

RESEARCH
+ REHAB =
RECOVERY

2021-2022
ANNUAL REPORT



annual
report



Perry Cross
Spinal Research
Foundation

To Cure Paralysis For All™

Thank you



Thank you to Chad Lemming from Nova Press who has 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.

Thank you for your ongoing, generous support of our mission to cure paralysis.

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Founder's Report



As I reflect on this year, I feel a great sense of gratitude to all who have

supported our mission to cure paralysis.

Because of the many people who have invested in the research, we are now closer than ever to great advancements in medical science.

In some ways, despite the many, many years of completed pre-trial

research work, it is just the beginning as we now prepare to deliver our ultimate goal, conducting a Cell Transplantation and Rehabilitation Human Clinical Trial.

My team and I have been preparing for and dreaming of this moment for too long. The science is ready, the people with injuries are most certainly ready to get moving again and now we need the final push in terms of funding.

The Foundation has prepared fiscally for this moment and our job now is to work alongside philanthropists,

donors, community members and government in this final step of funding this trial.

I have learnt over time, we are stronger together, and so I share this incredible moment with all who have believed that 'Everything Is Possible'.

Perry Cross AM
Founder & Executive President

Chairman's Report



While 2021/2022 represented the third consecutive annual

period where Australia was grappling with the effects of Covid-19, I'm pleased to report the Foundation, once again, performed very well, achieving strong results.

The impact of the pandemic on the operations and income of the Foundation were arguably and perversely more positive than they were negative.

Highlights include:

- The first five participants involved in the Intensive Rehabilitation Trial completed their program with analysis of the findings underway.
- Committing \$88,000 to fund the scoping of Griffith University's Cell Transplantation and Rehabilitation Human Clinical Trial.
- Committing to funding a second cohort of a further five participants at a cost of \$420,000 for the above-mentioned Intensive Rehabilitation Trial.
- Funding \$40,494 to an existing research program at the University of Queensland, supervised by Professor Marc Ruitenberg.
- Achieving our best fundraising results from the 2022 Gala Dinner where \$355,000 was raised in a single night, and also from the

Brisbane Legends Lunch which raised \$160,000.

I would like to thank all of our wonderful donors and supporters who have made these achievements possible. I acknowledge the Foundation team, directors, members, scientific committee members, volunteers, patrons and ambassadors for your dedicated service to the Foundation. Special thanks to one of our long-standing Directors, Adam Bennett-Smith, who retired from Board during the year.

Of course, I congratulate Perry Cross on courageously leading the Foundation ever closer to our ultimate goal of a Cell Transplantation and Rehabilitation Human Clinical Trial.

Tom Ray
Chairman

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. We are driven by a commitment to our vision and mission and guided by our organisational values.



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.

VALUES

Collaboration

We value collaboration with others to help achieve the vision

Awareness

We value increasing awareness about all aspects of paralysis and our work for a cure

Excellence

We strive for excellence in all that we do

Ambition

We embrace ambition to help drive outcomes and value for our stakeholders

Enthusiasm

We value enthusiasm and its capacity to engage and inspire

Leadership

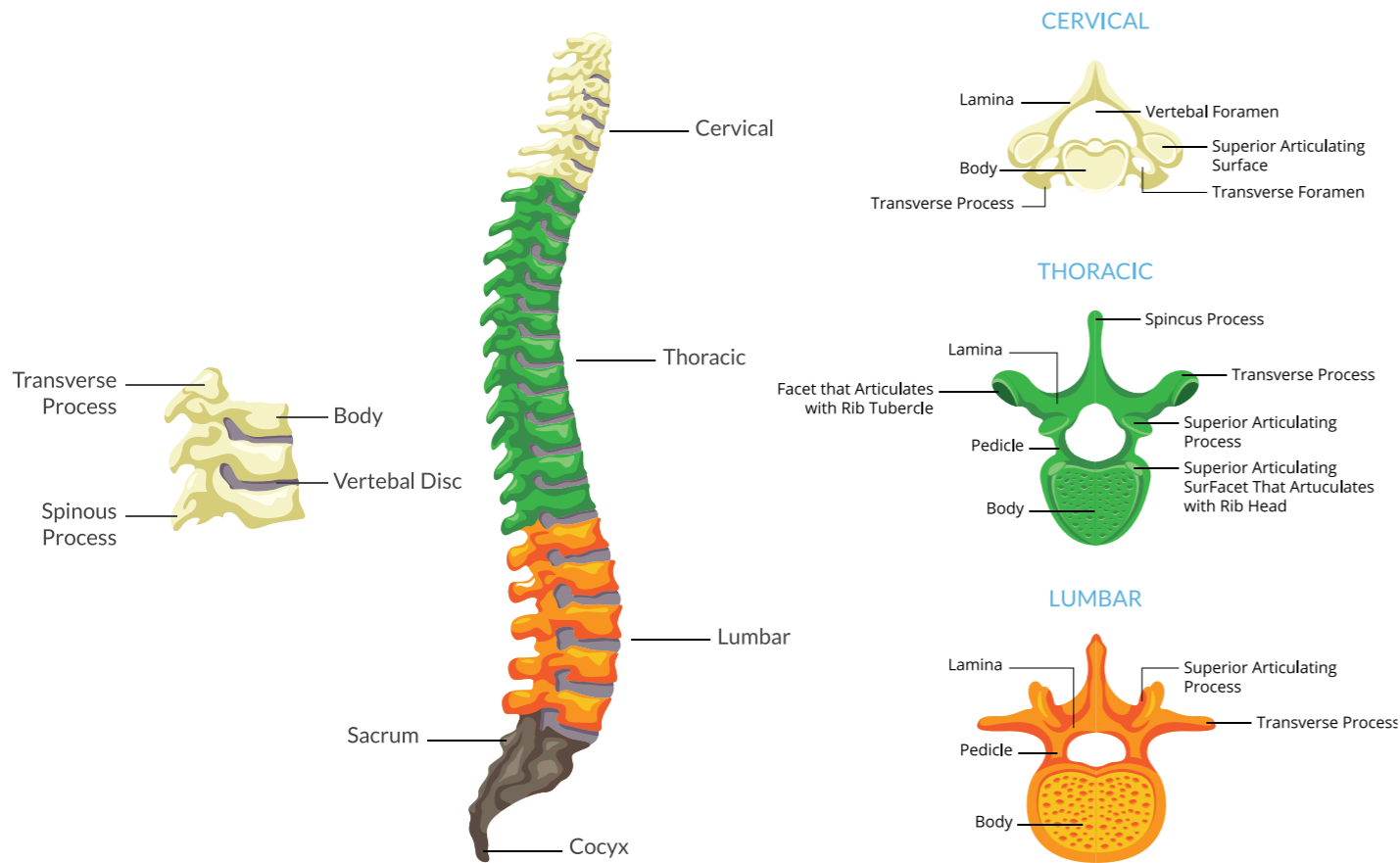
We champion bold and empathetic leadership to cure paralysis



Perry Cross AM,
Quadriplegic

Focus on what you can do, what you've got and where you are going... not what you've lost, what you don't have or where you've been."

What Is A Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)?



The term 'spinal cord injury' refers to damage to the spinal cord resulting from trauma (e.g. a car crash) or from disease or degeneration (e.g. cancer).

Symptoms may include partial or complete loss of sensory function or motor control of arms, legs and/or body. The most severe spinal cord injury affects the systems that regulate bowel or bladder control, breathing, heart rate and blood pressure.

The spinal cord carries a variety of signals between the brain to the rest of the body. After a spinal cord injury, the motor nerve fibers, which send signals from the brain to the torso and the limbs are impaired and this causes paralysis of the muscles. Destruction of sensory nerve fibers leads to loss of sensations such as touch, pain and the ability to distinguish between hot and cold.

A spinal cord injury can also severely limit bladder and bowel control, sexual function, blood pressure and sometimes the ability to breathe unaided.

Apart from living with life-long paralysis, people living with SCI suffer numerous difficulties, with 20-30% showing clinically significant signs of depression, frequent complications including pressure sores, autonomic dysreflexia, and significant decrease in leisure time activities and quality of life.

Drysdale Determination

Meet Cure Crusader

Kurt

"I had to learn to talk again and to swallow. I had to relearn things that everyone else does everyday. It all got taken away from me in the click of a finger,"

Just before Kurt's 21st birthday, he was tragically injured while playing rugby league. He is now paralysed from the neck down and needs a respirator to breathe.

Kurt had to learn to do basic things again, like how to swallow and to talk. He needs someone to help him with every aspect of his life. From the moment he wakes in the morning until he goes to bed at night.



Photo: 2021-2022 Tax Appeal Ambassador Kurt Drysdale with his Mum Sonya and Dad Steve



"I'm motivated because I know there is more to life than this. There is hope for a cure for paralysis, it's not too far away," said Kurt.

Kurt shared his story as part of our Tax Appeal this year. Total donations received: \$88,548.

You can check Kurt's story here;



Kurt can never be alone. To do so is life-threatening. He wants his independence and dignity back.

Despite what Kurt endures on a daily basis, he remains motivated for the future. His daily rehabilitation helps his mental and physical health and keeps him positive.

What are the stats?

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.

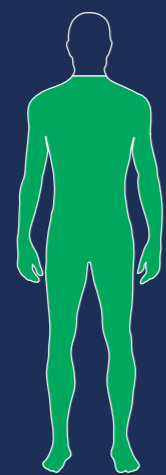
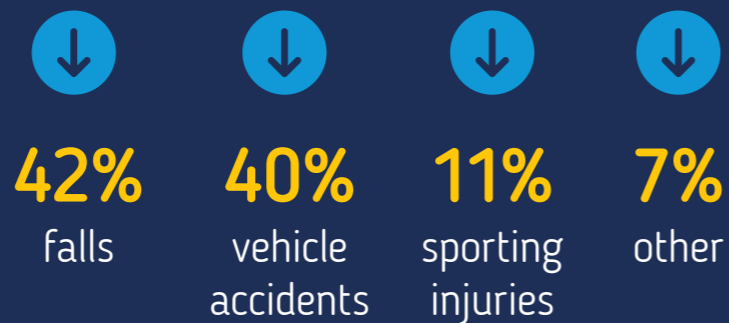


Over **20,000** Australians are living with a SCI.

Men account for 70% of SCI's

↓

The main cause for injuries



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 invested over **\$13.7 million dollars** into 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

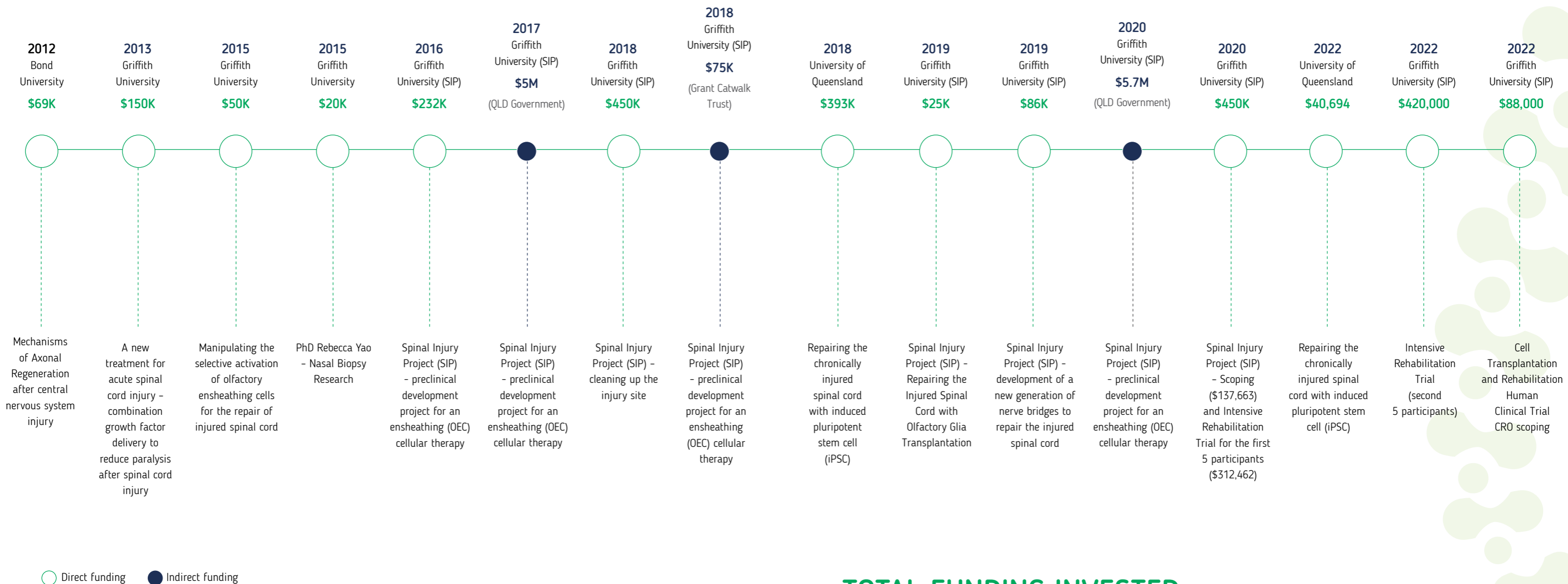


30% of people with a SCI are at risk of depression

Statistics from: AlphaBeta. Spinal Cord Injury In Australia. 2020

Investing in a cure

Because of your incredibly generous support, this financial year the Foundation has committed \$548,694 into research at Griffith University and University of Queensland.



TOTAL FUNDING INVESTED IN RESEARCH \$13,251,819

Family First

Meet Cure Crusader

Chanaye



Photo: 2021 Christmas Appeal Ambassador Chanaye with her Mum Ashlee and Dad Jordan

In 2020, 6-year-old Chanaye and her family arrived home days before Santa would visit.

They had endured four long months in hospital after a terrible car accident left Chanaye paralysed, her mother Ashlee severely injured and everyone traumatised.

Chanaye's mother Ashlee woke up in hospital with no memory of what had happened. She had broken her pelvis, knee, both arms and femur. Her youngest daughter Chanaye was not with her. In fact, they spent four harrowing weeks apart, in different hospitals.

As Ashlee lay immobile in her hospital bed, she learnt her 6-year-old daughter was in an induced coma and was told she would not walk again. She remembers screaming with heartbreak as she lay there helpless.



The extended family and country community rallied around and supported the family through a very dark and distressing time. Jordan remembers the day Chanaye finally opened her eyes and even through the confusion and terrible pain she locked eyes with her daddy and smiled.

Jordan and Ashlee have shown a kind of humility, strength and determination unique to a situation that has taken them to the edge in every way. They have endured terrible heartache and pain for all of their children but still remain optimistic for the future and they are grateful for all that they have.

Chanaye and her family shared their story as part of our Christmas Appeal this year. Total donations received: \$22,111.

You can check out Chanaye's story here;



Ground-breaking

Research



38 researchers in total



14 countries are represented:

Accumulated greater than **314** years of research years together.

(SIP) The Spinal Injury Project

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 35 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.



Estrella,
Paraplegic

I am adjusting to a 'new normal', I am happy but there are always challenges. Hopefully there will be a cure for paralysis before I have kids."

Highlights and/or significant outcomes:

Drug discovery:

We have identified a drug that can stimulate the activity of the olfactory cells to improve the efficacy in repairing nerve injuries. This drug is now being comprehensively tested with the aim of incorporating it into the overall olfactory cell transplantation therapy.

Nerve bridges:

We have created additional designs of the nerve bridges which offer surgeons with more options for transplantation. This means that surgeons can treat a wider range of injury types.

Safety:

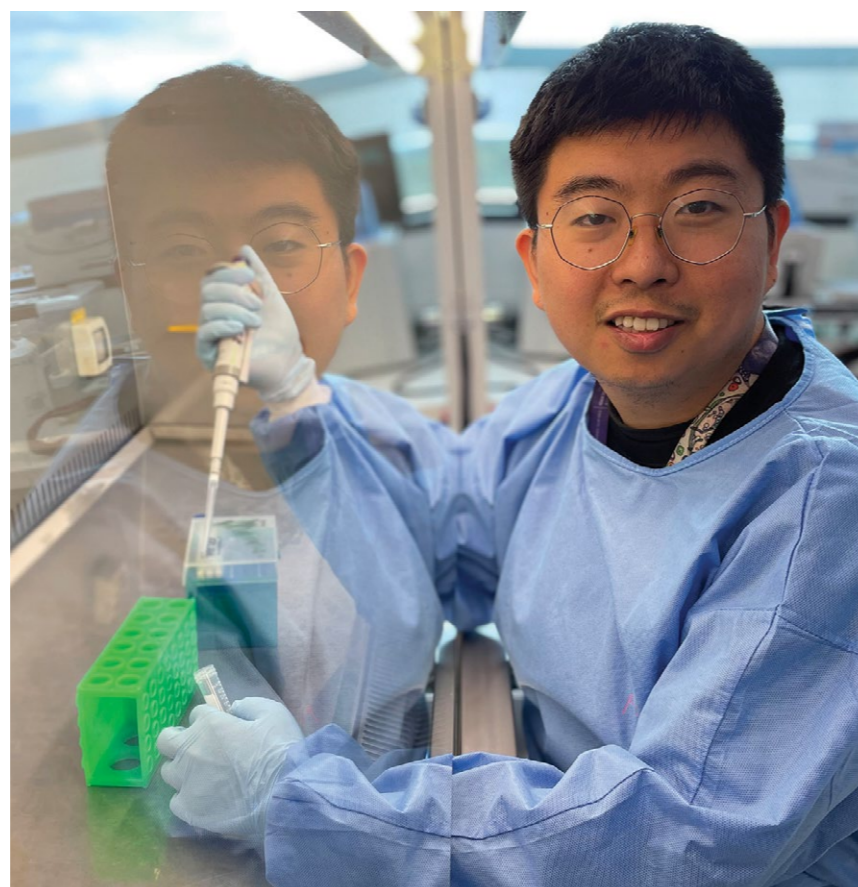
We have extensively tested the OECs are found that they have excellent properties for nerve repair, in particular they reduce inflammation and can clean up the injury site. We have also shown that the cells are very safe and do not cause adverse side-effects.

Next steps:

The translation of the Spinal Injury Project has been highly successful, and this world-first therapy is now progressing to a first-in-human Phase I clinical trial. The trial will be run in Queensland and planning is underway with an anticipated start in 2023, dependent on funding and the approval process.

Awards:

Dr Mo Chen was awarded the Research Australia Discovery Award 2020-2021 for the invention of the cellular nerve bridge technology.



Intensive, Long Term Rehabilitation Clinical Trial (Trial #1)

November 2020 - July 2021

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

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

\$450,000 Total Investment

This clinical trial was needed to determine whether an intensive program of rehabilitation was suitable for people living with chronic spinal cord injury.

As rehabilitation is an essential part of the overall cell transplantation therapy, it is important that the rehabilitation program is tested and any areas that can be improved are addressed and implemented. This helps to de-risk the overall cell transplantation therapy that we are working towards.

The rehabilitation program for this trial included (1) an onsite program at Making Strides of 2 hours of rehabilitation plus 30 minutes of functional electrical stimulation each day, for 5 days a week, for 16 weeks, and then (2) an at-home program of one hour a day, 5 days a week for 10 weeks using a more restricted range of activities.

While the primary aim of the trial was to determine whether the intensive trial was suitable for people living with chronic spinal cord injuries, a secondary aim was to determine whether participants showed changes in health and functional capacity.

Five participants were recruited for the trial with a mix of males/females, thoracic and cervical injuries, and recent and longer term injuries. All participants lived within one hour's travel time from Making Strides at Burleigh.



Highlights and/or significant outcomes:

The active trial has been completed the trial and the analyses are being performed by external providers, with the full outcomes and report expected to be completed by the end of 2022. Preliminary analyses showed:

- Participants reported high satisfaction with the on-site program, but reported that aspects of the at-home program need to be improved as it was difficult to achieve the desired outcomes.
- Some participants self-reported that they achieved improvements in physical and psychosocial aspects.
- There were few adverse events and all were minor.

There are two major outcomes.

1. While the trial outcomes are still pending, the preliminary data suggests that the on-site rehabilitation program is suitable for use with the overall cell transplantation therapy.
2. Demonstrating that intensive rehabilitation provides health and functional benefits for people living with spinal cord injury can be used to lobby governments for more support, services and funding for provision of rehabilitation services to the spinal cord injury population.



Next steps:

Based on the preliminary data from the trial, the rehabilitation providers and clinicians, the rehabilitation program has been modified and will be tested in the second rehabilitation trial.

The prehab clinical trial (Trial #2)

June 2021 ongoing

Chief investigators: Prof James St John, Dr Marie-Laure Vial, Dr Andrew Rayfield, Dr Dinesh Palipana, 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

\$200,000 Total Investment

This clinical trial is a follow-up trial to the first rehabilitation feasibility trial and is testing the rehabilitation program that will be provided before the cell transplantation therapy (the “prehab” program).

The full cell transplantation trial will involve rehabilitation both before and after the cell transplantation, and the first rehab trial which was completed earlier this year tested the rehabilitation program that will be used after the cell transplantation.

The “prehab” program is a shorter program of 12 weeks duration and includes some modifications that were identified during the first rehabilitation trial. For this trial, five participants will be recruited trial who have not had much experience with rehabilitation therapies.

This trial will complete the planned translational research needed for the full cell transplantation therapy. With both the rehabilitation trials completed, and the design and scoping of the cell transplantation

trial finalised, the Spinal Injury Project team at Griffith University will be ready to progress to clinical trial to test the olfactory cell therapy in humans.

Next steps:

The ethics for the trial are being finalised and it is anticipated that this trial will commence at the end of 2022.



Designing And Scoping The Cell Transplantation And Rehabilitation trial

December 2021 ongoing

Chief investigators: 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

\$88,000 Total Investment



The Griffith University Spinal Injury Project team is commencing the planning of the olfactory cell transplantation clinical trial.

As part of this planning process, it is essential that the trial is designed to meet the requirements of the various regulatory bodies to ensure that the trial meets the highest safety and reporting standards. In this funded project, the Griffith University team has consulted with a range of advisers to obtain regulatory advice and clinical trial design advice.

Highlights and/or significant outcomes:

The design of the trial is critical and there are numerous considerations that need to be decided by the research and clinical team. One of the most important aspects is the required reporting detail and format of the outcome measures and safety data of the trial. The external consultants are advising on the specification of the detail required for the various reports.

The clinical team for the trial has been finalised, with Dr Brent McMonagle leading the trial as the Principal Investigator and Dr Dinesh Palipana assisting as the Sub Investigator.

The numerous partners for the trial have been finalised. These include the numerous service providers who perform the medical assessments and the facilities for the cell production.

Next steps:

The design and scoping will be completed by November 2022.

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

\$450,000 Total Investment

This project seeks to activate transplanted cells to clean up the spinal cord injury site and aid regeneration.

After an injury, dead cells and bacteria need to be removed so that nerve cells can regenerate through a clean area. By understanding how the transplanted olfactory ensheathing cells react to cell debris and bacteria, as well as the hostile injury site, we can design ways to protect the cells and to stimulate the functions using drugs and other treatments.

Highlights and/or significant outcomes:

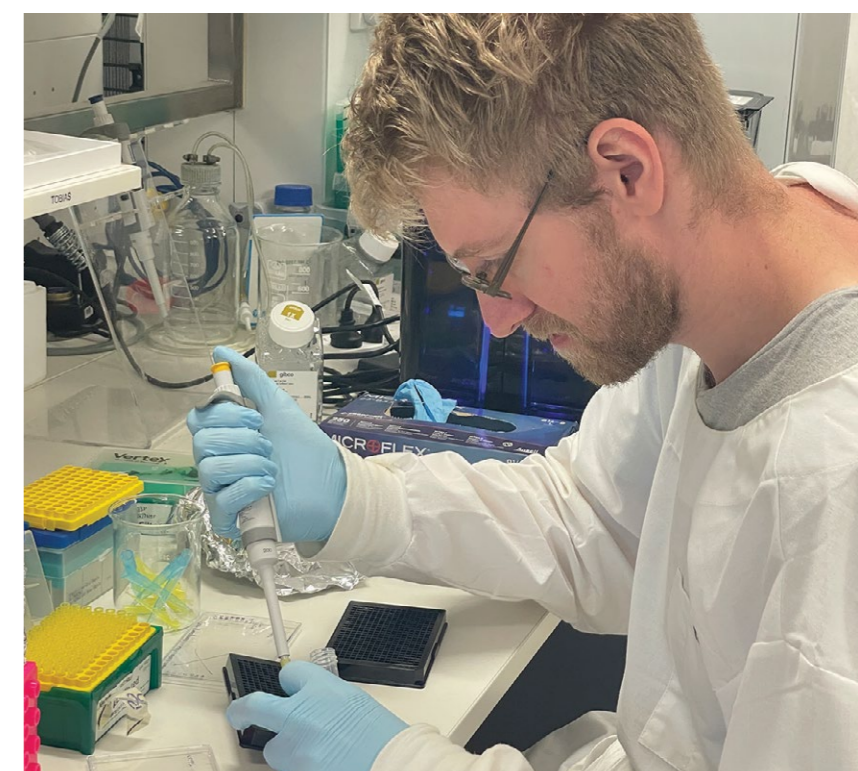
We have identified that olfactory ensheathing cells (OECs) can be activated into the state in which they remove cell debris using a clinically suitable method. We have confirmed that the activation state is maintained after the cells are transplanted into the injured spinal cord in animal models. This discovery now opens up the possibility of activating the OECs

prior to transplantation which would fast track their ability to clean up the injury site.

We have identified that a drug liraglutide (which is used for other medical conditions) can help stimulate OECs. This drug could be used to stimulate OECs in the nerve bridges prior to transplantation which would improve their efficacy for repairing spinal cord injury.

Next steps:

The activated OECs will be pre-clinically tested in the laboratory to determine the appropriate dose and timing of the treatments.



Lab tours

In May Griffith University hosted the 'Spinal Injury Project Open House'. 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 and Making Strides for making this special event possible.



Our rehabilitation partners, Making Strides, enjoyed their annual tour of the research lab. Wonderful to see such an engaged group of professionals learning more about the incredible research being conducted.



Thank you to José Molina Marco and Néstor Villalba Rojas from the Lázarus Project Foundation who visited the Spinal Injury Project all the way from Valencia Spain to discuss our shared mission to cure paralysis for all.



Throughout the year we welcomed many valued supporters and donors through the lab. They enjoyed a behind the scenes look at the research work being done.

Making Strides Tour



Members of our Board of Directors and Scientific Committee toured Making Strides, our rehabilitation partners. They were blown away by the skilled staff and lively atmosphere.

University of Queensland



Developing Induced Pluripotent Stem Cell (iPSC) – Based Strategies To Replace Lost Neurons And Repair The Chronically Injured Spinal Cord

April 2018 to June 2022

Associate Professor Marc Ruitenberg

University of Queensland

\$433,694 Total Investment

When the spinal cord is injured during an accident, stretching, compression and/or laceration of its delicate neural tissue causes an immediate and irreversible loss of nerve cells and the pathways associated with them.

Depending on how badly the spinal cord is damaged, this loss of nerve cells and connections causes a partial or complete paralysis, presenting itself by a lack of control over the body below the level of the lesion and also by an inability to perceive sensory stimuli (e.g. touch) from here. To effectively deal with this problem, a cure for spinal cord injury (SCI) must be able to fully restore the communication between the brain and the body.

Stem cell-based therapies are amongst the most promising approaches via which spinal cord repair might be achieved. The overarching aim of this project is therefore to develop such an approach using induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs). These cells have the advantage that they can be easily

generated from individuals, thereby overcoming potential issues around rejection of transplanted cells by the person receiving them.

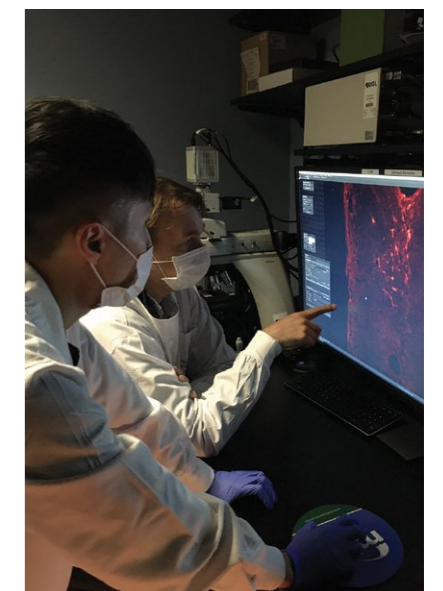
To be able to repair the injured spinal cord, we are making spinal cord nerve cells from iPSCs in a dish. Next, we transplant these cells into mice with a severe spinal cord injury to study how well they survive, grow and integrate and, ultimately, whether they alleviate disability. We are working here from the idea that the transplanted neurons can replace lost cells and form a relay across the lesion site.

Highlights and/or significant outcomes:

We have successfully established protocols to generate various types of spinal cord nerve cells and to safely transplant these cells into the injured spinal cord. Our transplantation studies show that these cells can survive, grow extensive projections and make connections with other nerve cells in the injured spinal cord. Most excitingly, a significant return of lost function was observed in SCI mice receiving these transplants.

Next steps:

We are currently in the process of performing additional experiments during which the transplanted cells will be selectively ablated once recovery of function has been observed. We expect to see here that any gains in function will be lost again following this. Collecting this information is a critical step in providing the necessary scientific evidence to show that the transplanted cells were indeed directly responsible for any observed recovery of function.



A Man On A Mission

Meet Cure Crusader

Lindsay



Photo: 2021-2022 Summer Safety Ambassador Lindsay Nott and Perry Cross AM

“I’ll never forget the day of my accident because it was the last day of year 12.”

Brisbane local Lindsay Nott is a Cure Crusader for the Foundation and is a man who has made the most out of life.

On the last day of year 12 Lindsay went to South Bank Parklands in Brisbane to celebrate. “Four of us ran into the pool, three came up and I was the unlucky one that hit my head and the rest is history.”

Lindsay became a C4/C5 quadriplegic because of this accident and endured many painful months in the spinal unit, devastated. With the support of his family and friends, Lindsay has gone on to live in his own home, travel the world and find fulfilling employment.

Lindsay’s courage and willingness to take life’s opportunities is truly inspiring. However, it most certainly has not been an easy journey and for every good day there have been many hard days in between. Lindsay’s determination so many years post injury is incredible. He is a great supporter of the Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation and a true champion.

“There is light at the end of the tunnel, we are getting there. The rehabilitation work being done at Making Strides in conjunction with the research in the lab and the work of the Foundation is amazing!”

Lindsay shared his story as part of our Summer Safety campaign this year.

You can check it out here;



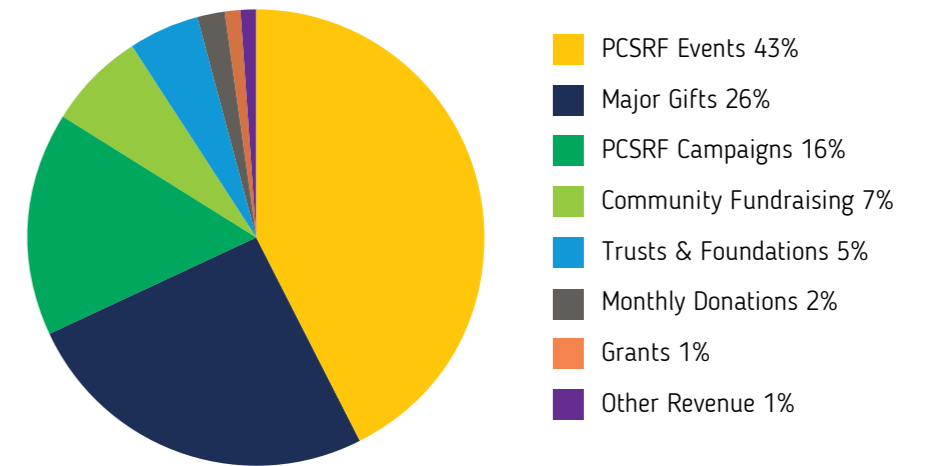
Connecting With Our Community

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;



Foundation events

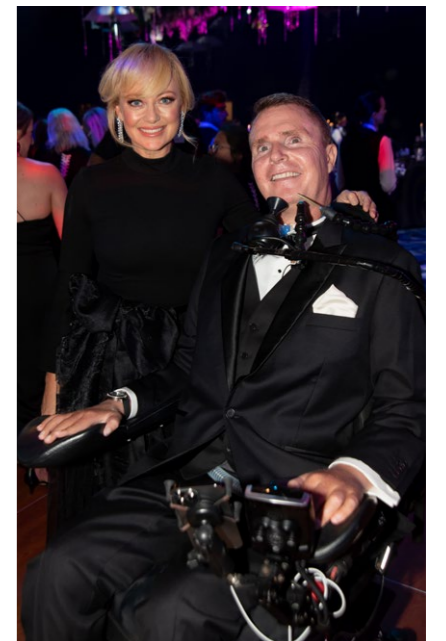
Gala Dinner March 2022

On Saturday March 12th 2022, our incredibly generous supporters gathered at the Star Gold Coast to raise over \$355,000 at the ‘Everything Is Possible’ Gala Dinner presented by Prestige Cars Group! Supported by over 20 volunteers, the event was emceed by Shelley Craft.

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; Cross Carpets, Hickey Lawyers, Bank of Queensland – BOQ and CorpSure – 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; Gig, Care Match, John-Paul Langbroek, Morgans, Black and White Property Group-The Virtuous Collective and Amplify Travel Australia as well as our Event Partners, The Star Gold Coast and Dreamweavers Event Productions.



Connecting With Our Community

Thank you to our incredible Auctioneer Andrew Bell and all of our Live Auction Prize Donors we had a record breaking auction raising \$105,000!

- Gold Coast Jaguar – Damien and Amanda Holley
- Porsche Centre Gold Coast – Damien and Amanda Holley
- KJH Artworks – Kylie Hill
- Eden Health Retreat – Chris Van Hoof
- Maritimo – Tom and Chloe Barry-Cotter
- Yelvertoft Station – Marcus and Shelley Curr
- Corroboree Ski Lodge at Perisher – Anna, Bob & Sam Tait
- Petersborough House – Andrew Bickell

To all of our silent auction prize donors and raffle donors – thank you, we are so grateful!

Thank you to all of our generous guests who dug deep and ‘bought a bone’, purchased raffle tickets and auction items, all 630 of you!

Thank you to Cure Crusader Carol Taylor, her husband Robert and son D’arcy who bravely shared their story on the night.



Brisbane Legends Lunch

Thank you to John Gambaro and Gambaro’s Seafood Restaurant & Function Centre for hosting our 4th annual Brisbane Legends Lunch on October 22nd which raised a record breaking \$159,655.

Thank you to our Main Sponsor Morgans and Morgans Foundation, Menu Sponsor BDO, Table Sponsors University of Queensland, JLL, Hastings Deering and Carers Collective.



Thank you to our incredible hosts Tim Horan and Ben Dobbin.

Thank you to all of the Sporting Legends who attended – Trent Durrington, Digby Ioane, Bronwen Knox, Darren Lockyer, TJ Hendy, Peter Hill, Karmichael Hunt, Hugh McMeniman, Steve Kefu and Andrew Mehrtens.

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported, donated, purchased auction items and bought a bone on the day.

Of course a heartfelt thank you to Rob and Kerry Douglas, Ben Michael and Marcus Dore, our incredible organising committee.



“

Mick,
Paraplegic

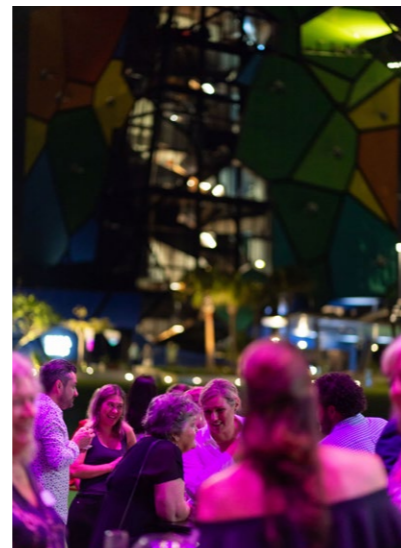
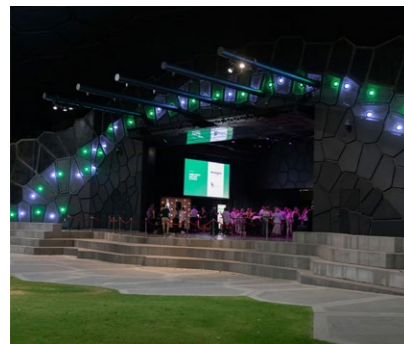
The research is unbelievable. I hope to see one of my mates from Making Strides get up, gets some function back. That’s the goal and that’s why rehab is so important.”

Connecting With Our Community

Thank You Event

This inaugural event was held on Wednesday 10th November 2021 at HOTA, Home of the Arts outdoor stage. Our Patron, The Honourable Dame Quentin Bryce opened proceedings for the 120 guests including donors, volunteers, stakeholders and sponsors.

The event was kindly sponsored by Morgans (Gold Coast) and BOQ Business.



Community fundraising

Gold Coast Fundraising Ball and Golf Day

A huge thank you to Beric Lynton (PCSRF Member) and the organising committee of the 2022 The Gold Coast Fundraising Ball and Golf Day for their incredible donation of \$62,774.

We are incredibly proud to be one of the five beneficiaries of this iconic event.

Thank you to Justin, Darna and the team at CorpSure for their support on the PCSRF hole where golfers had a chance to win \$25,000 cash for a hole in one!



Wings for Life World Run

Perry Cross was proud to be part of the amazing Wings for Life World Run event, raising much needed funds for spinal cord research.

In 165 countries all around the globe, 161,892 participants from 192 nations came together to raise an incredible €4.7m, with 100 percent of those funds going to cutting-edge spinal cord research.



“

Kristee,
Paraplegic

I've tried to keep a smile on my face and stay as positive as possible moving forward.”

Connecting With Our Community



Boutique Business House Golf Day

Thank you to Boutique Business and all of their fabulous golfers who raised \$8,000 in support of our research. We were honoured to be co-beneficiaries for this Charity Golf Day held at Emerald Lakes.



GC50

A huge shout out to Bryce Jenkins who ran 50km in support of the Foundation as part of the GC50. A heartfelt thank you to Bryce and Kristee, who, on behalf of The Virtuous Collective, made a personal donation of \$10,000 as part of their fundraising efforts. A further \$1,700 was raised through their online fundraising efforts.

Thank you to the 27 other fundraisers who ran the GC50 on behalf of the Foundation and raised \$4,010.



Campaign for Samuel

Campaign for Samuel generously donated \$5,000 to support the Foundation.

Samuel met Perry for the first time on his 246th day of admission at the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit of the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital and like Perry, is fully ventilator dependent requiring 24/7 support.

Campaign for Samuel Inc. was established to support Samuel but also to support research into treatments for spinal cord injury.

Birthday Fundraiser

Thank you to Cure Comrade Ramy Filo for hosting a birthday fundraiser asking his guests to donate to the Foundation in lieu of a gift. Together they raised an incredible \$5,890.



The Mangrove 737 Team

Thank you to Tony Ralph and 'The Mangrove 737 Team' who are a group of flight simulation enthusiasts flying marathon flights around the world and raising money for a cure for paralysis. To date they have raised \$4,620 and they are just getting started!

Speaking Engagements And Community Education

GIG National Conference

GIG is a great supporter of the Foundation and they kindly invited Perry along to their national conference to share his story about breaking down barriers and focusing on the road ahead. Thank you to Danny and Penny Dimas and the entire gig crew for this fantastic opportunity.



Gold Coast University Hospital Emergency Department

Often with spinal cord injury, the readmission to hospital can be an unfortunate regular occurrence.

For this reason Dr Dinesh Palipana (PCSRF Scientific Committee Member) invited Perry Cross AM and Cure Crusader Carol Taylor to

join him in an education session, with the incredible team at Gold Coast University Hospital Emergency Department.

This team do incredible work with a variety of ailments on a daily basis. Staying across the needs of all those people in our community can be challenging, so it's important we work together to understand the differences between health and disability needs.

You can view his "Spinal Cord Injury" video here;



Educational Video Series

Thank you to Dr Mike Todorovic for his continuous support in creating educational videos for our community. Dr Todorovic is a Neuroscientist, senior lecturer of anatomy and physiology, recognised for his science outreach on YouTube, Podcasts, ABC Radio, and Television. He is also a valued member of the Spinal Injury Project.

Enduring Love

Meet Cure Crusader

Carol

In 2001 Carol was a newlywed running a busy legal practice hoping to start a family.



Photo: 2021 SIP Week Ambassador Carol with her son D'arcy and Husband Robert

On a beautiful winter morning Carol and Rob, her husband, were travelling home from a weekend near the Blue Mountains when they hit black ice. Their four-wheel drive rolled, the roof caved in and hit Carol on the back of the neck. Her spinal cord was severed at the C5/C6 level and Carol was paralysed from the neck down.

Carol was placed on life support, survived surgery, and eventually regained the ability to speak. The first question she asked of her doctor was 'can I carry a child' and when the doctor answered no, Carol asked her new husband for a divorce. Rob refused and instead they renewed their vows in the hospital where Carol then began to fight for her life.

Their relationship is one of incredible strength, dedication, and love for one another.

With determination Carol went on to become a mother and a lawyer again and is now a Cure Crusader for the Foundation. Carol shared her story as part of our SIP Week campaign this year. Total donations received: \$130,330.

You can check it out here;



Curing Paralysis

One SIP At A Time



Congratulations to our winners!



'We Run A Tight SIP' won highest fundraising team - **\$17,411**



Casey Tutungi won highest fundraising individual - **\$9,235**

Stronger together

This year we officially launched our 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.

Our incredible speakers tailor their presentations to the audience and share their stories of resilience and perseverance whilst providing education around the spine.

Nick Dempsey (pictured) shared his story with the Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) which is a significant international Rotary youth program. Nick inspired this impressive group of young people by talking about how life can derail your plans, but there is always a Plan B.

Nick is a champion water polo player who was working towards going to the Olympics before a terrible pool accident changed his life forever.

In January 2017 Nick was celebrating his 21st birthday with friends and family. He jumped into the pool, like he had done many times before, and misjudged it. He hit the bottom, dislocated his neck and is now a quadriplegic.

"Everyone thinks they are bullet proof and it won't happen to them. I represented Australia in water polo and would dive into a pool 50 times a week and I still managed to misjudge the dive. A spinal cord injury can happen to anyone, any time" Nick Dempsey.



Check out more of Nick's story here;



We SIP because spinal injury sucks!

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.

A damaged or severed spinal cord means the region of the body below the level of injury becomes paralysed. Many people suffering with paralysis are required to drink all beverages out of a straw because they can not feel their arms and hands. This is just one of the many ways life changes for someone with paralysis.

You don't have to run a marathon, or even break a sweat, just drink all of your beverages through a straw and raise funds.

Since 2010

1,433 sippers

10,720 donations received

\$754,945 Total donations

In 2021

321 sippers

1,822 donations received

\$130,330 Total donations



Our Superhero

Volunteers

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

Meet Scott...

Scott has been donating his time and skills to the Foundation for many years.

Why do you volunteer for PCSRF Scott?

"Perry Cross has been an inspiration since the first day I met him. His generosity of spirit is a tribute to the fantastic human being that he is.

I am so grateful to have met him and to have watched him over the years navigate through the challenges of his life with such a powerful attitude, it humbles me and inspires me.

This is my very small way to give him support in the awesome work he does."



41
amazing
volunteers



contributed
approximately



of service this year
to the Foundation
amounting to an
estimated value of
\$18,550!

The Power Of Purpose

Meet Cure Crusader

Steve



Photo: 2021 Regular Giving Appeal Ambassador Steven Ralph

"Fundraising has given me purpose. If everyone does just a little bit to help, we will find a cure for paralysis. It all goes a long way, it all adds up and more people can contribute, the better for everyone."

While away camping with his mates in Port Macquarie, Steven's life dramatically changed.

"I jumped into a pool. There was a large step that jutted out about 2m and I just didn't see it. I bumped my head on the step, unfortunately. There was an instantaneous loss of sensation and movement. It felt like someone turned the lights off."

Steve was incubated for 9 days and then incredibly was able to breath on his own much to the relief of everyone around him.

"Being able to communicate was amazing for everyone around me. In fact, it was like I was healed because I could speak, and I knew I was still me. That was a huge moment."

Steve then moved to the spinal unit and this is where the real battle began. Here the full extent of his injury was made clear.

Steve has worked hard on his outlook and approach to life. His gratitude to those around him is so apparent and it is this positive way of approaching his situation that is most inspiring.

Steven shared his story as part of our Regular Giving Appeal which raised \$22,112 this year. Our community of monthly donors enable the Foundation to fight for a cure. These Cure Comrade's invest in medical history, are part of a community and are making a long-term impact by giving regularly.



You can check out Steven's story here;





Terry Jackman AM with Perry Cross AM

Acknowledgements

Together, we can cure paralysis.

We know we cannot do this alone and we are so grateful to everyone who has supported a cure for paralysis this financial year. We would like to make special mention of the individuals, organisations and businesses who have generously gifted the Foundation with a donation over \$10,000 this year.

- Anonymous \$250,000
- Terry and Jodie Jackman \$100,000
- The Lady Fairfax Charitable Trust \$60,000
- Morgans Foundation \$30,000
- Peter Chesterton \$10,000
- Robert and Cheryl Hazlett \$10,000
- Lorne Bush House Cottages & Eco Retreat (Tutungui Family) \$10,000
- The Making Strides Recovery Foundation \$16,348
- Opulent Financial \$24,000
- The Virtuous Collective (Bryce and Kristee Jenkins) \$10,000
- Ryan and Bec Holsheimer \$10,080

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

Special thanks to our Foundation Partners;



Special thanks to our Events Partners;

Everything Is Possible Gala Dinner 2022 Presenting Partner



Everything Is Possible Gala Dinner 2022 Gold Sponsors



Everything Is Possible Gala Dinner 2022 Cure Crusaders



End Of Year Thank You Event Sponsors



Everything Is Possible Gala Dinner 2022 Event Sponsors



Special thanks to our SIP Week 2021 sponsors;



Brisbane Legends Lunch 2021 Event Sponsors



This year we are the proud recipients of a number of grants;

Gambling Community Benefit Fund (GCBF) - \$8,313 received in December 2021

Supporting the purchase of;

- Office supplies including a printer and computer
- Outdoor event gazebo to support our events
- Staff training and development

2021 Volunteer Grants supported by Angie Bell MP, Federal Member for Moncrieff - \$4,296 received in January 2022

Supporting the purchase of;

- MacBook (1)
- iPad (3)

2022 Queensland Community Fund (QCF) - \$9,900 received in May 2022

Supporting the Foundation to;

- conduct a review of Governance/ Policies and Organisational Sustainability

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 pcsr.org.au or email the team at team@pcsr.org.au

SIP FOR A CURE

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

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 pcsr.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 pcsr.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 everyday visionaries that put thought into action. You can join our empowering team by enquiring at team@pcsr.org.au

SPREAD THE WORD

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

-  @pcsr.org.au
-  @perryxfndn
-  @PCSRF
-  @perrycrossspinalresearch foundation

Our People



Condolences

The Foundation was deeply saddened by the passing of one of our recently appointed Scientific Committee Members and long-time supporter, Professor Chris Del Mar OAM. We extend our condolences to Chris's family.

Patrons and Ambassadors



THE HONOURABLE DAME
QUENTIN BRYCE AD CVO
Patron



ALAN JONES AO
Patron



JOHN EALES AM
Ambassador



ADAM GILCHRIST AM
Ambassador



NATHAN GREY
Ambassador



BEN IKIN
Ambassador



NATHAN SHARPE
Ambassador

Executive Team



PERRY CROSS, AM
Executive President and
Founder



MELISSA BROWN
Foundation Manager



JEN HUTCHINGS
Philanthropy Manager

Board Of Directors



TOM RAY
Chairman



PERRY CROSS, AM
Executive President and
Founder



DR BRENT MCMONAGLE
Scientific Director



ADAM BENNETT-SMITH
Board Member
(retired 1.3.22)



MARCUS DORE
Board Member



DAMON HARRIS
Member



BLAKE HEDGER
Member



ANDREW MCLAUCLAN
Member



BERIC LYNTON
Member



LETITIA MAXWELL
Company Secretary /
Member



RYAN HOLSHEIMER
Board Member



DAN MARINO
Board Member



GEORGE MOSKOS
Board Member



BRETT WALKER
Board Member



MELANIE LEIS
Board Member



JODIE JACKMAN
Member



HEATH HILL
Member



KAYE HASTIE
Member



LINDSAY NOTT
Member



MICHAEL RUDD
Member

Scientific Committee



DR BRENT MCMONAGLE
Scientific Director



DR DINESH PALIPANA
Scientific Committee



MARTIN CODYRE
Scientific Committee



**DR ELLISON
STEPHENSON**
Scientific Committee



PROF. CHRIS DEL MAR
Scientific Committee



PAUL STEER
Member



ROBERT DOUGLAS
Member



TOM WALSH
Member



WADE MCMONAGLE
Member



BEN MCNEIL
Member



**PROFESSOR RANDY
BINDRA**
Scientific Committee



LINDA WATERS
Scientific Committee
(appointed 2021)



DR WAYNE NG
Scientific Committee



LYNNE GILLOGLY
Member



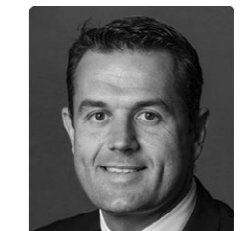
TRACEY ROBERTS
Member



KRISTEE SHEPHERD
Member



BEN MICHAEL
Member



ADAM TWEMLOW
Member

Company Members

