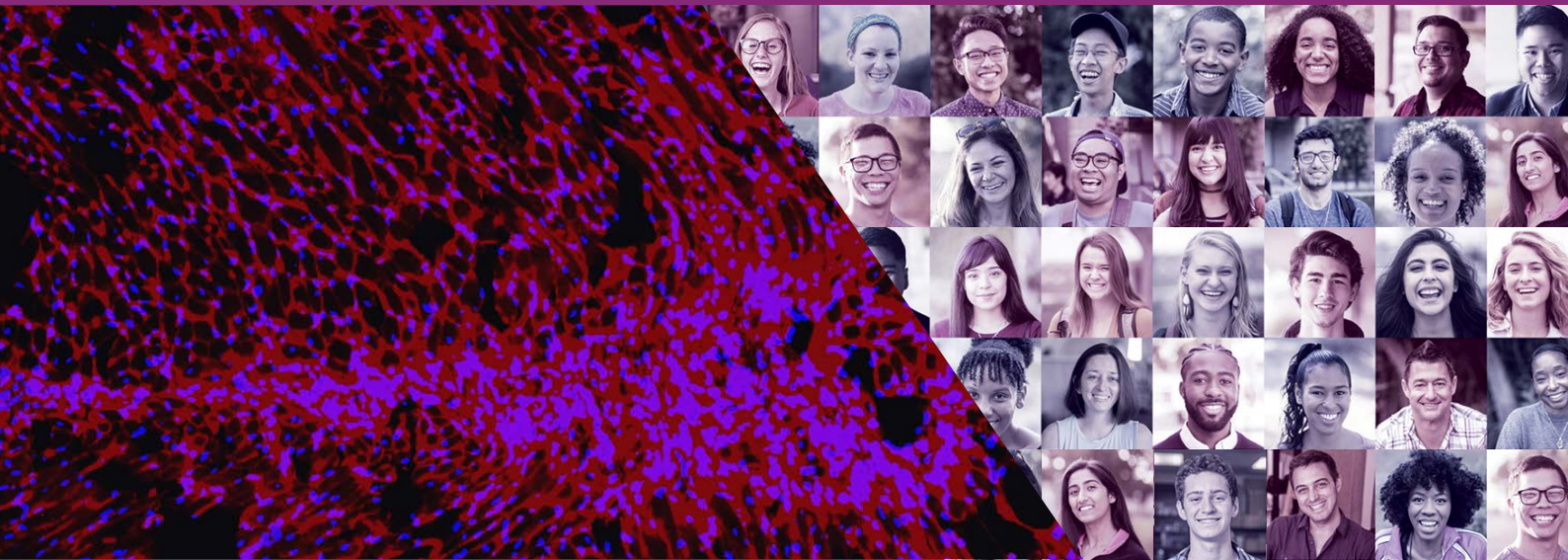




AUSTRALIAN
DENTAL
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



FOSTERING AND SUPPORTING DENTAL RESEARCH FOR THE
PURPOSE OF IMPROVING THE ORAL HEALTH OF THE COMMUNITY



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CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

Dear Board Members and Supporters, I am pleased to present the Chairperson's Report for the Australian Dental Research Foundation (ADRF) for the year 2023. It has been a transformational year for the foundation, marked by our continued commitment to driving excellence in dental research.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW:

ADRF continues to operate responsibly and sustainably. This year, the foundation returned to modest profitability through a significant reduction in administration expenses. The foundation maintained funding of just under \$250,000 in grants and awards to worthy research projects while growing our net asset base by 8%.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

Continued support to emerging researchers: We continued to drive excellence in oral research through funding nearly \$250,000 in research grants and awards.

Strategic review completion: Through the determination and hard work of board members, Associate Professor Deb Cockrell, Associate Professor Rachel Martin, and Deputy Chair of our Research Advisory Committee, Associate Professor Munira Xaymardan, a broad review of our grants program was completed. The strategic review informed the board's determination that future funding will be of greater monetary value and will be more focused on grants that have a real impact on the burden of oral disease. This will help enable projects that allow emerging oral health academic leaders to succeed.

Stronger governance: As part of our strategic review, the board considered our grants management governance process, resulting in the recommendation and installation of a new grants management platform. Our new platform will enhance the management of grants, create a better experience for applicants, and support efficiencies for the foundation.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

While we celebrate our accomplishments, we also acknowledge the challenges we face. Funding remains a constant concern, and we must continue to diversify our revenue streams through deepening our donor base and building out commercial partnerships.

LOOKING AHEAD:

In the coming weeks, ADRF will be launching our new grants framework and platform. This will be an exciting time for the ADRF and the dental research community. We are committed to making a lasting impact on oral health and overall well-being.

I want to express my gratitude to our board members, committee members, staff of the ADA and ADIA, and donors who recognise the importance of the ADRF's role in addressing the societal burden of oral disease.

As we move forward, I encourage everyone to remain resolute in our commitment to dental research and the impact on community health.

Thank you for your support and dedication.

Louise McCann

Sincerely,
Louise McCann
Chairperson
Australian Dental Research Foundation

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Ms Louise McCann
Chair, ADRF



Dr F. Shane Fryer OAM
Honorary Treasurer
Past President ADA Inc.



Mr Kym De Britt
Chief Executive Officer,
ADIA



Dr P Hugo Sachs
Director
Past President, ADA



Associate Professor Deborah Cockrell
Chairman, Research
Advisory Committee



Mr Damian Mitsch
Secretary, ADRF
Chief Executive ADA Inc.



Associate Professor Rachel Martin
Director



Ms Tanya McRae
Director, ADIA

MEETINGS

The following meetings of the Foundation were held during the period under review 2022-2023:

RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE	
A/Prof Deborah Cockrell (Chair), A/Prof Munira Xaymardan, A/Prof Peter Zilm, A/Prof Robert Anthonappa, Dr Stephen Hamlet, A/Prof Nicola Cirillo, Dr Amr Fawzy, Prof Loc Do, Dr Christina Adler	06 Jul 2022 25 Jul 2022 05 Aug 2022 25 Sep 2022
FINANCE COMMITTEE	
Dr F. Shane Fryer, OAM (Treasurer), Ms Louise McCann, Mr Damian Mitsch, Mr Wayne Matthews	12 Sep 2022 14 Nov 2022 03 Jul 2023 24 Oct 2023
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
Ms Louise McCann (Chair), Dr P. Hugo Sachs, Mr Damian Mitsch, Dr F. Shane Fryer OAM, Mr Kym De Britt, A/Prof Deborah Cockrell, Ms Tanya McRae, A/Prof Rachel Martin	18 Jul 2022 10 Oct 2022 28 Nov 2022 13 Mar 2023 03 Apr 2023 15 May 2023

APPRECIATION

The ADRF Board of Directors would like to particularly acknowledge and thank Prof Deborah Cockrell and members of the Research Advisory Committee who take on the detailed assessment of applications received annually for research grants, prizes and awards. Also, to the ADRF Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee, Dr F. Shane Fryer, and members of the Finance Committee, who ensure that fund received

by the ADRF are managed to maximise the financial support available for dental research. Each year the ADRF provides scholarships and research grants that support the work of post-doctoral students, early and mid-career researchers, and senior dental researchers whose work is focused on continuous improvement of oral health care and the critical role it plays in the well-being of all Australians.

HISTORY

The ADRF is a joint project of the Australian Dental Association (ADA) and the Australian Dental Industry Association (ADIA), to support research in dentistry for the purpose of improving the dental health of the community.

The Foundation was established in 1970 on the initiative of Mr Colin Cormie, OBE, Chairman of the Australian Dental Trade Association (later ADIA). Mr Cormie, who was ADRF Chairman from 1974 to 1982, was inspired by the American Fund for Dental Health and the enthusiastic support of many people in the Australian Dental Association and the Australian Dental Trade Association. It came into being initially as the Australian Dental Research and Education Trust, which was an unincorporated body.

The Fund (as it was originally known) became an incorporated body in 1983 and adopted the name Australian Dental Research Fund. Annual Reports have been published since that date. In July 1996 a change of name from 'Fund' to 'Foundation' was approved by the Registrar of Associations.

PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES



To foster and support dental research for the purpose of improving the health of the community with funds derived from investment income and use of any bequest, legacy, gift or other income.



To encourage all fields of dental research by awarding grants to competent persons.



To encourage, develop and support activities that stimulate a methodical approach to dental research and foster the continued advancement of dental knowledge.



To make grants to Dental Schools and approved Research Institutes and individuals Australia-wide for research programmes.



To provide for the publication and dissemination of the results of such research projects supported by the Foundation as the Board may consider appropriate.

Since its inception, the Foundation has funded well over 1,835 Grants and Scholarships in accordance with the above objectives.

FINANCIALS

AUSTRALIAN DENTAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS

(\$'000)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Revenue						
Sales	59.6	49.6	42.4	31.8	31.4	23.0
Donations	131.7	115.6	55.4	84.4	8.0	79.1
Grants	99.0	31.7	46.3	70.0	68.0	17.5
Other Income	1.3	5.6	2.6	0.0	3.3	0.0
Investment Income	295.0	418.3	210.2	156.5	274.4	251.4
Interest Income	27.3	37.9	24.2	5.2	3.6	10.0
	613.9	658.7	381.0	348.0	388.8	381.0
Expenses						
Administrative Expenses	121.1	145.1	140.3	250.2	266.4	112.4
Research Grants Awarded	244.8	284.0	276.8	288.9	255.2	213.1
Undergraduate awards and prizes	64.3	39.0	29.3	33.0	36.5	33.0
	430.2	468.1	446.4	572.2	558.2	358.5
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	183.8	190.6	-65.4	-224.2	-169.5	22.5
Gain/(loss) on revaluation of equity instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income	-34.7	200.9	-561.9	854.9	-387.4	358.4
Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year	149.0	391.5	-627.3	630.6	-556.8	380.8

AUSTRALIAN DENTAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

(\$'000)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Assets						
Current assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	1,491.8	1,857.8	2,004.3	1,414.6	1,281.3	1,186.8
Trade and other receivables	113.1	202.7	123.2	169.6	113.8	169.9
Total current assets	1,605.0	2,060.6	2,127.5	1,584.2	1,395.1	1,356.6
Non-current assets						
Financial assets at fair value through Other Comprehensive Income	4,155.6	4,195.1	3,585.4	4,831.3	4,488.9	4,933.3
Total non-current assets	4,155.6	4,195.1	3,585.4	4,831.3	4,488.9	4,933.3
Total assets	5,760.6	6,255.7	5,712.9	6,415.5	5,884.0	6,290.0
Liabilities						
Trade and other payables	15.0	39.7	37.1	35.7	96.4	105.6
Grants Provisions	757.4	850.4	932.4	1,015.9	995.5	1,011.3
Contract liabilities	24.0	30.0	35.0	25.0	10.0	10.0
Total current liabilities	796.5	920.0	1,004.6	1,076.5	1,101.8	1,126.9
Total liabilities	796.5	920.0	1,004.6	1,076.5	1,101.8	1,126.9
Net assets	4,964.1	5,335.7	4,708.4	5,339.0	4,782.2	5,163.0
Equity						
Reserves	1,127.0	1,250.6	538.2	1,252.6	784.7	1,145.5
Retained surpluses	3,837.1	4,085.1	4,170.2	4,086.4	3,997.5	4,017.5
Total equity	4,964.1	5,335.7	4,708.4	5,339.0	4,782.2	5,163.0

2023

RESEARCH AWARDS AND GRANTS

RESEARCH AWARDS AND GRANTS

2023 ADRF Grants Review

The ADRF, through its Research Advisory Committee (RAC) and the ADRF Board, took the opportunity to place the ADRF's Grants programme on pause for 2023 and undertake a review of the programme for strategic effectiveness. During this pause, funding for current grants would continue to be paid however there would be no call for new grant applications until the review was completed.

Over recent years, the ADRF has aimed to support as many applications as possible. The review found that this tended to dilute the amount of financial support to individual grant and award recipients, and this has not always delivered on the Foundation's commitment to high quality research.

The review found that there were opportunities to introduce changes that would allow the programme to be more strategic in its intent. The review agreed that the future of dental academia requires an urgent focus to be placed on supporting those who are in the earlier stages of their research career. The review recommended that the initial focus should be on supporting the development of junior colleagues who have a passion for an academic career.

The ADRF Board resolved that for the new grant programme, the ADRF would fund PhD students for one year with up to \$20,000 awarded to each successful applicant. This approach would mean that schools would have an equal opportunity to access research funding and would result in schools having an increased focus on quality. This approach would not exclude support for other Research Institutes, Universities or Research Centres. Successful applicants would be eligible to apply for continued support in future years.

A new Grants Application and Management System

The review also recommended that the ADRF update its previous manually based grants application and management system.

As a result of this decision, the ADRF implemented an on-line grants portal that will go live in November 2023. This portal will offer ADRF grants programs and applicants and the ADRF will use the new portal through the whole lifecycle of grants - from application through to grants administration and reporting, through to acquittal.

The portal has been constructed to give the added benefit to those intending to apply for major grants the opportunity to develop grant application skills that are aligned with major funding agencies.

The new portal will facilitate a seamless relationship with grantees, enabling ADRF to easily request reports or information, and allow grantees the ability to submit information directly via the portal. This will improve external engagement with grantees and reduce double handling as grantees can interact through the portal and submit documents and reports for review and acceptance by ADRF staff and assessors.

RESEARCH AWARDS AND GRANTS

The below awards were not awarded in 2023:

REGINALD AND PAMELA HESSION AWARD

The ADRF acknowledges the generous and ongoing support of its Patron, Dr Reginald Hession AM OMLJ KLJ. The Reginald and Pamela Hession Award was established by Dr Reginald Hession in 2008. It reflects Dr Hession's ongoing support of dental research, and also acknowledges his late wife, Pamela's interest, involvement and support of this Award. The award makes available bi-annual funding for a travel grant supporting a research program of surpassing merit. Due to COVID travel restrictions, it has not been possible to make this award. Applications for this award will be considered again for research projects commencing in 2023.

DR JIM POYNER RESEARCH AWARD

This annual award was established by Dr Jill Poyner in memory of her late husband, Dr Jim Poyner. The Award specifically supports research in head and neck cancer research.

THE CLARK FAMILY AWARD

The annual Clark Family Award was established by Mr William and Mrs Pam Clark, and Ms Allison Clark. It is awarded to the highest ranked application in the area of clinical dentistry with a sole focus on sustainability, or an area of research where sustainability in dentistry is either a major focus or a significant by-product of the project. Sustainability is imperative to dentistry, and it is most thoughtful and fitting that the Clark Family have proposed to support this important area of research.

INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF DENTISTS-AUSTRALASIAN SECTION & THE ICD SYD DOBBIN AM GRANT

This award, previously known as the International College of Dentists (ICD) Award, was established in memory of Dr Syd Dobbin AM. Dr Dobbin was the Past President of the Australasian Section of ICD and an international President of the College. He played a significant role in the implementation of water fluoridation in Australia. The Award supports community oral health research.

The International College of Dentists - Australasian Section - ICD Award provides up to \$5,000 annually towards community oral health. In 2019, the International College of Dentists established the ICD Syd Dobbin AM Grant which is a \$5,000 Award in memory of Dr Dobbin. In 2022 this has increased to \$7,500.



RESEARCH PROJECTS COMPLETED

RESEARCHER	PROJECT TITLE
Dr Antonio Celentano, Mrs Rita Paolini, Prof Camile Farah & Dr Pangzhen Zhang	The effect of anticoagulants on OSCC treatment: a comprehensive in vitro study.
Dr Pingping Han, Sašo Ivanovski	Longitudinal profile of salivary extracellular vesicles associated microRNA post-non-surgical periodontal therapy
D. Lau, S. Liberali, H. Mcinnes	The Use of Video Modelling in Special Needs Dentistry
Dr Charles Pagell, Reza Sanaei, Lakshmi Wijeyewickrema, Rob Pike	Application of a protease-activated receptor 2 antagonist (GB88) in slowing the progression of established periodontal disease and reversal of alveolar bone loss in mice
Ms Tamara Matthyssen, Dr Wenyi Li, Prof Neil Martin O'Brien-Simpson, Dr James Holde	Developing antibiotic agents to combat oral infectious disease
Dr Victor Haruo Matsubara, Dr Praveen Praveen, Dr Leticia Algarves Miranda, Dr Murray Baker	Fabrication of Antimicrobial light-cured polymeric hydrogels doped with silver nanoparticles and chlorhexidine for management of periodontitis and periimplantitis".
Dr Melissa Cantley, Agnieszka Arthur Kent Algate	A pilot study to utilise single cell RNA sequencing (scRNA-seq) to define the bone remodelling microenvironment human periodontitis gingival and bone tissue
Hamish Poli, Dr Anitha Sudheesh Kumar, Prof Lisbeth Grøndahl	Biomimetic remineralisation using enamel seeking nano carriers
Dr Nada Slakeski Prof Stuart Dashper Prof Victoria Korolik,	Characterisation of Treponema denticola chemoreceptors
Dr Michal Bartnikowski Dr Cedryck Vaquette, Prof Saso Ivanovski	Promoting periodontal regeneration through immunomodulation with timed lithium release from 3D printed polycaprolactone scaffolds
Neha Pruthi, Michael McCullough, Tami Yap, Nicolla Cirillo	Comparison of the miRNA expression profiles in matched oral swabs and formalin-fixed paraffin embedded Oral Potentially Malignant Disorders
Miss Elise Diamond, Prof Ove Peters, Dr Patricia Wright & E/Prof Laurence Walsh	Continuous chelation gels for use in root canal preparation
Prof Camile Farah, Kate Shearston, Philip E Melton, Simon A Fox	Genomic predisposition and mutational burden of proliferative verrucous leukoplakia
Kunal Kalra, Munira Xaymardan	investigating the biphasic differentiation potential of the tongue satellite cells into cardiomyocytes
Dr Tami Yap, Dr Kendrick Koo, Prof Michael McCullough, Prof David Wiesenfeld	MicroRNAs in Non-smoking, Non-drinking Cancer

RESEARCH PROJECTS COMPLETED

RESEARCHER	PROJECT TITLE
Dr Chun Xu, Dr Sepanta Hosseinpour and Dr Chang Lei	Nano delivery system for guided dental stem cell differentiation
Dr Philip Chien, Prof Ove Peters, Dr Christine Peters, Dr Abdalla Ali	Cyclic fatigue resistance of conventional and thermo-mechanically treated nickel-titanium rotary endodontic instruments: an experimental and finite element analysis study
Dr Andrew Liaw, Prof Sašo Ivanovski and Dr Pingping Han	Effect of periodontitis treatment on salivary histone deacetylase expression levels: a prospective clinical study
Prof Camile Farah, Kate Shearston, Philip E Melton, Simon A Fox	Genomic predisposition and mutational burden of proliferative verrucous leukoplakia
Dr Ravi Teja Chitturi Suryaprakash Dr Omar Kujan Dr Simon Fox Professor Camile Farah	Development and application of 3D organoid models for the investigation of oral carcinogenesis



BOOK OF LIVING MEMORIALS

The Foundation's Book of Living Memorials is a unique medium specifically designed for the purpose of perpetuating the memory of a colleague, friend or loved one.

The name of the deceased is inscribed, together with the name of the donor(s), in an elegant leather-bound book as a tribute.

The Book of Living Memorials is permanently displayed in the Secretariat of the Australian Dental Research Foundation, which is based in the Australian Dental Association headquarters at St Leonards. A letter acknowledging each memorial donation is forwarded to the bereaved family. All contributions are promptly acknowledged.

The Foundation acknowledges with grateful thanks, the assistance of Sydney oral and maxillofacial surgeon, Dr Bruce Edelman, who inscribes the Book of Living Memorials.

DONORS & SUPPORTERS

The Foundation is grateful for the donations that were received during the 2022/23 financial year. In addition to our annual donors who fund specific research grants, scholarships and prizes, we would like to acknowledge the following individual donors who collectively also enhance our ability to support dental research

Amanda Phoon Nguyen	Christopher Muir	Issa Shalhoub	Peter Sachs
Ammu Ruby	Claudia Aguiar	John Harcourt	Rob Rogers
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Chris Sanzaro	Ian Matthews	Nicholas Carter	Walter Cappelletto
Christine Fischer-Stoess	Ian Meyers	Nitu Gupta	

The ADRF also gratefully acknowledges our donors who wish to remain anonymous

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