THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT

2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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











FOUNDER'S MESSAGE



The future looks bright and I feel optimistic about our research resulting in a treatment for spinal cord injury.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



On behalf of Perry and the Foundation's Board of Directors, I offer my congratulations on an extraordinary, record breaking fundraising effort over the past year.

It is an extraordinary feeling to reflect on yet another record breaking fundraising year. Together we have raised millions for research and we are now ready to go to human clinical trial in the pursuit of a treatment.

Many things have fallen into place to make this happen and I am grateful to everyone for their support, guidance and generosity over the years to make this moment possible.

This year marked 30 years since my injury and it has been difficult every day since. At the time of my injury I was told nothing could be done. Put simply it was absolutely devastating for me, my family and friends. Despite the challenges, I decided many years ago to believe everything is possible.

It has taken some time, perseverance and a lot of support from many incredible people to fund this world-first human clinical trial. The future looks bright, and I am optimistic about the prospect of being able to repair the spinal cord.

We are about to make history because of you and the support of our generous fundraising community, partners and the remarkable Spinal Injury Project Researchers.

'Everything is Possible!'

Perry Cross AM
Founder & Executive President

It's been 30 years since Perry's injury, many years of fundraising and support from an incredibly generous community of supporters and 22 years since Prof. Alan Mackay-Sim's original and pioneering olfactory cell trial. With just one or two final regulatory approvals pending at the time of printing this report in October 2024, we're thrilled to share with you that we will commence the Nerve Bridge Transplantation and Rehabilitation Human Clinical Trial in the near future at Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery and Menzies Health Institute Queensland, Griffith University.

With your support and generosity, we have raised an extraordinary \$8.5m to fund this world-first human clinical trial and we couldn't have done it without our generous community, partners and philanthropists. We can also share with you, that Prof James St John and his team were awarded a Medical Research Future Fund 2023 Stem Cell Therapies Grant of \$6.8M for the human clinical trial. With this funding award, the trial will now be open for thirty participants.

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

- \$3,262,855 in surplus (subject to audit), before investment in research, raised throughout the year.
- It is with enormous gratitude that we thank Nicola and Andrew Forrest who pledged \$1million in matching funds which supported and elevated our fundraising throughout this financial year.

 An extraordinary event hosted and organised by the Curr family, City and Country Raising Buck\$, which saw over 600 generous guests come together, raising over \$690,00. This included all donations being matched by Nicola and Andrew Forrest and to add to this, Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk MP announced a \$2 million grant from Queensland Health to go towards the trial as part of the event.

I recognise that such outcomes take a huge amount of thinking, strategy 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 to the Foundation. Thank you to our valued and dedicated Company Secretary, Letitia Maxwell. I'd also like to thank our Cure Crusader Speaking Ambassadors who volunteer their time and share their stories.

Finally, congratulations to you Perry Cross, on an extraordinary year where your vision inspired a record breaking year of fundraising in pursuit of our shared mission to cure paralysis.

Tom Ray Chairman

OUR PURPOSE



Dealing with life after a spinal cord injury

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

is incredibly difficult.

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.

Watch our latest video

to find out more about

the Foundation here;









Mission

The Foundation is dedicated to facilitating and



Jo kindly shared her story as part of our tax appeal and over \$240,000 was raised. Check out Joy's inspiring story here;



NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN FAMILY: JO'S STORY

Joanna is a mother of two and a wife to husband Michael. They followed her dream and migrated from the UK to Australia in 2007. The day Joanna fell and injured her spinal cord, her life was changed forever.



When Joanna came home from hospital many months later, the family had to adapt to new routines, including mealtimes and caregiving responsibilities. It was difficult. Joanna could no longer cook dinner or feed herself. She felt terrible guilt for the impact her injury had on her family.

Joanna's identity as a mother and wife shifted as she grappled with her injury. She pushed ahead with family activities like holidays and weekend outings, where she had to come to terms with the fact she had to parent from afar. She could no longer be the mum who stood at the water's edge while her kids played in the ocean.

After ten years, Joanna applied to be part of the Spinal Injury Project Rehabilitation Clinical Trial, funded by the Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation, where she attended rehabilitation at Making Strides for 16 weeks.

At the completion of the trial Joanna experienced significant physical and emotional changes. She gained strength in her body and a new confidence. She is now doing things she never thought possible.

"Once I finished the trial I noticed the difference in my body. I have gained shoulder strength and I can now roll my shoulders up and down. I can sit in my chair and have my hair done at the salon without my body crumbling."

Joanna dreams of the day there is a treatment for spinal cord injury.

"It would be a major game changer to be able to clean my own teeth, to scratch an itch and wipe away a tear instead of having to sit there and wait for somebody else to come and help me."



Vision

funding world class research aimed at curing paralysis caused by spinal cord injury and supporting better outcomes for those living with paralysis.



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

Over 20,800 Australians are living with a SCI.

11% sporting other falls vehicle accidents injuries

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







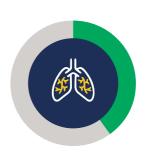
Paraplegia 58% of injuries



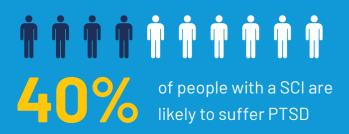
70% of people with a SCI suffer from chronic pain for more than 6 months

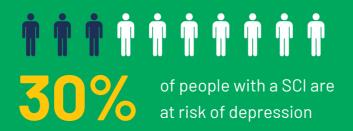


of people with a SCI are affected by a lack of bladder /bowel control



40% of hospitalised people with SCIs have respiratory failure







Since 2010, the Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation has helped to raise over \$40 million dollars for groundbreaking Australian research.

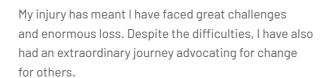
Spinal cord injuries cost the Australian economy more than \$10M per day.

REFLECTIONS 30 YEARS POST INJURY: PERRY CROSS

I was injured and broke my neck playing Rugby Union in 1994, 30 years ago. I am now a C2 ventilated quadriplegic, paralysed from my chin down requiring 24/7 care.







In 2010, I started the Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation with the mission to cure paralysis for all. With the support of incredible donors, partners and the community, we have raised millions for research focusing on a cure.

I want to help the spinal cord injury community restore feeling and regain function, like bowel and bladder control, but ultimately my greatest hope is to give people their dignity back. I want everyone to be able to stand and hold their families once more, to feel their toes in the sand, to have some independence again.

At this year's Gala Dinner, with the support of the crew from Making Strides, who are the rehabilitation partners for the trial, I stood in the spotlight on stage to deliver my speech. I was, for once, the only person standing in the room and it felt amazing.

It has been 30 years since my injury and I still believe 'Everything Is Possible.'

Perry Cross

Check out
Perry's inspiring
speech here;



RESEARCH INVESTMENT SNAPSHOT

Because of your incredibly generous support, the Foundation has helped to raise over \$40M to support the Spinal Injury Project. We are now on the cusp of starting the human clinical trial. We could not have done this without you and your support.

\$2,803,377

PCSRF Direct Investment into the SIP Project - GU (Pre-clinical research)

\$433,694

Direct Investment into other research projects





\$32,598,377

Indirect Investment to the SIP Project through lobbying & support

This com hum fund the Brice

This financial year the Foundation has committed **\$5.4M** to directly support the human clinical trial, as well as our ongoing funding of Dr Mo Chen's fellowship and the co-funding the MRFF Biological Nerve Bridge Device research project.

\$40,704,388

Total funding invested in research (indirect and direct funding)

developed over the las

10 years.

The diverse team has over **40 translational biomedical researchers** who come from 19 different countries.



In addition to the lab members, the team also works with many external specialist researchers, clinicians and allied health professionals to drive the therapy to clinical trial.

Total Budget for the SIP Human Clinical Trial for 15 people

\$6.8M

Total MRFF Contribution to increase participants to 30 people

"

THE FUTURE **LOOKS BRIGHT** ANDIFEEL **OPTIMISTIC ABOUT OUR** RESEARCH **RESULTING IN A TREATMENT** FOR SPINAL CORD INJURY.

PERRY CROSS

BIOENGINEERING GENIUS WILL CHANGE LIVES: DR MO CHEN'S STORY

Dr Mo Chen is achieving revolutionary scientific results and is a valuable member of the Spinal Injury Project Team.

His complete passion and dedication to The Spinal Injury Project has seen Dr Chen tackle the role of creating revolutionary three-dimensional (3D) nerve bridges which is central to the Spinal Injury Team's success in generating the therapy for spinal cord injury.

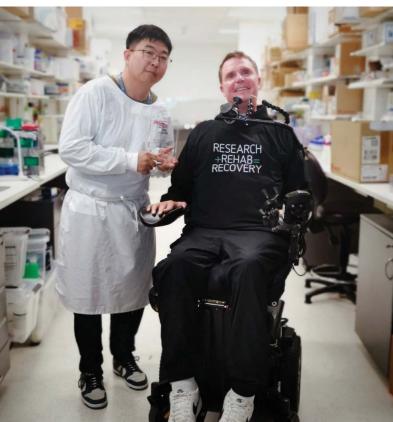
He has created 3D cell constructs using a newly invented, award winning technology involving 3D printed templates. This technology generates nerve bridges that can be used to repair traumatic injuries to nerves and has been successfully tested in mice. The testing has found that the 3D nerve bridges maximise the efficacy of the olfactory cells, reduce the existing scar tissue, and promote the regeneration of the nerve cells. This methodology ensures patients receive optimal restoration of motor and sensory function and outcomes are as consistent as possible

Recently Dr Chen secured a \$750,000 grant from the highly competitive Medical Research Future Fund with matching funds from our incredible donors, Griffith University and the Clem Jones Foundation. The Foundation has committed to providing \$300,000 to this important research.

The Foundation is also co-funding Dr Chen's prestigious research fellowship. These fellowships are designed to support the best and brightest researchers so that they can continue outstanding research and then apply for nationally-competitive fellowships.

Check out
Dr Mo Chen's
inspiring story
here;







RESEARCH SUMMARY

PERRY CROSS SPINAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION FUNDED PROJECTS

The Spinal Injury Project (SIP)

March 2016 - ongoing

Chief Investigators: Prof James St John

Institute for Biomedicine and Glycomics, 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.

This world-first treatment for spinal cord injury uses specialised cells from within the nose. The cells are called olfactory ensheathing cells (OECs) and they can work in numerous different ways to stimulate repair of nerves.

The olfactory cells are purified from a simple biopsy taken from within the nose, a cellular nerve bridge of OECs is manufactured for transplantation into the injured spinal cord, where the special regenerative capacity of transplanted OECs stimulates spinal cord regeneration.

The therapy has been developed over the last 10 years by a large team at the Clem Jones Centre for Neurobiology and Stem Cell Research, Griffith University in Queensland. The diverse team has over 40 translational biomedical researchers who come from 19 different countries. In addition to the lab members, the team also works with many external specialist researchers, clinicians and allied health professionals to drive the therapy to clinical trial.

Highlights:

Nerve bridges: We have partnered with Advanced Design Prototyping Technologies Institute (ADaPT, a 3D printing facility at Griffith University) to improve our nerve bridge manufacturing processes. This is to ensure that our nerve bridges are of clinically suitable quality, consistency and meet regulatory standards.

GMP cell production and nerve bridge transport: Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) are the regulatory standards that we must follow for a clinical trial testing of any therapy. We have successfully completed a pilot production run of the biopsy to nerve bridge manufacturing processes within a GMP compliant facility at Q-Gen Cell Therapeutics.

We have successfully tested the logistics of transporting the nerve bridges within a controlled environment by road transport between facilities. This allowed our clinical team to review the practical process of receiving, handing-off and handling the nerve bridges.

Drug discovery: Our work on using a drug that can stimulate the activity of the olfactory cells is ongoing. This is particularly helped by our diverse team as we can rapidly test many different conditions and therefore understand how the drug could be incorporated into the therapy.

Safety: Thanks to the live imaging microscope funded by the Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation, we have performed comprehensive testing on the human olfactory cells and commenced careful analyses to understand their safety profile better. The incredible quality of the live cell videos is also helping us uncover novel information about cellular properties and behaviours.

Progress to trial:

Preparation for GUSIP03 - Phase I cell therapy and rehabilitation clinical trial

The past year has been dedicated to intensive preparation for the Phase I cell therapy and rehabilitation clinical trial, scheduled to commence recruitment in 2024. A key milestone was the appointment of a Contract Research Organisation (CRO), Accelagen Pty Ltd. This involved a rigorous selection process, including a limited tender and careful evaluation of potential companies based on attention to detail, corporate social responsibility, and cost-effectiveness. Contract negotiations, while extensive, successfully concluded with the signing of a master services agreement in early September.

With this crucial partnership established, we are now actively working with the CRO to advance the development of the clinical trial set up. Simultaneously, we are engaging with external stakeholders and vendors such as the rehabilitation providers and companies who will play vital roles in data collection, such as those providing blood tests and radiology services.

Significant progress has also been made on the regulatory front. Ethics applications, protocols and investigator's brochures have been meticulously prepared and have received approval from the hospital's HREC committee. The trial has also been registered on the Australian New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry. We have appointed a dedicated staff





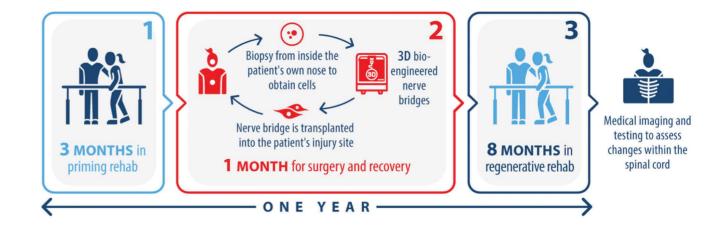
member to work as a clinical trial coordinator with Griffith – Amala Kanagalingam. Finally, we are currently awaiting the final green light from the hospital's research governance organisation. Once this approval is granted, we will be able to launch a comprehensive recruitment campaign for the trial. The team remains dedicated to ensuring all necessary preparations are in place for the timely and successful initiation of this groundbreaking trial.

Funding awarded:

Prof James St John and his team were awarded a Medical Research Future Fund 2023 Stem Cell Therapies Grant of \$6.8M for the clinical trial. With this funding award, the clinical trial will now be open for thirty participants.

Read more about the human clinical trial here;







RESEARCH SUMMARY

PERRY CROSS SPINAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION FUNDED PROJECTS



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

A human clinical trial tests whether a potential treatment is safe and effective. Before a trial can commence, the research team needs to demonstrate that the production process meets the required regulatory requirements such as those of the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

Outcomes:

This project enabled the research team to obtain expert advice from consultants and to design the trial to meet the regulatory requirements.

The outcome of this process is that we now have our comprehensive trial design and human research ethics approval to commence the cell transplantation and rehabilitation clinical trial.

Pushing the boundaries further:

Dr Ronak Reshamwala is working with the 3D printing facility at ADaPT to develop personalised anatomical models of the spinal cords with accurate representation of the injury sites in preparation for the trial. Using MRI scans from individual participants, Ronak digitally segments the different tissues based on their natural hardness (density) and textures, which can then be 3D printed using different materials to mimic the natural feel of those tissues. These 3D printed models will be unique for each individual and will serve as training and planning platform for the transplantation surgery. Importantly, this work also serves a significant de-risking step for the upcoming clinical trial.





RESEARCH SUMMARY

PERRY CROSS SPINAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION FUNDED PROJECTS

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. Institute for Biomedicine and Glycomics, Griffith University

Total Investment From PCSRF \$300,000

This project is supported by \$756,000 from Federal Government's Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF), with matching support from the Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation together with the Clem Jones Foundation and Griffith University over four years. The team of early career and mid-career researchers are creating the next generation of nerve bridges with the aim of providing clinicians with multiple therapeutic options to treat different types and stages of injury.

Highlights:

The team is testing new methods for nerve bridge production and how advances from the rest of the Spinal Injury Project team can be incorporated into the overall therapy. They have already observed that the 3D nerve bridges express a variety of beneficial genes and proteins crucial for spinal cord repair.

The team is also upgrading the nerve bridge production format and potential delivery methods. Further, methods to preserve the nerve bridges for longer periods whilst maintaining their functionality are also being optimised.

Specific cellular states have been identified, and investigations continue at both the cellular and molecular levels. To facilitate the translation of our findings, ongoing pre-clinical tests are being conducted.

Dr Mo Chen is the recipient of the prestigious Griffith University early career fellowship, with is supported by matching funding from partners and The Perry Cross Spinal Research. With this fellowship, Dr Chen can focus on improving the design of nerve bridges and further understanding the biology of the cells.

Highlights:

Dr Chen has discovered new ways in which the cells respond to various conditions and this information is helping him to tailor the nerve bridge production process. The in-depth biological data that Dr Chen is obtaining is also critical for demonstrating the safety of the cells, which is essential for the therapy to be acceptable.

Next steps:

Dr Chen will use a combination of live cell imaging (using the Livecyte microscope) with complex molecular analyses to identify which conditions are the best for stimulating therapeutic repair of the spinal cord.





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

The olfactory nerve bridge transplantation therapy includes intensive rehabilitation both before and after the cell transplantation. As intensive rehab is not routinely available or accessible in Australia, the safety and acceptability of an intensive rehab program needed to be tested. This particular trial tested the program that is designed to go before the cell transplantation. The Griffith team had previously tested the post-transplantation rehab program in the first rehab clinical trial in 2021-2022. Trial 2 follows on from trial 1 with a total investment of \$870,929 for the rehabilitation trials.

Hightlights:

During the past year, the work on the feasibility rehabilitation trials has seen substantial progress. The manuscript for the first trial (GUSIP01) is just about complete and will be published in a peer-reviewed journal soon to share our valuable findings to the scientific community.

The second trial has completed its statistical analysis by an independent statistics company and focus group analysis has allowed us to gain deeper insights into participant experiences. Preliminary Prehab trial focus group results highlight the positive physical, mental, and social impacts of the prehab trial, with participants reporting personal achievements and expressing a strong preference for training at the Making Strides facility. While some aspects of the trial protocol, such as the frequency of surveys, were identified as an area for improvement, overall feedback from participants and rehab providers has been largely favourable.

Importantly, participation in these trials seems to have fostered a more receptive attitude toward future cell therapy trials, a potentially significant development for the field.

The knowledge gained from these rehabilitation trials has also proven invaluable in shaping the design and implementation of the upcoming GUSIP03 cell therapy and rehabilitation Phase I human clinical trial. By incorporating lessons learned, Griffith University researchers have refined the protocol which will enhance the participant's experience and streamline data collection. This is the exact reason the feasibility rehab trials were performed and will ultimately strengthen the full cell therapy trial's potential to generate meaningful and important outcomes.





RESEARCH SUMMARY

PERRY CROSS SPINAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION FUNDED PROJECTS

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 Institute for Biomedicine and Glycomics, Griffith University

Total Investment from PCSRF \$400,000

Technology advances now enable high quality imaging of living cells that are grown in the lab. By tracking cells over time, the research team can gain critical insights into the quality and function of the cells to ensure they are suitable for transplantation. The generous community helped raised the funds to purchase this advanced microscope that is so important for assessing the safety of the cells prior to transplantation.

By observing the cells in real time, we have studied their natural and dynamic behaviour in detail which has led to new exciting discoveries about how the cells can interact with other cell types.

Next stepes:

We will continue to monitor how the cells change over time and investigate their response to different stimuli or drug treatments. The comprehensive data collected from studying individual cells will be investigated to understand cellular properties such as cell division,



A state-of-the-art livecyte microscope, funded by the Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation, through the support of our incredible donors, was unveiled at the Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery and is leading the Spinal Injury Project team toward human clinical trials.

In a celebration of cutting-edge research and technological innovation, The Honourable Dame Quentin Bryce AD CVO, patron of the Foundation, unveiled the Phasefocus2 Livecyte microscope and plaque.





RESEARCH SUMMARY

PERRY CROSS SPINAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION FUNDED PROJECTS

Cleaning Up the Injury Site is 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

The potential power of olfactory ensheathing cells lies in the multiple mechanisms by which they can repair an injury site and stimulate nerve growth. One critical role of the OECs is that they can rapidly remove dead cells from the injury. By first cleaning up the injury site, the regenerating nerve cells will then more easily be able to grow across the damaged area.

Highlights:

In this ongoing project, the team has identified several new ways to stimulate OECs to clean up the injury site. By stimulating the OECs in different conditions, the team is now determining which stimulating factors are most suitable for incorporating into the overall therapy.

Next steps:

As part of the MRFF EMCR grant, the team is now working on combining the stimulation factors with the bridge production and transplantation to test the outcomes for restoring motor, sensory and autonomic function.



LAB TOURS

Throughout the year we welcomed over 200 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.

Thank you to Cure Crusader Ambassador, Lindsay Nott for assisting with hosting these lab tours.

Check out the virtual tour here;



















CREATING A LEGACY: KAYE AND DES'S GIFT

Leaving a meaningful gift will help us continue the journey to discover a cure for paralysis. Every bequest, no matter its size, makes a difference to those suffering with spinal cord injury.



Members and special friends of the Foundation, Kaye and Des Hastie share why they have decided to leave a gift in their Will to the Foundation.

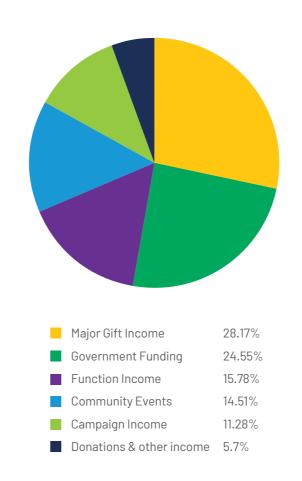
"We have been supporters of the Foundation and the groundbreaking research into Spinal Cord Injury repair being undertaken at Griffith University for many years. We hope to continue this support for many more years to come. We are happy to have nominated a pecuniary legacy in our Wills, so that after we have gone, we can still be of support to ongoing research projects."

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.



FOUNDATION EVENTS

Gala Dinner March 2024

On the 23rd March over 700 amazing guests came together for the "Everything is Possible" Gala Dinner presented by Prestige Cars Group raising, over \$400,000. It was a very special evening as Perry was able to stand on stage and address the guests. For the first time in 30 years Perry was the only man standing in the room.

Supported by over 30 volunteers, the event was emceed by the incredible Slyvia Jeffreys. 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.

Thank you to everyone who pledged raising \$169,990 and those who bought a bone raising \$102,750.

To our Gold Sponsors; Maritimo, BOQ Business, Hickey Lawyers, CorpSure, Nova Press, Molmike Medical and McNab - 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 (Global Interactive), Brightside Disability Support and Respite, McLauchlan Wealth, Village Roadshow Theme Parks, Carematch, JP Langbroek, Leina & Fleur, and our Event

Thank you to our incredible Auctioneer Andrew Bell and all

We would like to make special mention of the individuals, organisations and businesses who generously pledged a gift supporting the Nerve Bridge Transplantation and Rehabilitation Human Clinical Trial with a donation over \$5,000 received in 2024 at our Gala Dinner.

Clark Kirby	\$5,000
Babak Moini	\$5,000
Chad Lemming, Nova Press	\$5,000
Damien Holley	\$5,000
George Moskos	\$5,000
Tom and Megan Ray	\$5,000
Stronger Together for Spinal	\$5,000
Trent Durrington	\$5,000
The Club at Parkwood Village	\$5,000
Jonathan & Georgia Drew	\$10,000
Dore Corporation Pty Ltd	\$10,000
Dan Marino	\$10,000
Hickey Lawyers	\$15,000
Ryan and Bec Holsheimer	\$20,000
Champion Family Foundation	\$20,000













of our live auction prize donors, silent auction prize donors and raffle donors.



video of the Gala celebrations;





FOUNDATION EVENTS

Thank You Event November 2023

On Tuesday October 24th, our generous supporters came together at HOTA on the Gold Coast for the 'Everything Is Possible' end of year thank you celebration.

It was a wonderful night shared with donors, volunteers, suppliers, partners, ambassadors and stakeholders. We gathered because of a shared goal – to cure paralysis for all.

We were honored to have a special Guest speaker this year – Sam Bloom who is a woman with an extraordinary story to share. She suffered a devastating accident while on holiday with her young family in Thailand and was left paralysed from the chest down. Now a three-time World Para Surfing champion, bestselling author, and the inspiration behind the #1 box-office hit movie Penguin Bloom starring Naomi Watts, she's an incredible example of the extraordinary things we can all achieve in the face of adversity.

Everyone in attendance was moved by Sam's honesty and authenticity – it was a very special evening.

Thank you to our presenters: Tom Ray, Professor James St John from Griffith University, Perry Cross and of course Sam Bloom

Special thanks to our event sponsors CareMatch, Cross Carpets and Griffith University.

CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

City and Country Raising Buck\$ August 2023

In August we had the pleasure of being the beneficiary of the City and Country Raising Buck\$ for Spinal Cord Injuries event hosted by Marcus, Shelley and Georgia Curr at the Ekka Showgrounds in Brisbane. Over 600 generous guests came together to raise over \$690,000 in pursuit of a cure for paralysis and enjoyed some sensational bull riding. All donations were matched by Nicola and Andrew Forrest.

This incredible event brought people from across Queensland together. It was emceed by Ben Dobbin and guests enjoyed incredible speakers including the formidable and talented Wayne Bennett; former Wallabies coach, John "Knuckles" Connolly; renowned expert in performance under stress, Dr Jemma King; and Matthew Cardinaels CSM, who served as a commando for 18 years.

The crowd was entertained by none other than James Blundell down in the main arena during the bull ride.

To add to this, Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk MP announced a \$2 million grant from Queensland Health to the Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation in support of our ground-breaking Cell Transplantation and Rehabilitation Human Clinical Trial being led by Professor James St John at the Clem Jones Centre for Neurobiology and Stem Cell Research at Griffith University.



























COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

TFH Race for Research Charity **Luncheon August 2023**

The Foundation had the pleasure of being the beneficiary of an amazing charity luncheon with a difference. Special thanks to Carolyn Oldano from TFH Hire Services Australia, Queensland Raceway, V8 Race Experience, Speedway Australia and their guests for raising over \$26,000. This included matching donations from Nicola and Andrew Forrest.

The Queensland Reds and Gold Coast Suns went head to head in the ultimate V8 Supercar experience with teams being led by Jett Johnson and Todd Hazelwood to raise money for spinal injury research.







CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

Oueensland Medical Orchestra August 2023

The Queensland Medical Orchestra (QMO) is an ensemble composed of doctors, medical students, health professionals and friends who came together to share their collective love of music while raising money for charity. We thank you for choosing the Foundation as the beneficiary on this occasion and are grateful for their \$4,000 donation.

Special thanks to Cure Crusader Speaking Ambassador Lindsay Nott for attending and accepting the cheque.





VMX Magazine Classic Dirt 15 August 2023

Thank you to VMX Magazine Classic Dirt 16 at Three Pines MX Park and all who generously donated to raise \$10,000 for a cure for paralysis with a special thanks to Cure Crusaders, the Boyd family, for the use of their property.





Cameron's 100km Challenge

Thank you to Cameron and his community of fundraisers who raised an incredible \$1,324 to support the human clinical trial.

Cameron has worked with friend of the Foundation and Cure Crusader Speaking Ambassador Nick Dempsey, for many months as a support worker. Cameron says this has opened his eyes to the effects of a spinal cord injury on someone's life.

Cameron challenged himself to run 100km throughout October and encouraged his friends and family to support the trial. What an amazing effort.



COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

Women in Insolvency and Restructuring Old Annual Sports Lunch October 2023

It was a full house at City Hall on 13 October 2023 for the Women in Insolvency and Restructuring Qld Annual Sports Lunch. The almost 500 people in attendance heard from our very own Perry Cross and the equally inspiring Emma Carey.

The WIRQ team, with the generosity of the Queensland Insolvency Industry, raised over \$30,000 for the Foundation.

Thank you to Olivia, Alicia and Laura and the organisers of the lunch for their amazing support.





CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

Mackillop Catholic College Trivia Night December 2023

Thank you to MacKillop Catholic College (Tasmania) who held a Parents and Teachers Community Trivia Night and fundraiser, with over \$2,000 donated to the Foundation.

The night was held as part of the College's 'Wellbeing Week'.

Former student and Cure Crusader Speaking Ambassador Ryan Wiggins went along to collect the cheque on behalf of the Foundation from the College.



Gold Coast Lads Lunch November 2023

Owner Partner, Dan Marino of Hickey Lawyers and PCSRF Board Member, hosted a Gold Coast business-leaders lunch raising over \$100,000 in donations.

Some of the Gold Coast's most elite property businessmen came together to enjoy the exquisite cuisine at Kōst
Broadbeach. Thank you Dan and all of the generous guests who came together to help support a cure for paralysis.





Boutique Business House Golf Day March 2024

Thank you to Jason Howard and Andy Hollis from Boutique Business House, on a very successful Golf day held at Royal Pines Resort golf course. We were very grateful for the \$20,000 donation and to have been a co-beneficiary with LIVIN – an incredible Gold Coast based charity which aims to reduce the stigma around mental health.



COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

30Km for 30 days to mark 30 years

Dan Boardman, one of Perry's carers, set himself a challenge to run 30 kilometres every day for 30 days of April to mark Perry's 30th anniversary since his injury. He raised over \$6,000.

Dan has worked with Perry for the past 5 years and over that time they have formed a great friendship, they have had some amazing adventures and helped each other with life's challenges along the way.



Gold Coast Local Charities Lunch May 2024

Thank you to Pam Sturgess and the wonderful ladies at Gold Coast Local Charities Lunch who work selflessly fundraising for charities on the Gold Coast. A special thank you to Catherine from My Jewellery Shop for donating a stunning pair of 9ct gold, topaz and diamond earrings, and to all of the prize donors for their amazing support. This event raised over \$9,000.



CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

Gold Coast Fundraising Golf Day and Ball June 2024

Thank you to Beric and Tina Lynton and the incredible team at the Gold Coast Fundraising Ball for their generous donation of over \$21,000 which was donated to the Foundation from their recent Golf Day and Ball. Beric and Tina are members of the Foundation and have been supporters of Perry and his mission to cure paralysis for many years stretching back to school days.

In total these events have raised an outstanding \$146,969.50.

We are so grateful to have been a beneficiary of the events along with Gold Coast Community Fund, Guide Dogs, Men of Business and the Gold Coast Hospital Foundation.

Beric and Tina Lynton also kindly shared an offer with their customers at their Bridgestone Select Tyre and Auto stores in Helensvale and Southport, for every tyre and wheel alignment purchased, \$2 would be donated to the Foundation. This innovative initiative results in a donation of \$4,644.









SEEKING INDEPENDENCE: GEORGIA'S STORY

Georgia lived and worked on her family's cattle station in outback Australia and riding horses was part of her everyday life. But right now, that is not her reality.



Georgia suffered a spinal cord injury 18 months ago that caused her to lose much of her daily independence. She didn't have an accident and wasn't suffering from illness. Out of nowhere she suffered a bleed on her spine and her life changed forever.

Gerogia woke one morning with so much pain throughout her whole body that she couldn't pin point it. She just knew that something was seriously wrong and she had to go to hospital.

Living in outback Australia, she was flown to a country hospital where she waited in Emergency. There Georgia experienced the worst surge of pain she had ever felt. She was suffering a bleed on her spine and lost all movement in her legs.

"I remember saying to mum, they're gone, my legs are gone," Georgia said.

"A cure would be life changing for me to be honest. To be back home and be with everyone would be amazing. It's just not accessible at the moment," said Georgia.



Georgia kindly shared her story as part of our SIP Week campaign and over \$400,000 was raised. Check out Gerogia's inspiring story here;



SIP FOR GOOD!



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.



235 sippers



1,344 donations



\$407,207 total donations

Thank you to every single person who sipped, donated, shared and supported SIP Week 2023. Because of your generosity and the matching donations from Nicola and Andrew Forrest we had the biggest SIP Week to date.

A special thanks to Lisa Peine for her generous donation to SIP Week, in support of the human clinical trial.

A huge shout out to our SIP Week Ambassador Georgia Curr for bravely sharing her story.

A huge congratulations to our highest individual fundraiser Clodagh Sibbald – raising \$14,507 and winning the amazing stay at Sargood on Collaroy, our winning team Making Strides – raising \$47,888 and the winner of the SeaWorld Resort Gold Coast stay Genny Kroll-Rosen.

A special thanks to our amazing SIP Week sponsors, Making Strides and Molmike Medical and our SIP Week 'sip'porters, Village Roadshow Theme Parks, Sargood on Collaroy, HiSmile, CocoCoast, ByGreen and Worklocker! Thank you to Kaye and Des Hastie for their support in preparing the SIP Registration packs.

Thank you to Mathew Malt and the team at Gold Coast Hospital University for hosting a SIP event as part of spinal injury awareness week and the Molmike Medical team for launching SIP Week with a morning tea event at Dover Drop.









HONOURING PERRY CROSS

Griffith University Honorary Doctorate

In December 2023 Perry Cross AM was honoured to receive a Degree of Doctor of the University for his distinguished service to spinal cord injury awareness and advocacy and his leadership in fostering medical research to transform the lives of those living with paralysis.

He delivered the occasional address to the graduating class which was a huge honour.

"Sharing the experiences and feelings that I have gained in my journey with the graduates was a great privilege and huge honour. I'm grateful for being part of this important event for so many new graduates and their loved ones and I am sure it's a day that we will all remember.

Thank you again to the Chancellor The Hon Andrew Fraser and Vice Chancellor Carolyn Evans for the honour and recognition."

Everything is Possible!

Perry Cross

2024 Gold Coast Australian of the Year Awards

Congratulations to Perry Cross AM who was one of the finalists in the 2024 Gold Coast Australian of the Year Awards.

STRONGER TOGETHER

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



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of service this year to the Foundation amounting to an estimated value of

\$27,300!











Congratulations to Kaye Hastie who received some well-deserved recognition at the Gold Coast Volunteer Awards. She was recognised for her community work with the foundation and presented the award by Angie Bell MP.



Check out Perry's inspiring occasional address to the

graduating class here;



WE BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF PERSONAL STORIES

Our Cure Crusader Ambassadors are individuals with spinal cord injuries who share their compelling journeys to raise awareness, educate and inspire communities about the groundbreaking work of the Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation.

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

This year our Ambassadors attended and delivered the key note address at events, hosted lab tours and shared their stories in an effort to raise awareness and funds to support our research.

Book a Cure Crusader Ambassador to speak at your next event. Check out their inspiring stories here;



MEET OUR CURE CRUSADER AMBASSADORS

Ryan Boyd



Ryan Boyd'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.

Facing the reality of a long stay in hospital and limited use of his arms, the long road to independence began. While in hospital Ryan was introduced to wheelchair rugby and this changed his perspective of life with a disability.

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

Joanna Fowler



Joanna Fowler is a former schoolteacher, public speaker, a wife and mum of two who fulfilled her dream to move from England to Australia, and who loved nothing more than getting outdoors and sharing adventures with her family.

However, a single fall in 2010 altered the course of her life, redefining her role as a mother and a wife, and changing the future for her entire family.

Since her accident, Joanna, who has a positive outlook on life, has found ways to still enjoy the outdoors and have adventures in her wheelchair.

Joanna longs to be able to hug her kids again, feed herself, and do the small things we take for granted.

Mick Chisholm



Mick Chisholm is a tough Aussie bloke who loves motocross, is a very hard-working business owner and is dedicated to his kids. Born in Sydney he has always enjoyed an active life of motocross, boating and adrenalin sports.

Mick's life changed dramatically at age 44 on the 1st of December in 2017. On a hot summer day, he had a terrible motocross crash and broke his back (T10, T11 and T12) and became paralysed.

After many months in hospital Mick finally got back home to try and continue with his new life. There have been plenty of challenges with his health whilst running a business and raising a family but he has worked hard on his recovery.

Mick continues to prioritise his rehabilitation training 3-4 times a week. He wants to encourage others living with a SCI and show them that life continues after injury.

Ryan Wiggins



Ryan Wiggins was a hard-working builder and played football for 18 years. In 2021 after a game of footy, Ryan jumped into a swimming pool and fractured his C2, which has left him a quadriplegic.

Ever since sustaining his spinal cord injury he has had the "anything's possible" outlook on life. Ryan has achieved so much since his injury including launching his own label to raise funds and awareness for spinal cord injuries.

Ryan has also just completed his strength and conditioning certification and is working alongside his partner taking group classes. He has a vision of opening a Rehab Centre in Tassie to give everyone the best chance of moving their bodies.

Kurt Drysdale



Kurt Drysdale started playing rugby league when he was just 7 years old for the local team, Helensburgh Tigers. He went on to play representative footy for the Cronulla Sharks and worked hard to make the NRL.

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. He is unable to feel or move from the neck down and requires 24-hour care to support his needs.

Following Kurt's terrible accident, he 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.

Despite what Kurt endures on a daily basis, he remains motivated for the future and is an inspiration to those around him.

Lindsay Nott



Lindsay Nott grew up in Brisbane, Australia. His life changed on the last day of school in Year 12 when a terrible accident took place. Lindsay met a group of mates at Southbank on a hot summer's day. Four friends dived into the pool, 3 came up and Lindsay was the unlucky one that hit his head and broke his neck at vertebrae C5.

Nowadays he gets around on 4 wheels instead of 2 legs. His injury hasn't stopped him from making the most out of this beautiful life and he spends a lot of his time traveling and taking new adventures.

Lindsay is an advocate for disability awareness and his goal is to help people and their families who are in similar situations.

Nick Dempsey



Nick Dempsey was working as a plumber and had dreams of making the Olympics after previously representing Australia in water polo.

In 2017 while celebrating his 21st birthday, Nick dove into his backyard pool, hit the bottom and sustained a spinal cord injury resulting in him becoming a quadriplegic.

Since sustaining his injury, Nick has achieved a lot including moving to the Gold Coast, starting his own podcast, modelling and he has also started coaching water polo. He continues to push himself to see what's possible in his new life. Nick aims to show what can be achieved with a positive attitude when faced with terrible adversity.

FASHION 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 Demsey and the Worklocker team for generously setting up and running the store for the Foundation.

Check out the range 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).

It is with enormous gratitude that we thank Nicola and Andrew Forrest who pledged \$1 million dollars in matching funds and Queensland Health who committed \$2 million dollars to the trial.

Andrew & Nicola Forrest	\$1,000,000	Reuben Pelerman Benevolent		JDW Enterprises Pty Ltd	\$12,500
Lisa Peine	\$75,000	Foundation	\$20,000	Fleur Richardson	\$11,500
Jonathan & Georgia Drew	\$60,500	Alistair & Kate Champion	\$20,000	Rob Hogan	\$11,000
Project Lazarus	\$35,900	Anonymous	\$20,000	Marcus Dore & Eva Milic	\$10,000
Dan Marino	\$32,910	Maureen Louise Stevenson	\$17,500	Chris & Carol Tutungi,	
Ryan & Bec Holsheimer	\$31,080	PJ Hancox Pastoral Co	\$16,000	Lorne Bush House Cottages	\$10,000
Morgans Foundation	\$30,000	Wentworth Cattle Co	\$16,000	Michael Hodges	\$10,000
Kane McDonald	\$26,000	Gulf Cotton	\$15,000	Robert & Cheryl Hazlett	\$10,000
Karl Morris	\$25,000	McIntyre Cattle Co Trust	\$15,000	Kee Ong	\$10,000
Hughes Group	\$25,000	EC Throsby	\$15,000	Paul Coggiola	\$10,000
JHG Weston	\$25,000	Peter Hughes	\$14,000	GPS Wealth	\$10,000
Belinda Keats	\$22,000	Jones Cattle NT	\$13,800	Stanley Law	\$10,000
Ben Hewitt	\$21,000	Todd Wilshire	\$12,500	Gillion Holdings Pty Ltd	\$10,000
	+=:,500				

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

Special thanks to our 2023/2024 Foundation Partners



















Special thanks to our Events Partners

Everything Is Possible Gala Dinner 2024 Presenting Partner



PRESTIGE AUTOMOTIVE GROUP.

GOLD COAST











Everything Is Possible Gala Dinner 2024 Gold Sponsors















Everything Is Possible Gala Dinner 2024 Cure Crusaders



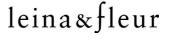












Special thanks to our SIP Week campaign sponsors





Special thanks to our 'Donor Thank You Event' sponsors







This year we are the proud recipients of a substantial grant

Thank you to CommBank Staff Foundation Community Grant for a \$10,000 grant which was used to develop our website.

Thank you to staff member Natalie Hodkinson at CommBank who participated in Workplace Giving and recommended the Foundation for this incredible grant. We are so grateful for your support in helping us find a cure for paralysis.



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



SIP FOR A CURE

Take on the SIP Week challenge and raise funds 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



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



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 or email the team at 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



SPREAD THE WORD

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



pcsrf.org.au



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@perrycrossspinalresearchfoundation

OUR PEOPLE

Patrons and Ambassadors



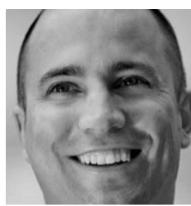










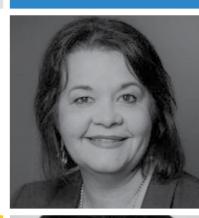
















Executive team













Patrons and Ambassadors

L-R: 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

L-R: PERRY CROSS, AM, Executive President and Founder, MELISSA BROWN, Foundation Manager, JEN HUTCHINGS, Philanthropy Manager, CLARE WITALIK, Admin and Events Officer

Board of Directors

L-R: PERRY CROSS, AM (Executive President and Founder), TOM RAY (Chairman), MARCUS DORE, RYAN HOLSHEIMER, MELANIE LEIS, DAN MARINO, DR BRENT MCMONAGLE, GEORGE MOSKOS, BRETT WALKER

OUR PEOPLE

Scientific Committee













Company Members





















Scientific Committee

L-R: DR BRENT MCMONAGLE (Scientific Director), PROFESSOR RANDY BINDRA, MARTIN CODYRE, DR WAYNE NG, DR DINESH PALIPANA, DR ELLISON STEPHENSON, LINDA WATERS

Compnay Members

L-R: ADAM BENNETT-SMITH, ROBERT DOUGLAS, LYNNE GILLOGLY, DAMON HARRIS, KAYE HASTIE, BLAKE HEDGER, HEATH HILL, JODIE JACKMAN, BERIC LYNTON, LETITIA MAXWELL (Company Secretary / Member), ANDREW MCLAUCHLAN, WADE MCMONAGLE

Company Members Continued...

























THANK YOU

Thank you to Chad Lemming and the Nova Press team 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 \$25,000 per annum.

Thank you for your ongoing, generous support of our mission to cure paralysis - we couldn't do this important work without you.





L-R: BEN MCNEIL, BEN MICHAEL, LINDSAY NOTT, GREG PINK, TRACEY ROBERTS, MICHAEL RUDD, KRISTEE SHEPHERD, PAUL STEER, JENS TAMPE, DAN TROLLOPE, ADAM TWEMLOW, TOM WALSH





