervention.