

The logo for Cancer Institute NSW features the text "cancer institute" in a purple sans-serif font, with "NSW" in a smaller font below it. To the right is a stylized graphic of two human figures in purple and grey, one appearing to support or lift the other.

**cancer
institute
NSW**

Cancer Research Leaders Program

2005 - 2008

CANCER RESEARCH LEADERS PROGRAM

Grant Title: Basic and Translational Research into the Mechanism of tumour metastasis and invasion.

Description: Centenary Institute of Cancer Medicine and Medical Research aims to become the leading Institute in Australia for cancer research. In order to achieve this Centenary is committed to providing the intellectual and physical environment for success.

The recruitment of world class researchers to the campus is a central part of the strategy. The first stage in the plan was the recruitment of Professor Vadas as Executive Director. His experience and vision has resulted in strong recruitment, strong interactions and concrete plans for a cancer-devoted building. Recent recruits have included, Professor Wolfgang Weninger from the Wistar Institute in Philadelphia and enhancing our strengths in stem cell biology with the recruitment of Dr Ryuichi Aikawa from Tufts University, Boston enhancing our cell therapeutic axis and Dr Mika Jormakka who will be approaching cancer drug discovery through crystallisation of cell membrane proteins responsible for drug transport.

The next stage of Centenary's plan is the recruitment of an international level cancer researcher as a Cancer Leader, who will bring new directions and a strong team to the campus. The NSW Cancer Institute Cancer leader will also be accorded the Chair of Cancer Biology, a chair that is supported by the Centenary, the SCC and the University of Sydney and will provide one of the essential glues to make the CBTCR truly a beacon for cancer research world wide.

Over the next three years, Centenary will spend A\$10M to upgrade and expand its facilities. In the intermediate term Centenary with the SCC will build the CBTCR and in the longer term, through the Sydney Institutes of Health and Medical Research in conjunction with the University of Sydney and Sydney South West Area Health Service, will participate in a new biomedical research building on University land adjacent to Centenary. Critical to the successful expansion of Centenary's facilities and the new biomedical buildings will be the development and growth of the proposed Cancer Research Leader Program.

The Program Grant was awarded to:

- **Prof Mathew Vadas**

Academic Position: Prof Ariel Ruiz i Altaba, Medical Foundation Chair of Cancer Biology, University of Sydney

Administering Institute: The University of Sydney

Research Institute: Centenary Institute of Cancer Medicine and Cell Biology

Grant Reference: 07/RLP/1-02

\$3,250,000 over 5 years commencing July 2008

Grant: Establish core melanoma basic research team.

Description: The Cancer Research Leader and his/her team will join the Sydney Melanoma Unit (SMU), the world's largest clinical service dedicated to the treatment of melanoma, treating >1300 new melanoma patients annually. The SMU has also recruited large cohorts of individuals with high susceptibility to melanoma, both familial and population-based, throughout southeastern Australia.

The aim is to utilise these unique, internationally recognised resources to develop a world-class cancer research laboratory that will provide the scientific basis for molecular predictors of risk, progression and treatment response in melanoma. The integration of a high quality cancer research workforce with the current operations of the Sydney Melanoma Unit will ensure a rapid translation of these findings to the

patient's bedside and grow capacity in an area, namely melanoma, which already has an outstanding international reputation for excellence in clinical research.

The Program Grant was awarded to:

- **Prof John Thompson**
- **Academic Position: Nick Haywood**, Professor of Melanoma and Molecular Biology at the University of Sydney

Administering Institute: The University of Sydney

Research Institute: Sydney Melanoma Unit, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital

Grant Reference: 06/RLP/1-02

\$3,250,000 over 5 years commencing January 2007

Grant: Role of p53 and other interacting proteins in human cancer.

Description: The central theme of Prof. Rowe's research program is the role in cancer of the key tumour suppressor protein, p53, and some of the proteins with which it interacts. Abnormalities of p53 function, or of p53 signalling, are so frequent that they may be regarded as a hallmark of human cancer.

The Program Grant was awarded to:

- **Prof. Peter Rowe**
- **Academic Position: Antony Braithwaite**, Professor, Faculty of Medicine, University of Sydney and Senior Principal Research Fellow, Children's Medical Research Institute

Administering Institute: Children's Medical Research Institute

Research Institute: Children's Medical Research Institute

Grant Reference: 05/RLP/1-01

\$3,250,000 over 5 years commencing January 2006
