

**THIS IS  
OUR  
MOMENT**



**Because of your support,  
we are closer than ever to  
a cure for paralysis.**



# FOUNDER’S MESSAGE

It is hard to put into words the gratitude I feel after the year we have had. An extraordinary year where the community have rallied around our mission to cure paralysis for all.

Many years ago, I shared my dream of conducting a Human Clinical Trial in pursuit of a treatment for spinal cord injury. This was an audacious goal, outrageous even and not to be taken lightly. Our pursuit began and it has led me all over the world only to find the solution in my own back yard on the Gold Coast, Queensland.

So many things have since fallen into place. It started with my good friend and board member Dr Brent McMonagle introducing me to his mentor Emeritus Professor Alan Mackay-Sim AM and learning about the power of olfactory ensheathing cells. I have been supported by an incredible community, Foundation team and Board. We have met great partners like the team at Making Strides and Griffith University. Finally, meeting Professor James St John has been life changing. His dedication and commitment to new ideas has meant that we are now on the cusp of a Cell Transplantation and Rehabilitation Human Clinical Trial happening.

With this immense support, together we have pushed and pushed and we have now arrived at the top of the mountain. This is our moment and I share it with you all.

At the time of printing this report (October 2023) together we have raised \$7.5m of the \$8.5m needed to start the trial. This is truly phenomenal and is testament to the community who believe in this trial as much as I do.

Along with the hundreds of community members who have supported our fundraising and have enabled us to commit \$2m to this trial, I also need to thank the following Cure Crusaders who have joined the mission;

- Peter Johnstone and The Clem Jones Foundation for committing \$1m
- Nicola and Andrew Forrest who committed a matching pledge of \$1m
- Griffith University who committed \$1m
- Queensland Government who committed a further \$2m.

We still have some fundraising to do to reach the trial budget and of course we can't predict what will happen in terms of trial results. Despite the uncertainty, we still have to celebrate this moment. I want to sincerely thank those who have shared their story, our partners at Griffith University and Making Strides, the SCI community, our donors and the many incredible philanthropists who have supported our work and for making my dreams a reality.

*‘Everything is Possible!’*



**Perry Cross AM**  
Founder & Executive President

# CHAIRMAN’S MESSAGE

On behalf of Perry and the Foundation’s Board of Directors, I offer my congratulations on an extraordinary effort over the past year, which has moved us closer than ever to Perry’s dream of conducting a human clinical research trial.

It has been an outstanding year of achievement, one for the record books. Highlights include;

- \$1.33 million in operating profit, before investment in research, raised throughout the year eclipsing last year’s record of \$790,000.
- Committing \$849,000 into research at Griffith University, including completing the second rehabilitation trial (Intensive Long-Term Rehabilitation Trial: Testing the Prehab Stage) and the purchase and donation to Griffith University of the LiveCyte Microscope at a cost of \$400,000.
- Achieving our best fundraising results at the 2023 Gala Dinner where \$600,000 was raised in a single night. Donations were subsequently doubled by philanthropists Nicola and Andrew Forrest, bringing the total raised to \$1 million.
- Developing our Volunteer Ambassador Speaking Program and witnessing these dedicated volunteers having an impact in the community.

I recognise that to realise such outcomes takes a huge amount of thinking, strategy, passion and commitment by the entire Foundation team led by Perry, Melissa, Jen and Clare. Well done to each of you.

Thank you to my fellow directors, our members, the scientific committee led by Dr Brent McMonagle, our dozens of volunteers, generous donors, patrons and ambassadors for your dedicated support of the Foundation.

I extend a warm welcome to several new Foundation members including Adam Bennett-Smith (retired board member), Jens Tampe and Greg Pink. I would also like to thank our valued and dedicated Company Secretary, Letitia Maxwell.

Finally, congratulations to you Perry Cross, on courageously leading the Foundation with unwavering focus and belief over so many years, ever closer to our ultimate goal – a cure for paralysis – and for continually reminding us that...*‘everything is possible!’*



**Tom Ray**  
Chairman



# HONOURING ALAN MACKAY-SIM



Photo: Emeritus Professor Alan Mackay-Sim AM, May 1951 – January 2023

It was with deep sadness that we farewelled Emeritus Professor Alan Mackay-Sim AM in 2023 who pioneered the Spinal Injury Project’s work.

In 2002 Professor Mackay-Sim led a world-first Phase I clinical trial, at the Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery, that demonstrated the transplantation of a patient’s own olfactory ensheathing cells (OECs) from the nose into the site of a spinal cord injury is a therapy that is safe for use in humans. He was awarded the 2017 Australian of the Year for his pioneering work.

Although he had been retired for a number of years, Professor Mackay-Sim was the chair of Griffith University’s Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) and was always heavily involved in the further development of his technology and the Spinal Injury Project.

Professor Alan Mackay-Sim was a visionary and his legacy will live on forever. He will be missed by many.

# OUR PURPOSE



People with a spinal cord injury are at the heart of everything we do.

A spinal cord injury (SCI) can happen to anyone, at any time. The Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation aims to facilitate, collaborate and initiate the connections and research required to find a cure for paralysis.

Perry Cross started the Foundation after he broke his neck playing rugby union in 1994. He is now a C2 ventilated quadriplegic, paralysed from the chin down requiring 24/7 care. Perry has dedicated his life to finding a cure for paralysis.

**VISION**  
Cure paralysis for all

**MISSION**  
The Foundation is dedicated to facilitating and funding world class research aimed at curing paralysis caused by spinal cord injury and supporting better outcomes for those living with paralysis.

Check out these inspiring stories



# WHAT ARE THE STATS?

Every day, one Australian suffers a spinal cord injury. That is **ONE TOO MANY**.

The Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation has one main goal: to find a cure for paralysis for all, by funding world class spinal injury research.

Men account for 70% of SCI's



The main cause for injuries



**42%**  
falls



**40%**  
vehicle  
accidents



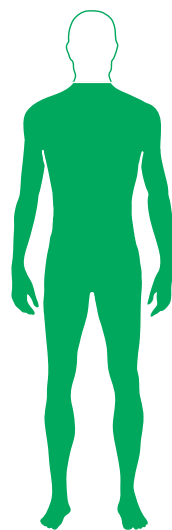
**11%**  
sporting  
injuries



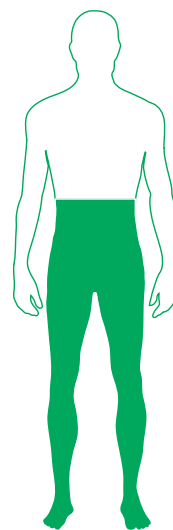
**7%**  
other



Over  
**20,800**  
Australians  
are living with  
a SCI.



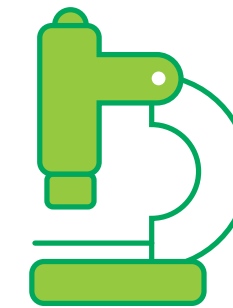
**Quadriplegia**  
42% of injuries



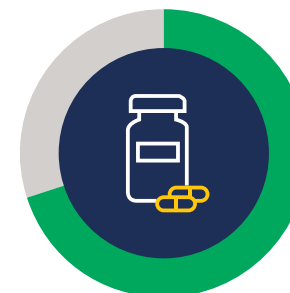
**Paraplegia**  
58% of injuries

Paralysis is the loss or impairment of voluntary movement and the loss of function and feeling.

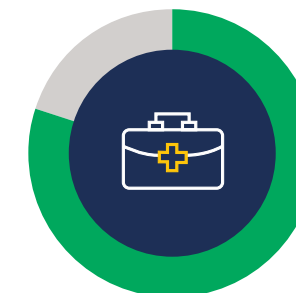
Spinal cord injuries cost the Australian economy more than **\$10M** per day.



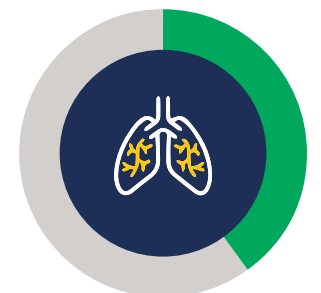
Since 2010, the **Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation** has helped to raise over **\$20 million dollars** for ground-breaking Australian research.



**70%**  
of people with a SCI suffer from **chronic pain** for more than 6 months



**80%**  
of people with a SCI are affected by a lack of **bladder /bowel control**



**40%**  
of hospitalised people with SCIs have **respiratory failure**

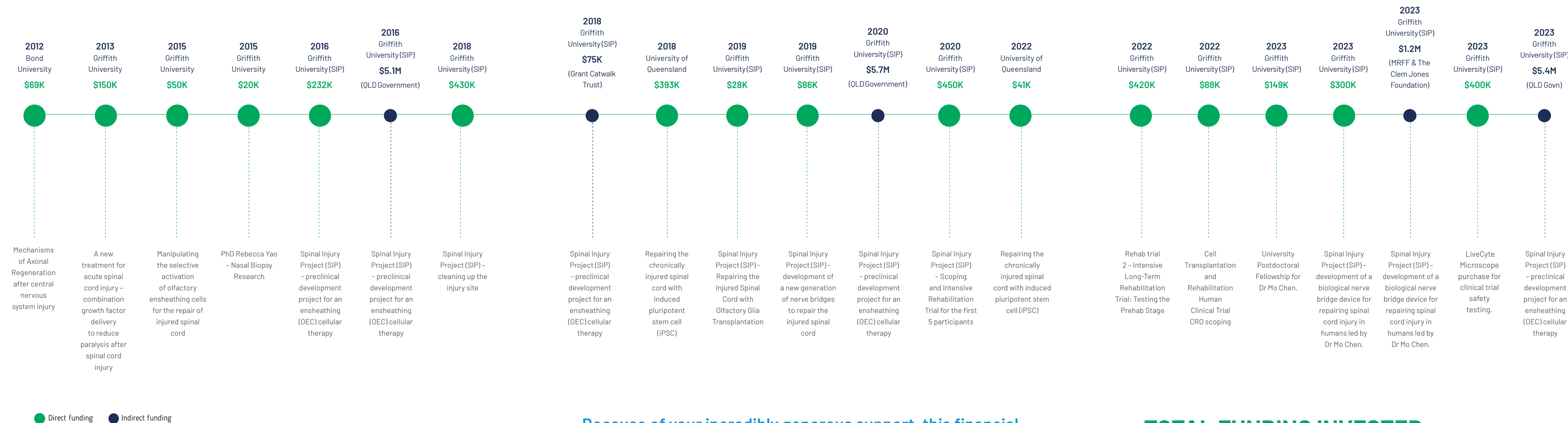


**40%** of people with a SCI are likely to suffer PTSD



**30%** of people with a SCI are at risk of depression

# INVESTING IN A CURE



Because of your incredibly generous support, this financial year the Foundation has committed \$849,000 into research at Griffith University.

TOTAL FUNDING INVESTED  
IN RESEARCH \$20,801,071



FINDING A CURE OF  
THIS MAGNITUDE TAKES  
UNIVERSAL FORCE AND  
COLLECTIVE POWER.  
EVERY TIME SOMEONE  
LINKS ARMS WITH US,  
OUR GLOBAL MOVEMENT  
STRENGTHENS, OUR  
VOICE GETS LOUDER, OUR  
PRESENCE MORE VISIBLE  
AND **A CURE BECOMES  
A REALITY.**

## ON THE CUSP OF A CURE

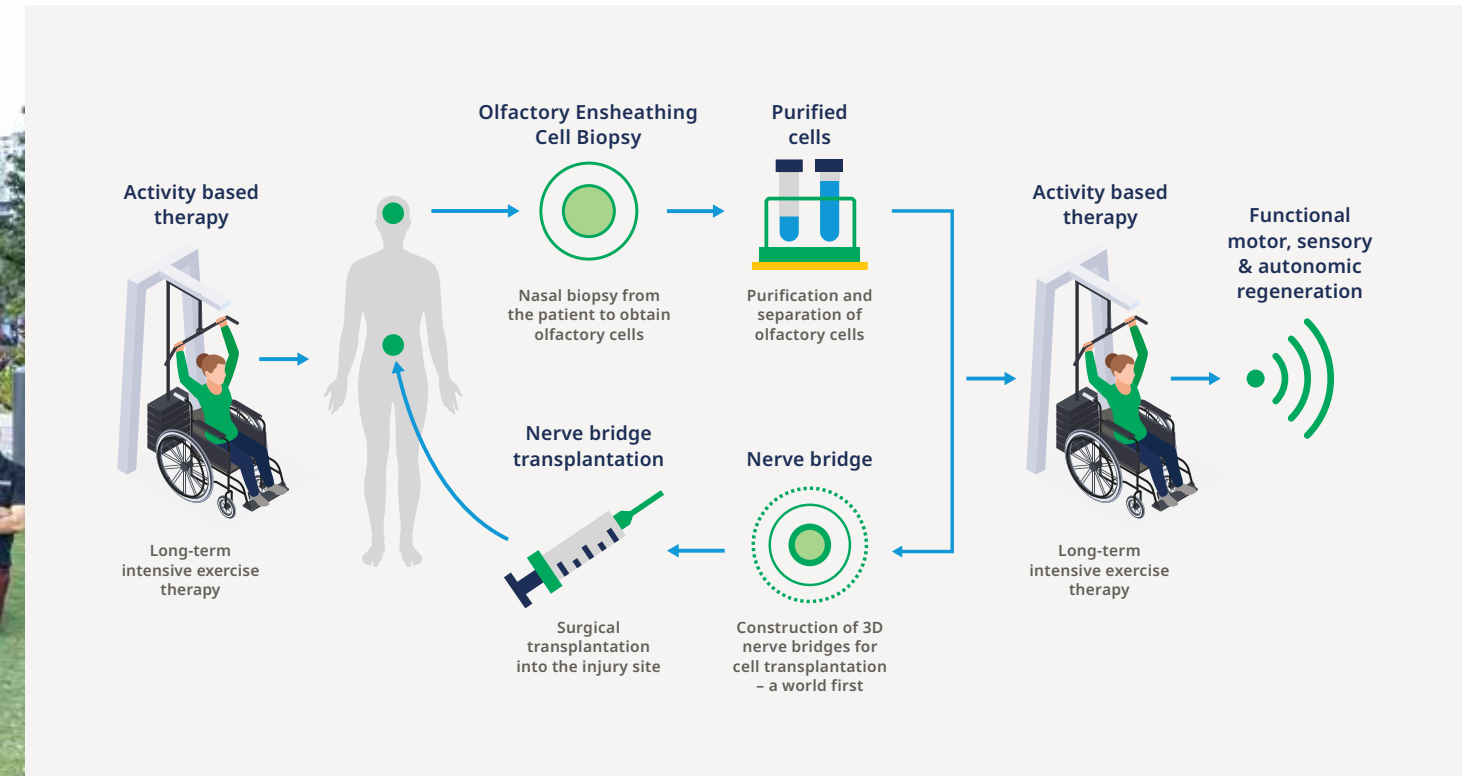


Making Strides Team, Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation Team & the Spinal Injury Project Team from Griffith University.

What if the ability to repair a spinal cord injury became a reality in the next five years?

The Spinal Injury Project at Griffith University, in partnership with the Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation, is on the cusp of making this happen with a world-first Cell Transplantation and Rehabilitation Human Clinical Trial.

The project team is a leading group of research specialists including bioengineers, medical doctors, biological scientists and neuroscientists working together to develop this breakthrough treatment.



The research was first initiated by the late Griffith University Emeritus Professor, and 2017 Australian of the Year, Alan Mackay-Sim almost 20 years ago. He was a pioneer in stem cell research and was successful in taking cells from the olfactory (nasal) system, transplanting them to the injury site and demonstrating that it was safe for use in humans.

Building on Professor Mackay-Sim's incredible legacy, our ongoing research has demonstrated that repair of a spinal cord injury is possible, and the clinical trial will show that repair can be a reality.

Having proven that the treatment is effective in preclinical research, the team is now ready to test the therapy in a human clinical trial with an anticipated start in 2024. The trial will have 10 participants, will take 2 years and will test the safety and efficacy of the cell transplantation and rehabilitation.

Learn more about the research here;



# RESEARCH SUMMARY

Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation Funded Projects

## The Spinal Injury Project (SIP)

March 2016 - ongoing

Chief Investigators: Prof James St John, A/Prof Jenny Ekberg

Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery and Menzies Health Institute Queensland,  
Griffith University

The Spinal Injury Project is translating a comprehensive cell transplantation therapy with an exercise-based rehabilitation therapy to treat traumatic spinal cord injury.

The cell transplantation uses specialised regenerative cells from the olfactory (sense of smell) nerve. The cells are called olfactory ensheathing cells (OECs) and have a range of properties that make them highly suitable for repairing spinal cord injury.

After the OECs are purified from a simple biopsy taken from within the nose, they are then manipulated into a cellular nerve bridge for transplantation into the injured spinal cord where their special regenerative capacity stimulates the regeneration of the spinal cord.

Based in Queensland, the world leading team at the Clem Jones Centre for Neurobiology and Stem Cell Research consists of over 40 male and female translational biomedical researchers including bioengineers, cell biologists, neuroscientists, medical doctors and pathologists. The team collaborates with a range of specialist researchers, clinicians and allied health professionals to accelerate the translation of the cell transplantation therapy to clinical trial.

### Highlights:

**Nerve bridges:** We have discovered new methods to activate the cells into their optimal state prior to formation of the nerve bridges. This means that the cell product is a much higher and more consistent quality. We have also printed three-dimensional anatomical models of the human spinal cord and vertebrae so that surgeons can practice the surgery prior to the transplantation.

**Drug discovery:** We have continued our work on using a drug that can stimulate the activity of the olfactory cells. When treated with the drug, the olfactory cells alter how they produce adhesive proteins and improves how the cells can integrate with other cells.

**Safety:** Thanks to the new live imaging microscope funded by the Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation, we have commenced careful analyses to ensure that the cells for transplantation are safe. The incredible quality of the images is also helping us to discover additional new information about the cells.



**Next steps:** We are preparing for the Phase I/IIa human clinical trial of the cell transplantation therapy. We will be submitting the ethics application in late 2023 and then preparing everything for the commencement of the trial.

**Awards:** Dr Mo Chen was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship to enable him to continue the groundbreaking work on the nerve bridges. The fellowship is co-funded by the Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation and Griffith University.

Dr Mo Chen, Dr Ronak Reshamwala, Dr Mariyam Murtaza and Dr Yu-Ting Tseng were successful in being granted a Medical Research Future Fund Early Career/Mid Career research grant of \$1.52 million, co-funded by the Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation, the Clem Jones Foundation and Griffith University.



Griffith University

# RESEARCH SUMMARY

Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation Funded Projects



Rehab Trial 2 – Intensive Long-Term Rehabilitation Trial: Testing the Prehab Stage

June 2021 – July 2023

Chief investigators: Prof James St John, Dr Marie-Laure Vial, Dr Andrew Rayfield, Dr Michael Todorovic, Dr Matthew Barton, A/Prof Jenny Ekberg, Ms Emma Warner, Prof Dianne Shanley.

Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery and Menzies Health Institute Queensland, Griffith University

Total Investment From PCSRF \$420,804

LiveCyte Microscope – Live Cell Imaging System for Clinical Trial Safety Testing

2023

Chief investigators: Dr Mariyam Murtaza, Dr Mo Chen, Dr Ali Delbaz, A/Prof Jenny Ekberg, Prof James St John

Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery and Menzies Health Institute Queensland, Griffith University

Total Investment From PCSRF \$400,000



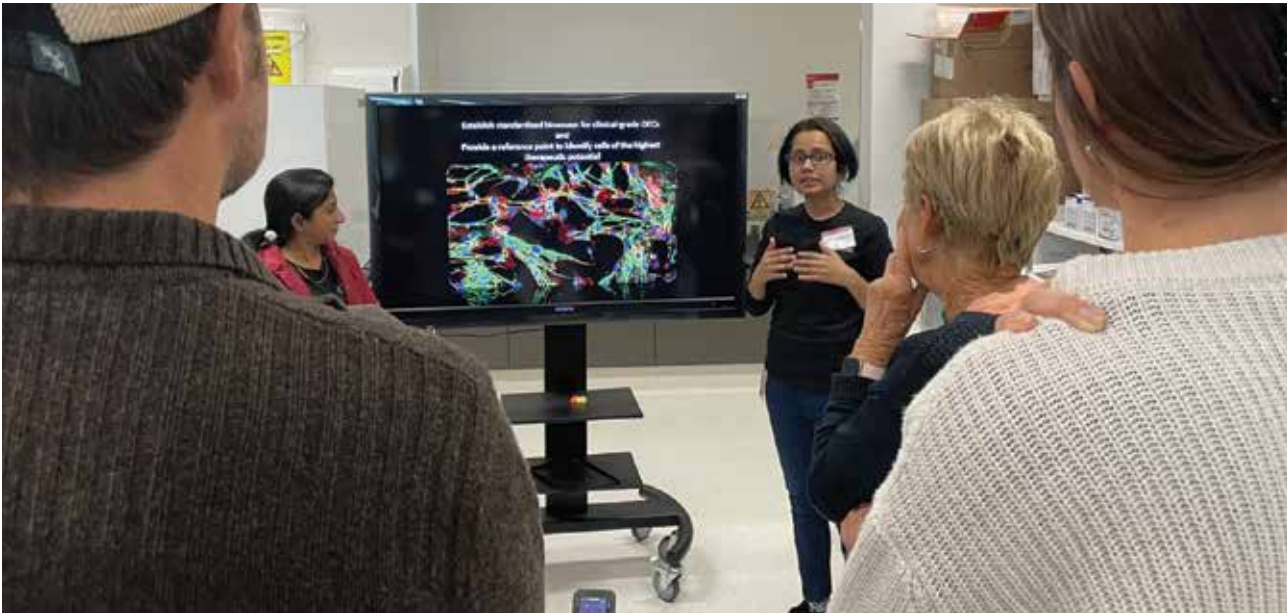
Highlights:

This second rehab trial, which has just been completed, aimed to test the intensive rehabilitation program that will be provided before the cell transplantation therapy (the “prehab” program). For this trial, five participants were recruited who did not have much experience with rehabilitation therapies. Similar to the first trial, this trial has shown that the program is safe and acceptable for participants with limited rehabilitation experience. With both the rehabilitation trials completed, the team is confident that the rehabilitation programs are suitable for the full cell transplantation and rehabilitation trial.

**Next steps:** Complete the analysis of the two rehabilitation trials and publish the results.

**Trial 2 follows on from Trial 1 with a total investment into these rehabilitation trials totalling \$870,929.**

The full cell transplantation trial will involve rehabilitation both before and after the cell transplantation. Before progressing to the full trial, it was important to test the intensive long-term rehabilitation programs to ensure they are safe and acceptable to the participants. The Griffith team had tested the post-transplantation rehab program in the first rehab clinical trial in 2021-2022.



Cell transplantation can bring enormous therapeutic benefits to patients. However, prior to transplantation the safety of the cells needs to be carefully checked. Thanks to incredible advances in technology, a new live cell imaging microscope has become available that enables living cells to be visualised in high resolution without any need for artificial labelling.

Thank you to the Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation’s donors for purchasing this incredible piece

of equipment that is crucial to the Cell Transplantation and Rehabilitation Human Clinical Trial. With powerful software, each cell within the field of view can be tracked over time to enable the fate of each cell to be carefully assessed. With this new safety checking, the team can be confident that the cells are the highest quality and are safe for transplantation into humans.

**Next steps:** assess the quality of cells that are prepared for transplantation for the human clinical trial.



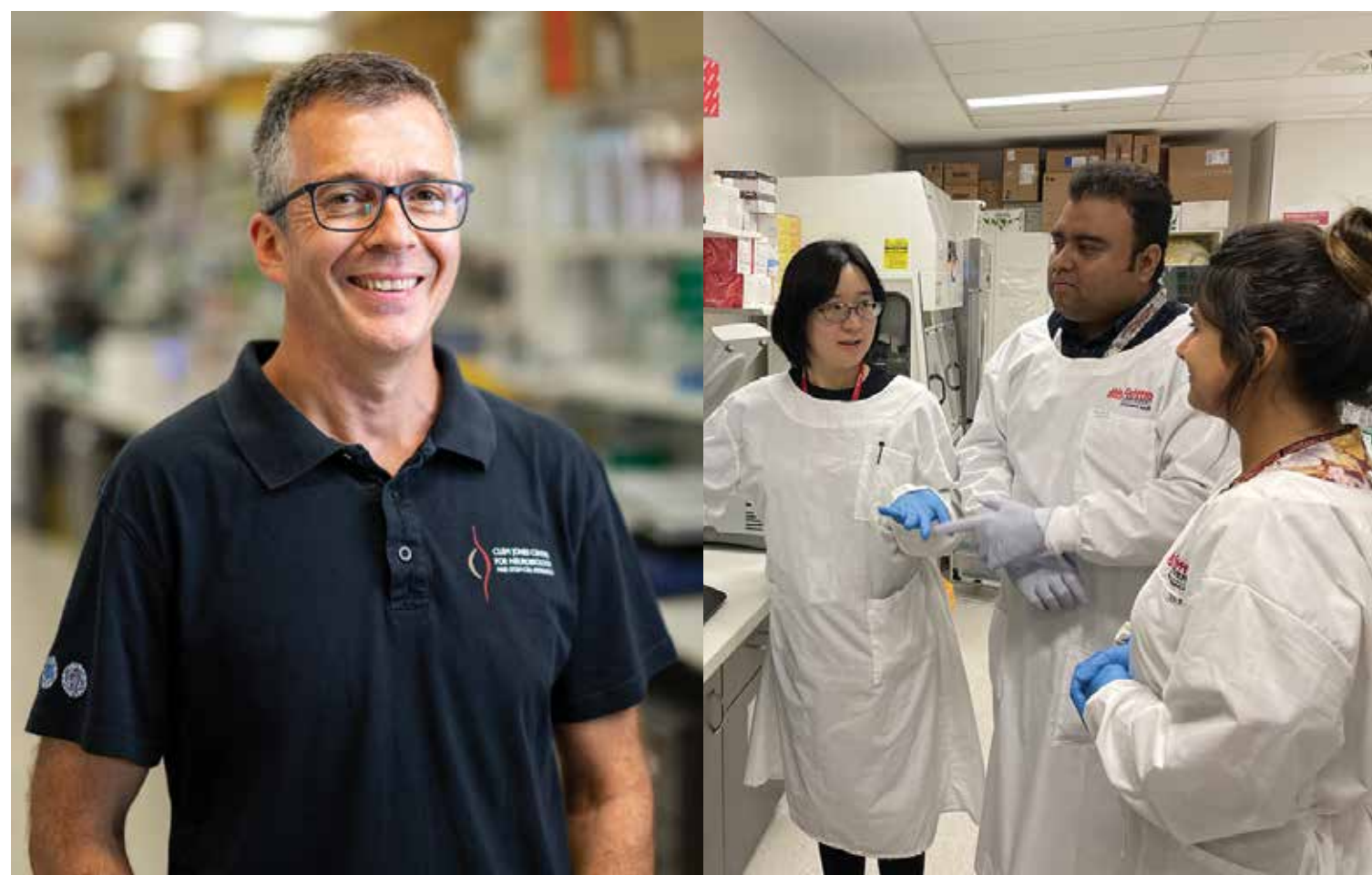
## Designing and Scoping The Cell Transplantation And Rehabilitation trial

December 2021 - ongoing

Chief investigators: Prof James St John, Dr Marie-Laure Vial, Dr Andrew Rayfield, Dr Ronak Reshamwala, A/Prof Jenny Ekberg, Dr Mariyam Murtaza, Dr Anu Chacko, Dr Mo Chen  
Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery and Menzies Health Institute Queensland, Griffith University  
Total Investment From PCSRF \$88,000

Clinical trials are expensive due to the need for careful and extensive safety testing as well as the need for precise measurements to ensure that the therapy is effective. Of critical importance to this process is the oversight of regulatory bodies such as the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration or the USA's Food and Drug Administration which have extensive requirements for reporting and compliance.

**Highlights:** The funding for the design and scoping enabled the Griffith team to appoint international consultants to provide advice about the trial design and to ensure that the reporting and proposed measures for the trial comply with the numerous regulations. This will ensure that the trial has the best chance of success. The outcome of this process is that we now have a comprehensive trial design and are ready for the ethics submission.



## Cleaning Up The Injury Site Is The Key To Spinal Cord Regeneration

January 2018 - ongoing

Chief investigators: A/Prof Jenny Ekberg, Prof James St John  
Menzies Health Institute Queensland, Griffith University  
Total Investment From PCSRF \$450,000

Understanding the biology of olfactory cells is critical for maximising their use for repairing spinal cord injuries. The olfactory cells have numerous properties which can act together, or separately, depending on the circumstances, but each of these mechanisms can have a particular trigger. The Griffith team have used their knowledge of the biology of the olfactory cells to identify different ways in which the various activities can be enhanced.

**Highlights:** The team has continued working on the drug Liraglutide (which is used for other medical conditions and can help stimulate olfactory cells). They found that the drug alters how the cells produce proteins that are important for adhering cells to each other. Adhesion of cells is necessary for the cells to create a stable product, but too much adhesion can prevent the cells migrating out into the spinal cord injury site. The team has found that by using the drug Liraglutide, they can alter how much adhesion occurs within the nerve bridges and therefore can tailor the cell activation to improve the efficacy of the therapy.

**Next steps:** Combine the drug with the cell transplantation to test the outcomes for restoring motor, sensory and autonomic function.

**A Biological Nerve Bridge Device For Repairing Spinal Cord Injury In Humans**

Medical Research Future Fund - Early to Mid-Career Researchers Grant - Stream 3.  
January 2023 - January 2027  
Chief investigators: Dr Mo Chen, Dr Ronak Reshamwala, Dr Mariyam Murtaza, Dr Yu-Ting Tseng.  
Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery and Menzies Health Institute Queensland, Griffith University  
Total Investment From PCSRF \$300,000



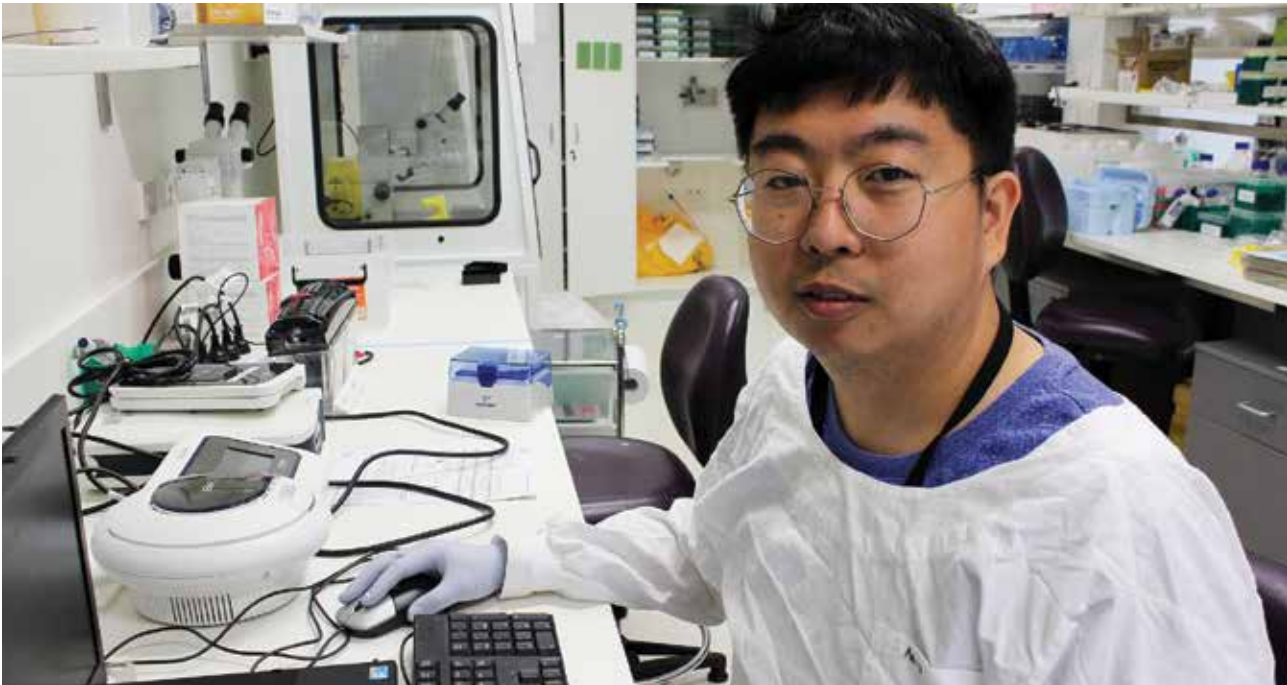
The Federal Government’s Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) supports high calibre research. This particular grant round is targeting translational research and required matching funding from partners. The Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation together with the Clem Jones Foundation and Griffith University provided \$756,000 with the MRFF matching it to provide a project total of \$1.52 million over four years. This project is designing the next generation of nerve bridges for incorporation into future clinical trials.

**Highlights:** The team is analysing the optimal conditions for creating the nerve bridges and ensuring that the modifications to the production maintain the highest quality for the cells. The team has already shown that the 3D nerve bridges express a range of very favourable genes and proteins that are important for repairing the spinal cord.

**Next steps:** Test combinations of production designs to confirm that the new designs of the nerve bridges promote regeneration of nerve cells.

**Postdoctoral Fellowship To Dr Mo Chen**

2023-2024  
Total Investment From PCSRF \$150,000



Griffith University has prestigious fellowships for early career researchers. These require matching funding from partners and The Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation is proud to support Dr Chen, the inventor of the nerve bridges. The fellowship allows Dr Chen to expand the design and use of the nerve bridges and complements the work to be done by the MRFF project.

**Highlights:** Dr Chen is currently focussing on understanding how the cells of the nerve bridge communicate with the nerve cells. This exciting work has revealed a new mechanism by which the cells can relay information over considerable distance and helps the team understand why it is that the olfactory cells are so effective at repairing the nervous system.

**Next steps:** Dr Chen will use a range of high power analytical and imaging techniques to characterise this new communication system and then will work out how it can be manipulated to improve outcomes.



# A CHRISTMAS TO REMEMBER, JOY'S STORY



Joy fell from her horse on Christmas Eve and she was left a paraplegic. As a mother to three young children, this life changing moment devastated her family.

She remembers waking up on the ground with ambulance officers working over her and her terrified family telling her the helicopter would arrive soon.

Amidst the turmoil and chaos of the accident, all Joy could think about was Christmas and what this accident would mean for her young kids, who were only four, seven and nine.

"It was a terrible time. I ruined my kids' Christmas. I hadn't wrapped their presents, I didn't have everything ready for them, it was just awful," Joy said.

Joy longs to be the mother she once hoped to be.

*"Nothing is simple and easy anymore, and a cure would mean that perhaps those things would come back,"* she said.

Joy desperately wants her independence back. She aches to be the mum she has always longed to be for her children, and she would love nothing more than to enjoy a 'normal' Christmas again.

Joy works hard on her rehabilitation and is learning to accept her injury. She is hopeful for a cure for paralysis.

"A cure for me personally would mean independence. It would mean being able to plan my day without relying on anyone else's help," Joy said.

Joy kindly shared her story as part of our tax appeal and over \$130,000 was raised. All donations for this campaign were kindly matched by donors Nicola and Andrew Forrest.

Check out Joy's inspiring story here;



Photo:  
Jasmine Dunmore Photography

## GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY RESEARCH LAB TOURS



In May 2023 Griffith University hosted the 'Spinal Injury Project Research Open Day'. Guests enjoyed an update on the research and rehabilitation trial and got to meet the diverse team of talented researchers.

Thank you to the Clem Jones Centre for Neurobiology and Stem Cell Research, Griffith University, for making this special event possible.

Throughout the year we welcomed over 100 valued supporters and donors through the lab. They enjoyed a behind the scenes look at the research work being done and had the opportunity to meet the incredible research team.



# A FAMILY BOND, RYAN'S STORY



## Ryan's journey with a spinal cord injury is a unique one, unheard of even.

Ryan grew up riding dirt bikes and competing nationally in Motocross. When Ryan was ten years old, his Dad suffered a spinal cord injury during a dirt bike accident. Less than a decade later, at 18, his best mate and riding partner, Blake had an accident while competing, also causing a spinal cord injury.

Not two years later, Ryan fell from his motorbike on the same jump as Blake. The accident damaged his spinal cord and he too is living with paralysis.

*"There is always a life to be lived. Riding dirt bikes made me happy and I always weighed up the risk versus the reward. But laying there in the sand, unable to feel my legs or my hands, incredible pain in my neck, I knew I was done,"* Ryan said.

Ryan has great support around him, a loving family and he is optimistic about his future.

"As a family, we have always just got on with it. What happened, happened, you can't change that. Every day is a new day and you just get up and get on with it. You keep fighting and it's amazing where you can get to in the end," Ryan shared.

Ryan kindly shared his story as part of our 2022 SIP Week campaign which raised \$149,638.

Check out Ryan's inspiring story here;



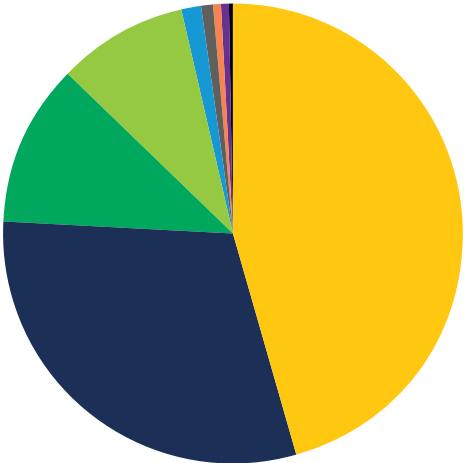
# CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Thank you to our incredible fundraising community for supporting a cure for paralysis.

## Foundation Income Breakdown

The Foundation runs various fundraising events and campaigns throughout the year and seeks the support of our generous donors to fund critical spinal injury research.

View our full, audited financial statements here;



Major Gift Income 45.83%	Interest Income 0.75%
Event Income 30.03%	Donations (other) 0.56%
Campaign Income 11.63%	Trusts & Foundations 0.47%
Community Events 9.12%	Grants 0.15%
Monthly Donations 1.36%	Other Revenue 0.10%



PCSRF guests at the Brisbane Legends Lunch 2022



CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

# FOUNDATION EVENTS

## Gala Dinner March 2023

On Saturday March 11th 2023, our incredibly generous supporters gathered at The Star Gold Coast to raise over \$600,000 at the “**Everything is Possible**” Gala Dinner presented by **Prestige Cars Group**! But that is not all, everyone who pledged or bought a bone had their donation and impact doubled by philanthropists Nicola and Andrew Forrest, bringing the total raised to a whopping, record-breaking \$1,016,000!

Supported by over 30 volunteers, the event was emceed by Liv Phyland and Nick Dempsey. A huge, heartfelt thank you to Damien and Amanda Holley and the team at Prestige Cars Group for supporting the Gala Dinner as our Presenting Partner.

To our Gold Sponsors; Maritimo, BOQ Business, Hickey Lawyers, CorpSure, Nova Press and Molmike Medical – we are incredibly grateful for your support. To Chad Lemming from Nova Press, thank you for providing the wonderful program for the evening.

Thank you to our Cure Crusader Sponsors; Christina Stephens, Dr Kee Ong, Griffith University, Shine Lawyers, CareMatch Australia, GIG as well as our Event Partners, The Star Gold Coast and Dreamweavers.

Thank you to our incredible Auctioneer Andrew Bell and all of our live auction prize donors, silent auction prize donors and raffle donors.

We would like to make special mention of the individuals, organisations and businesses who generously pledged a gift as part of the ‘Cure Partners’ initiative supporting the Cell Transplantation and Rehabilitation Human Clinical Trial with a donation over \$5,000 received in 2023 at our Gala Dinner.



## Our Cure Partners raised an incredible \$396,000.

Paul Cronin	\$50,000
Jonathan & Georgia Drew, Drew Group	\$50,000
David & Rachel Fitch	\$35,000
Marcus Dore & Eva Milic	\$25,000
Ryan & Bec Holsheimer	\$25,000
Tom & Megan Ray	\$25,000
Dan Marino	\$20,000
Anonymous	\$20,000
Dr Kee Ong & Selena Young	\$15,000
Buatava Family & CareMatch Family	\$11,000
Kim Lemming, Print247 Pty Ltd (Ditto Press)	\$10,000
Peter & Margie Hay, Hay Family Benevolent Fund	\$10,000
Max and Deidre Collie	\$10,000
David & Kath Swain, Stronger Together for Spinal	\$10,000
James Taylor	\$6,000
Dean and Candice Weintrop,	
Blackdot Group PTY LTD	\$5,000
Boutique Business House	\$5,000
Anonymous	\$5,000
Darren and Samantha Taylor,	
Braeside at Gin House Creek Estate	\$5,000
David and Monique Aitken,	
DA Project Management	\$5,000
Jayden & Emma Bromiley	\$5,000
Neil Kumar	\$5,000
Nick & Cas Stone, Stone Group Lawyers Pty Ltd	\$5,000
Peter & Trudy Dempsey	\$5,000
Todd Matheson	\$5,000
Tom Barry-Cotter, Maritimo (MFG) International Pty Ltd.	\$5,000
Tom Walsh, Walsh Accountants	\$5,000
Holistic Nursing Solutions	\$5,000
Jim Barrett and Genny Kroll-Rosen, Making Strides	\$5,000
Jo Ramsey	\$5,000
Look Enterprises PL	\$5,000



Check out this great video of the Gala celebrations



## CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

# FOUNDATION EVENTS

### Thank You Event November 2022

This annual event was held on November 3rd 2022 at HOTA, Home of the Arts outdoor stage. Over 100 guests came together including donors, volunteers, stakeholders and sponsors. The event was kindly emceed by Volunteer Speaking Ambassador Nick Dempsey.

It is with enormous gratitude that we thank Nicola and Andrew Forrest who pledged \$1 million dollars in matching funds to our Cell Transplantation and Rehabilitation Human Clinical Trial in November 2022.

Bruce Mansfield (pictured), friend and colleague of the Forrest's, joined the celebration to make the exciting announcement.



### Legends Lunch October 2022

This year's 5th Annual Brisbane Legends Lunch inspired a community of supporters to invest in a cure for paralysis. The event, which saw 200 guests come together, raised \$169,854.

We are incredibly grateful to our event committee, Rob & Kerry Douglas, Ben Michael, Marcus Dore and Kaye Hastie who are instrumental in organising what has become a key event in the Foundation's calendar.

Thank you to our wonderful Event Sponsor Morgans Financial Limited and to Morgans Foundation for generously donating \$30,000 to support this event.

To our Cure Crusader Sponsors Hastings Deering and JLL thank you for your continued support!

Thank you to our emcees Tim Horan and Ben Dobbin, who made certain that our guests were entertained throughout the day.

We heard anecdotes, amazing achievements and stories from sporting legends including; Tim Horan AM, Michael Kasprovicz, Andrew Slack AM, Nathan Sharpe, Ben Ikin, Greg Cornelsen, Daniel Merrett, John Connolly, Nathan Grey, Peter Hill and Troy Fidler.

Cure Crusader Kurt Drysdale also shared his moving story with our guests and we are grateful for his support of the Foundation.

A special thank you also to our wonderful volunteers who supported this special event.

The success of the event relies also on the generosity of our community.

We were so lucky to have so many incredible prizes on offer throughout the day.



## CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

# COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

### Gold Coast Marathon July 2022

Thank you to long-time supporter and friend of the Foundation, Bryce Jenkins who raised \$3,484 for the Foundation running the GC50 Ultramarathon!

He battled the rain, heat, humidity and huge gusts of wind to beat his time and run a PB.



### Squat Challenge August 2022

Thank you to Gary Ross, former Rugby League player for South Sydney and Eastern Suburbs and owner of Rossco's Complete Health & Fitness Studio, Sydney who in support of Kurt Drysdale and the Foundation raised \$7,595. A huge shout out to Shaun Lane, Alex Johnson, the Parramatta Eels and South Sydney Rabbitohs NRL players who joined the challenge and raised an additional \$17,409 with a NRL Memorabilia Auction.



### Gold Coast Local Charities Lunch August 2022

Thank you to Pam Sturgess and the organising committee for gathering 120 ladies for a special luncheon and raising \$7,830.

The Foundation in partnership with My Jewellery Shop held a key raffle with a beautiful set of diamond earrings as the major prize for the day.



### Wedding Fundraiser September 2022

Thank you to Ramy Filo and Barbra Flynn who asked friends to donate to the Foundation in lieu of wedding gifts raising \$5,680.



### Maritimo Migration Event October 2022

We are thrilled to be the official charity partner for Maritimo, Australia's leading luxury motor yacht manufacturer. The Maritimo team raised \$13,500 as part of their Migration event in support of the Spinal Injury Project. Thank you to Tom and Chloe Barry-Cotter and their wonderful team.



### Stronger Together for Spinal March 2023

The Foundation hosted two tables at the Stronger Together For Spinal Gala Ball with some of our dedicated supporters from the Newcastle area. Thank you to our incredible prize donors who raised \$10,000 and to David and Kath Swain and their wonderful local community for their support.



### Boutique Business House Golf Day April 2023

Thank you to the team at Boutique Business House and the field of generous golfers who all dug deep to help raise \$17,000 in support of our research at Emerald Lakes Golf Course. Volunteers Lindsay Nott, Kaye and Des Hastie were on hand to make the day as smooth as possible.





CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

# COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

## Gold Coast Fundraising Ball and Golf Day June 2023

Thank you to Beric & Tina Lynton, Kyla and the Gold Coast Fundraising Ball team for their incredible donation of \$28,101 from their Golf Day and Fundraising Ball.

The Foundation has been fortunate to be a beneficiary of this event for many years, and has received a total of \$182,744 to date to help fund research for a cure.

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who assisted on the night and to our amazing prize donors.



## Graham Roger Tour 2022/2023

Thank you to country singer Graham Roger and his generous community who donated \$7,040 as part of his 'Tag Along Tour' of Australia.



# THE POWER OF DETERMINATION, RYAN'S STORY



Ryan was injured celebrating with his mates after a game of football. He jumped into a pool, broke his neck and is now a quadriplegic, completely paralysed.

"I woke up three weeks later unable to move in a room full of hospital staff and my mum staring back at me. It was terrifying," said Ryan.

After he was injured, Ryan was flown from his hometown in Tasmania to a specialist hospital in Victoria during the peak of COVID-19. Restrictions meant Ryan was left lying in a hospital bed, isolated, alone and without visitors for 22 hours a day and with no hope or desire to live.

"At the time I couldn't see past tomorrow. Mum could only visit me for two hours a day, and I would ask her why she didn't turn my life support off, in the beginning. I didn't want to be here anymore," Ryan shared.

Ryan returned home to Tasmania after six excruciating months. He learned to take it day by day, moment by moment. Every day is a challenge but with support Ryan has made incredible progress with his recovery, something he never imagined from the difficult early days he experienced.

***"I believe that I will walk someday. I will find a way,"*** said Ryan.

Ryan bravely shared his story as part of our 2022 SIP Week campaign which raised \$149,638.

Check out Ryan's inspiring story [here](#);



## AFL CURE PARALYSIS ROUND MAY 2023

Thank you to Cure Crusader Ryan Wiggins and AFL Tasmania who ran an important awareness and fundraising campaign in May as part of the AFL season raising \$2,092.



# WE SIP BECAUSE SPINAL INJURY SUCKS!

In November 2022 we celebrated 10 years of this peer to peer campaign. SIP Week challenges everyone to drink all their beverages through a straw, just like those with a high-level spinal cord injury, to help raise funds to find a cure for paralysis.



**431**  
sippers



**1,624**  
generous donors



**\$149,638**  
total donations



## Matching Day Success

In 2022 we conducted our first 'matching day' as part of the SIP Week campaign where every donation was doubled up to \$20,000. A huge thank you to our matching partners Molmike Medical and Making Strides. Incredibly the community rallied and the goal was reached by lunchtime. We then added a further \$2,500 which was donated by BOQ Business and \$2,000 from Ryan and Bec Holsheimer increasing the total matching amount to \$14,500. This was then matched by our generous community of Sippers which means \$29,000 was raised in less than 24 hours!

## Amazing Prizes

We had some amazing prizes on offer and the winner of both the Individual Fundraiser and Highest Fundraising Team was Ryan Boyd!

Thank you to our Grand Prize Draw Sponsors Sargood on Collaroy and Village Roadshow Theme Parks and campaign supporters Hollister, Bygreen, Worklocker, Making Strides, Red Bull and Amplify Travel.

Thank you to Kaye & Des Hastie and Jinx Mattinson for their support in preparing all of the SIP Registrations packs.

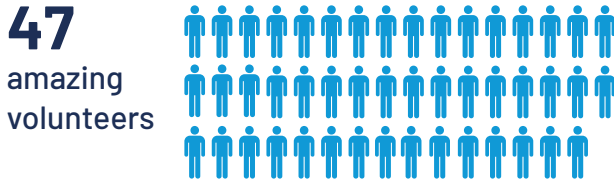




# OUR INCREDIBLE VOLUNTEERS



Our work would not be possible without the support of incredible volunteers who generously donate their time and energy to curing paralysis.



of service this year to the Foundation amounting to an estimated value of **\$25,100!**

## Volunteer Ambassador Speaking Program

This program aims to raise awareness about Spinal Cord Injury in the community whilst also empowering those with an injury to share their story and make a difference.

Lindsay Nott, Guest Speaker at PCSRF Thank You Event November 2022



Lindsay shared his experience with rehabilitation at Making Strides as part of the formalities of the evening at HOTA with supporters of the Foundation.

Nick Dempsey, Emcee at PCSRF Thank You Event November 2022



Nick emceed our Thank you Event and took care of the formalities for the evening in his engaging style.

Kurt Drysdale, Guest Speaker at PCSRF Legends Lunch October 2022



Kurt was interviewed by Tim Horan and shared his experience as an up-and-coming rugby league player, his injury and his current focus on rehabilitation.

## Conference Attendance



Perry Cross attended the Unite 2 Fight Paralysis Annual Symposium in Salt Lake City, Utah in September 2022. This two day international conference was laser focused on accelerating the pace and quality of functional recovery from spinal cord injury. The conference was inspiring and left everyone with a strong sense of ‘when’ and not ‘if’ a cure is possible.



# MATESHIP CAN MOVE MOUNTAINS, MITCH'S STORY



Left to right: Justin Wynn, Ned Taylor, Marty O'Donnell, Hayden Bombaci, Mitch Swan, Jake Milone

In November 2022 Mitch and his mates took on the Point to Pinnacle in Tasmania, a gruelling event known as the world's toughest half marathon.

Finding a cure for paralysis is a cause close to Mitch's heart. In 2008 when he was 18 years old, Mitch had an accident whilst racing in a motocross event. As a result, he broke T6, 7 & 8 and sustained a spinal cord injury at the T7 level.

Initially Mitch had no movement below the level of injury, but within the first few weeks, started to regain some movement on his right side. The left side didn't want to play ball for a while, but then one night after a couple of months, he realised he could ever so slightly flex his hip flexor.

With a newfound appreciation for life, Mitch and his mates set a challenge to complete the Point to Pinnacle and raise money for the spinal injury research. Their generous community rallied and raised a phenomenal \$57,800

*"This is a big personal achievement for me, however I'm even more excited that I get the opportunity to help raise some money for our community, those who give me inspiration and strength every day, and to also contribute to the Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation who are doing such amazing things."*

Mitch shared his inspiring story here;



# SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A cure for paralysis would not be possible without the generous support of our community.

We would like to make special mention of the individuals, organisations and businesses who have generously gifted the Foundation a donation over \$10,000 this financial year (please note this includes donations made at the Gala Dinner over \$10,000).

Anonymous	\$500,000	Anonymous	\$20,000	Kim & Tracey Lemming,	
Paul Cronin	\$50,000	Dr Kee Ong & Selena Young	\$15,000	Print247 Pty Ltd (Ditto Press)	\$10,000
Jonathan & Georgia Drew,		David & Kath Swain,		Anonymous	\$10,000
Drew Group	\$50,000	Stronger Together for Spinal	\$15,000	Max and Deidre Collie	\$10,000
Ryan & Bec Holsheimer	\$39,017	Anonymous	\$15,000	Peter & Margie Hay,	
David & Rachel Fitch	\$35,000	Crommelin Family		Hay Family Benevolent Fund	\$10,000
Morgans Foundation	\$30,000	Foundation	\$12,500	Reuben Pelerman	
Tom & Megan Ray	\$25,800	Buatava Family &		Benevolent Foundation	\$10,000
Marcus Dore & Eva Milic	\$25,000	CareMatch Family	\$11,000	Anonymous	\$10,000
Maureen Louise Stevenson	\$22,500	Chris & Carol Tutungi,			
Dan Marino	\$20,000	Lorne Bush House Cottages			
		& Eco Retreats	\$10,000		

Our work would not be possible without the support of the business community.

Special thanks to our Foundation Partners







# SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to our Everything Is Possible Gala Dinner 2023 Presenting Event Sponsors



Everything Is Possible Gala Dinner 2023 Gold Sponsors



Everything Is Possible Gala Dinner 2023 Cure Crusaders



Everything Is Possible Gala Dinner 2023 Event Partners



Special thanks to our Brisbane Legends Lunch 2022 Event Sponsors



Brisbane Legends Lunch 2022 Cure Crusaders



Brisbane Legends Lunch 2022 Event Supporters



Special thanks to our SIP Week campaign sponsors





# SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to our SIP Week campaign matching day sponsors



**RYAN & BEC  
HOLSHEIMER**

This year we are the proud recipients of two grants;

- Queensland Community Fund, \$9900 grant received for governance development.
- Gold Coast City Council, \$2,000 grant received for Summer Safety Campaign video production.

# MERCHANDISE STORE WITH PURPOSE



In 2023 the Foundation launched a merchandise store with the generous support of the Worklocker team.

Quality and super cool style come together with the added bonus of raising money to find a cure for paralysis! All sales profits are donated to the Foundation to support research.

Thank you to Nick Dempsey and the Worklocker Sunshine Coast team for generously setting up and running the store for the Foundation.

Check out the range here;



# WE NEED YOUR HELP

Finding a cure of this magnitude takes universal force and collective power. Every time someone links arms with us, our global movement strengthens our voice gets louder, our presence more visible and a cure becomes a reality.

## Donate

Make a donation to bring our ground-breaking research to life. Whether you are able to give a single donation, become a regular giver or leave a bequest in your will, your contribution will support critical spinal injury research and helps us to get closer to a cure. You can find out more at [pcsrf.org.au](https://pcsrf.org.au) or email the team at [team@pcsrf.org.au](mailto:team@pcsrf.org.au)

## Sip for a cure

Take on the SIP Week challenge and raise fund to cure paralysis! You don't have to run a marathon, or even break a sweat, just drink all your beverages through a straw for a week and raise funds. Find out more at [sipweek.com](https://sipweek.com)

## Host an event and fundraise for us

Do you have a great idea to raise funds to help us find the cure for paralysis? Why not mobilise your network and host an event on our behalf? You could have a garage sale, host a morning tea or a golf day. We'll provide you with all the support and marketing tools you will need. Sign up at [pcsrf.org.au](https://pcsrf.org.au)

## Partner with us

Looking to make an impact? Perhaps consider a corporate partnership and support the Foundation through sponsorship, prize donations, volunteering your time or through workplace giving. Find out more at [pcsrf.org.au](https://pcsrf.org.au) or email the team at [team@pcsrf.org.au](mailto:team@pcsrf.org.au)

## Volunteer with us

Our volunteers are the heart of the Foundation. They are the crusaders who join us at events, in our office and support our fundraisers. They are the visionaries that put thought into action. You can join our amazing team by enquiring at [team@pcsrf.org.au](mailto:team@pcsrf.org.au)

## Spread the word

Follow us on social and stay up to date with our pursuit of a cure for paralysis.

 [pcsrf.org.au](https://pcsrf.org.au)

 [@perryxfndn](https://www.instagram.com/perryxfndn)

 [@PCSRF](https://www.facebook.com/PCSRF)

 [@perrycrossspinalresearchfoundation](https://www.linkedin.com/company/perrycrossspinalresearchfoundation)

# OUR PEOPLE

## Patrons and Ambassadors



**THE HONOURABLE  
DAME QUENTIN BRYCE  
AD CVO**  
Patron



**JOHN EALES AM**  
Ambassador



**ADAM GILCHRIST AM**  
Ambassador



**NATHAN GREY**  
Ambassador



**BEN IKIN**  
Ambassador



**ALAN JONES AO**  
Patron



**NATHAN SHARPE**  
Ambassador

## Executive Team



**PERRY CROSS, AM**  
Executive President and  
Founder



**MELISSA BROWN**  
Foundation Manager



**JEN HUTCHINGS**  
Philanthropy Manager



**CLARE WITALIK**  
Admin and Events Officer



# OUR PEOPLE

## Board of Directors



**PERRY CROSS, AM**  
Executive President  
and Founder



**TOM RAY**  
Chairman



**MARCUS DORE**  
Board Member



**RYAN HOLSCHEIMER**  
Board Member



**MELANIE LEIS**  
Board Member



**DAN MARINO**  
Board Member



**DR BRENT MCMONAGLE**  
Scientific Director



**GEORGE MOSKOS**  
Board Member



**BRETT WALKER**  
Board Member

## Scientific Committee



**DR BRENT MCMONAGLE**  
Scientific Director



**PROFESSOR RANDY BINDRA**  
Scientific Committee



**MARTIN CODYRE**  
Scientific Committee



**DR WAYNE NG**  
Scientific Committee



**DR DINESH PALIPANA**  
Scientific Committee

## Scientific Committee continued



**DR ELLISON STEPHENSON**  
Scientific Committee



**LINDA WATERS**  
Scientific Committee

## Company Members



**ADAM BENNETT-SMITH**  
Member (retired from the  
Board of Directors March 2022)



**ROBERT DOUGLAS**  
Member



**LYNNE GILLOGLY**  
Member



**DAMON HARRIS**  
Member



**KAYE HASTIE**  
Member



**BLAKE HEDGER**  
Member



**HEATH HILL**  
Member



**JODIE JACKMAN**  
Member



**BERIC LYNTON**  
Member



**LETITIA MAXWELL**  
Company Secretary /  
Member

# OUR PEOPLE

Company Members continued



ANDREW MCLAUCHLAN  
Member



WADE MCMONAGLE  
Member



BEN MCNEIL  
Member



BEN MICHAEL  
Member



LINDSAY NOTT  
Member



GREG PINK  
Member



TRACEY ROBERTS  
Member



MICHAEL RUDD  
Member



KRISTEE SHEPHERD  
Member



PAUL STEER  
Member



JENS TAMPE  
Member



DAN TROLLOPE  
Member



ADAM TWEMLow  
Member



TOM WALSH  
Member

# THANK YOU



**Thank you to Chad Lemming and the Nova Press team** who have kindly donated the printing of this annual report as well as our event programs, office stationery and marketing materials to the value of over \$20,000 per annum.

We are so appreciative for your ongoing, generous support of our mission to cure paralysis – we couldn't do this important work without you.



