



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW TAKES THE LEAD IN GENOMIC MEDICINE

Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research Jillian Skinner has announced four teams of researchers will share \$2.72 million to explore better treatments for cancer, mitochondrial disease, inherited heart disease in babies and schizophrenia.

The four recipients of the *2014/15 NSW Genomics Collaborative Grants* funding were selected from 66 applicants and announced at The Children's Hospital at Westmead.

"These grants enable some of our best minds to be among the first researchers in the world to access new whole genome sequencing technology, allowing them to better research diagnoses and treatments," Mrs Skinner said.

The grant recipients will have access to a state-of-the-art genome sequencing facility operated by the Garvan Institute of Medical Research.

The Garvan Institute is one of only a handful of international centres in the world to have acquired the Illumina HiSeq X Ten system, which can sequence more than 300 whole human genomes per week.

"These grants are another way in which the NSW Government is supporting medical research and building our expertise in whole genome sequencing, all the while asking: in what ways will patients benefit."

The four *2014/15 NSW Genomics Collaborative Grants* recipients are:

1. **Professor Graham Mann** (\$811,150) from the Westmead Millennium Institute for Medical Research / University of Sydney will lead chief investigators from the Melanoma Institute Australia and Macquarie University to support research into new therapies for metastatic melanoma.
2. **Professor Carolyn Sue** (\$740,000) from the Kolling Institute of Medical Research will lead chief investigators from the Children's Hospital at Westmead and Charles Perkins Centre (University of Sydney) in research aimed at transforming the diagnostic paradigm for mitochondrial disease using whole genome sequencing to unlock new knowledge about the genetic causes.
3. **Professor Sally Dunwoodie** (\$370,000) from the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute will lead chief investigators from her own institute and the Sydney Children's Hospital Network in research into the genetic causes of congenital heart disease.

4. **Associate Professor Murray Cairns** (\$800,000) from the University of Newcastle will lead chief investigators from the University of New South Wales and St Vincent's Hospital in research to identify genomic system motifs and associated markers that can inform the development of new interventions in relation to schizophrenia.

Mrs Skinner said: "Some of our brightest researchers have earned this fantastic opportunity to improve the quality of health care across the state, while establishing NSW as a world leader in genomic medicine."

The Office for Health and Medical Research will release details about the next round of funding - the *2015/16 NSW Genomics Collaborative Grants* - later this year.

For more information, visit <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/ohmr/Pages/genomics-grant-apps.aspx>

MEDIA:

Liz Hannan (Minister Skinner) - 0427 232 671

Anne O'Neill (Office for Health and Medical Research) - 0418 221 779