

Palmerston North Medical Research Foundation President's Report

year ended **31 March 2017**

The Foundation is pleased to report on its activities for the year past. Applications for grants continue to be of good number and high quality. Seventeen applications for funding were received. Eleven were approved. These include the Duncan Fellowship and the approval of a Visiting Professorship, although the latter is still to be uplifted.

Successful recipients were:

General Grants:

1. Mr Samuel Bloomfield **"Factors influencing long-term Campylobacter excretion"** - \$10,000.00
2. Ms Sara Burgess **"Prevalence of multi-drug resistant Enterbacteriaceae in livestock"** - \$9,940.00
3. Miss Maggie Chan **"Cryptosporidium infection assay development"** - \$10,000.00
4. Dr Helen Fitzsimons **"Modelling Coenzyme Q deficiency in Drosophila"** - \$10,000.00
5. Prof Robert Jolly **"Gene therapy in a model of mucopolysaccharidosis IIIA"** - \$8,000.00
6. Dr Anne Midwinter **Tracing the cryptic source of human Yersiniosis via molecular epidemiology"** - \$8,989.00
7. Ms Hanah Morton **The incidence of inflammatory bowel disease in Manawatu, NZ, 2011-2016"** - \$7,000.00
8. Dr Shahista Nisa **"Pathogenesis of Shiga toxin-producing E.coli isolated from farms in New Zealand"** - \$4,194.90

AM & GL Wilson Grants:

1. Dr Tracy Hale **"Targetting the nuclear periphery to halt malignancy"** - \$20,000.00

Summer Scholarships:

- none awarded -

Visiting Professorship:

1. Dr Mark McCann **Prof Hesketh, Newcastle University, UK. "Low selenium intake as a risk factor for cancer"** - awarded but yet to be uplifted.

Duncan Fellowship (in conjunction with the Duncan Trust)

1. Dr Remai Parker **"Calcium dysregulation in skeletal muscle"** \$5,000.00

As in the preceding year, ten grants were awarded. Monies taken up increased by 10% to \$105,984.00. It was disappointing not to be able to award a Summer Scholarship. In all it is gratifying to see the quantity and calibre of the applications being received and to take heart in the validity of the biomedical research resulting.

A Colloquium was held on 22 August 2017.

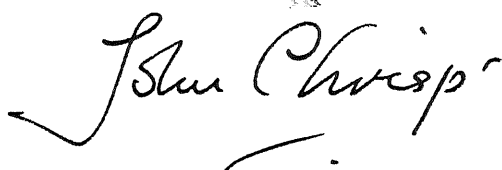
Financially the Foundation is maintaining its position recording a modest deficit for the year of \$2,140, largely accounted for by appreciation in the value of the New Zealand dollar. It ends the year with a net worth of \$2,272,772. We continue to avail ourselves of the advice of Guardian Trust.

An unexpected fillip during the year was contact from Kate Russell on behalf of the Combined Medical Research Foundations of NZ. Having had their inaugural meeting in Wellington last year, they had become aware of the existence of the PNMRF and invited our organisation to join them.

Their next meeting is to be held in Christchurch 13 October 2017. Their focus is on the promotion of biomedical research, community awareness and fundraising.

The Deed of Gift of the Foundation allows us to have on our Board, five to Thirteen Trustees plus a secretary. Three of these potential Trustees are elected at the AGM for three year terms, two are appointed on the advice of the Palmerston North Postgraduate Medical Society (PNPGMS), one on the advice of the Combined Medical Staff Committee, PN Hospital (CMS), one on advice of the Vice Chancellor, Massey University, and one on the advice, originally of the CEO of DSIR, now the Research Units. These trustees serve three year terms. Each year, the Foundation elects a President, and up to two Vice Presidents, who serve a one year term. In addition, the Board may appoint two further Trustees, each for a three year term. Presently the board has ten Trustees with vacancies in three categories. It will move to fill them in accord with its strategic intentions.

Following on from the above, the Foundation expresses its gratitude to all who give of their time and governance. In particular it acknowledges the contributions of Dr Bart Baker, Mr Paul Joice who have stood down.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Chrisp". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John Chrisp
Palmerston North
26 September 2017