$39 MILLION BOOST TO CANCER RESEARCH

Health Minister Jillian Skinner has today announced a $39 million boost to cancer research for NSW, through the Cancer Institute NSW grants program.

More than $9.5 million will go to supporting the careers of cancer researchers, $3.8 million will be invested in research infrastructure and $25.9 million will support the state’s translational cancer research centres to advance the rapid translation of research from bench to bedside, and across the health system.

“These grants - funded by the NSW Government through the Cancer Institute NSW - are absolutely vital to ensuring we attract and retain the best and brightest cancer researchers in NSW,” Mrs Skinner said.

“In fact, through this year’s Future Research Leader program, we see two outstanding senior researchers return from overseas, bringing with them a wealth of knowledge to establish substantial programs of research in our state.”

Cancer is now the leading cause of death among people with HIV. Future Research Leader recipient, Dr Mark Polizzotto has returned from the National Cancer Institute in the US, to take up a position at UNSW, where he will be establishing a clinical trial program to prevent and treat these HIV-associated cancers.

Fellow Future Research Leader, Dr Mark Larance returns from the UK’s University of Dundee to investigate how programs of intermittent fasting can assist with the prevention and treatment of cancer, at the University of Sydney.

Among the Career Development Fellows, University of Sydney’s Dr Anne Cust, who first proved links between tanning beds and melanomas, is embarking on a new project to improve the disease’s treatment and prevention. Early Career Fellows include Dr Elizabeth Hinde from the University of NSW, who is working on new delivery methods for DNA chemotherapeutics.

Chief Cancer Officer and CEO of the Cancer Institute NSW, Professor David Currow said, “As our population ages the numbers of people with cancer is increasing. In five years’ time more than 53,000 people in NSW will be told ‘you have cancer’ which makes it vital we continue developing new approaches to treatment and prevention and better understand survivorship.

“The Cancer Institute NSW is proud to fund this ground-breaking research as we know it is the foundation for better cancer treatments and will ultimately take us closer to our vision of ending cancers as we know them.”

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