

All MSRA Research Partners will receive the quarterly NEXT newsletter plus email updates on the progress we are making . . .

. . . Progress such as Prof John Prineas' study (University of Sydney) into the early stage changes that occur during an acute MS attack, or Prof Trevor Kilpatrick (University of Melbourne) identifying pathways to re-myelination. Such findings will have significant implications for future treatments of MS.

When you reach special milestones in your contributions, MSRA would like to further encourage you with:

- A personalised certificate of appreciation
- Invitations to attend presentations by key MS researchers
- Special MSRA cufflinks or badge which will let you wear your heart on your sleeve (or jacket). Great conversation starters!
- Annual MS research summaries
- Opportunities to meet MS researchers and further understand their discoveries.



## FREEDOM FROM MS IS IN YOUR HANDS

### WELCOME TO THE MSRA RESEARCH PARTNERS PROGRAM

- Yes, I want to become an **MSRA Research Partner** and be a part of the Australian team that contributes to **FREEDOM FROM MS.**

Title \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

My tax deductible donation is:

Monthly \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Annual \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Method

Cheque payable to MS Research Australia attached

Please charge my credit card

Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



RESEARCH  
AUSTRALIA

# RESEARCH PARTNERS

## MSRA Research Partners Freedom from MS is in your hands



*"When my colleague collapsed at work with an MS episode, I thought I can't cure MS but I can help people who are in the position to find a cure."*

Hannah – MSRA Research Partner

**Australia is playing a significant role in the international effort to solve MS. We have excellent researchers who are collaborating on major national projects in the quest to find the cause and cure for this terrible disease.**

We all can play an integral role by the active support and encouragement we provide to our researchers.

MS Research Australia (MSRA) has been helping to accelerate the excellent work of Australia's MS researchers since 2004. Currently, with help from donors, we are funding over 40 national research studies. Successes to date include:

- Confirming the potential of vitamin D as a prevention strategy for MS. This resulted from the Ausimmune Study of environmental influences such as sunlight and viruses
- Mobilising a team of researchers to develop an Australasian MS Genetics Consortium (ANZgene) to identify the genes that influence MS susceptibility and progression
- Developing the first Australian MS Brain Bank that will collect, store and distribute MS tissue to accelerate our world-class neuropathology targeting the cause of MS

These successes make us believe that we are on the verge of discoveries that will contribute to our goal of FREEDOM FROM MS.

Medical research is all about team work. Eureka moments are achieved through collaborative effort.

**Even if you are not in the lab, being a donor allows you to be part of the team – as an MSRA Research Partner.**



The patron of our MSRA Research Partners program is well-known musician, Jim Conway, shown below with Dr Fiona McKay at the Millennium Institute Laboratories.

“As a professional musician I spent the past 35 years of my life performing and establishing a career. I respect the researchers who have committed themselves in a similar way to their profession,” says Jim.

As patron of the new MSRA Research Partners program, Jim hopes to encourage others to support Australia's top MS researchers.

“I want to assist those with the know-how to get on with their vital work. The easier we make it for them, the quicker we will see results. Becoming a research partner allows me to be involved as part of the team,” says Jim.

MS Research Australia welcomes you to the MSRA Research Partners program. We want to thank you and recognise your fantastic contribution to the team.



Below is a list of what our MSRA Research Partners' contributions will achieve:

- \$75 – Covers a morning's lab work by a junior researcher at one of our MS medical research institutes
- \$350 – Pays for DNA sequencing of one person's blood sample, aimed at finding the genes that influence MS
- \$1,000 – Provides for research on one MS RNA sample to find MS-specific changes during the disease (Gene Expression research)
- \$3,000 – Allows for the retrieval of a donated MS brain, invaluable for use in MS tissue research
- \$5,000 – Will cover a small project grant, likely to address areas such as stress and MS
- \$15,000 – Covers one year of a Betty Cuthbert Research Scholarship, matched by Government funding
- \$35,000 – Covers one year of a Betty Cuthbert Research Fellowship, matched by Government funding
- \$50,000 – Is the annual cost of several current research projects investigating how damaged MS cells can be repaired or replaced
- \$85,000 – Pays one year operational costs for the MSRA Brain Bank Senior Fellow who will co-ordinate the collection, storage and use of human MS tissue
- \$140,000 – Covers an entire four year Betty Cuthbert Research Fellowship – working on a significant MS Research Project
- \$350,000 – Pays for DNA sequencing of 1,000 blood samples from people with MS. This would significantly help in finding the genes that influence MS – leading to better prediction, possible prevention and more effective, targeted treatments.