Achievements 2010 to 2014
The ACRF Centre for Kinomics™
Contents

Snapshot ................................................................................................................................................. 1
The Story So Far .................................................................................................................................. 2
ACRF-CFK Directors and Management ............................................................................................... 4
ACRF-CFK Affiliated Researchers ........................................................................................................ 4
ACRF-CFK Research Advisory Committee ......................................................................................... 4
Funding Awarded to Projects Utilising ACRF-CFK ........................................................................... 5
Research Achievements: Publications .................................................................................................. 5
Research Achievements: Presentations .................................................................................................. 9
Services to Research: Symposia hosted by ACRF-CFK .................................................................... 16
Services to Research: Selected Workshops & Seminar Series hosted by ACRF-CFK ...................... 18
Appendix A: Media Coverage and Photographs ................................................................................ 19

Snapshot

The Australian Cancer Research Foundation Centre for Kinomics (ACRF CFK) — a joint venture between Children’s Medical Research Institute (CMRI) and the University of Newcastle (UoN) — is an Australian-first that will provide an entirely new approach to the understanding of therapeutic drugs and ways to improve them.

The ACRF-CFK brings the new discipline of Kinomics to Australia and a completely novel drug design strategy. It will enable better understanding of current therapies and their unwanted side effects, as well as the development of new drugs for a multitude of human diseases, many of which are currently without any suitable treatment.

This significant, non-commercial initiative builds upon demonstrated research excellence, leadership and successful collaborations between scientists from CMRI and UoN. ACRF CFK is equipped with state-of-the-art instrumentation and expert personnel, thanks to generous funding from the Ramaciotti Foundations and the Australian Cancer Research Foundation (ACRF), who provided grants of $1 million and $3.1 million respectively. ACRF CFK is named in honour of the Australian Cancer Research Foundation.

“This facility offers hope to patients and families living with diseases where there is neither cure nor effective treatment. The research conducted has the potential to improve the future health of Australians and people around the world.” - The Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP.
The Story So Far

2009
The Ian Potter Foundation award a $100,000 seed grant to Professor Phil Robinson (CMRI) and Professor Adam McCluskey (University of Newcastle, Australia) to help initiate a major expansion of current mass spectrometry technology into a national facility, furthering research into cancer and brain function.

Image: A mass spectrometer purchased with the Ian Potter Foundation contribution.

2009
Professors Robinson and McCluskey are awarded The Ramaciotti Foundations Biomedical Research Award. This $1 million grant is an indication of the level of support for this cutting-edge facility from the Australian medical research establishment.

Image (L-R): Professor Adam McCluskey (University of Newcastle, Australia), Professor Frank Martin (President, CMRI Board of Directors), Mrs Carolyn Forster (Vice President, CMRI Board of Directors), Professor Roger Reddel (Lorimer Dods Professor and Director, CMRI), Professor Phillip J Robinson (Head of Cell Signaling Unit, CMRI).

2009
The Australian Cancer Research Foundation (ACRF) announces that $3.1 million is to be awarded to CMRI and The University of Newcastle, Australia for the facility, which is officially named the ACRF Centre for Kinomics (ACRF CFK) in recognition of the Foundation’s generous support.

Image (L-R): One of several mass-spectrometers purchased with the ACRF grant.

2009
Cancer Institute NSW awards Professor Robinson with a $979,371 major equipment grant to complete the setup of ACRF CFK. AB SCIEX is the supplier of the mass spectrometry equipment.

Image (L-R): ACRF CFK in its former facility room at Children’s Medical Research Institute.

pg. 2
2 February 2012
CMRI is visited by the former Governor General of Australia, The Honourable Dame Quentin Bryce AD CVO, who stopped by to view the soon-to-be-opened ACRF CFK.

Image (L-R): The Honourable Dame Quentin Bryce AD CVO, Professor Phil Robinson, Dr Valentina Valova, Dr Annie Quan

27 September 2012
ACRF CFK is officially launched at CMRI. Dignitaries, researchers, major supporters and special guests celebrate this new, world-class facility.

Image (L-R): Tom Dery (Chairman, ACRF), Professor Adam McCluskey (University of Newcastle), Dr Valentina Valova (Manager, Biomedical Proteomics and ACRF CFK), Professor Phil Robinson (CMRI), Professor Roger Reddel, Ed Husic MP.

20 June 2013
The 1st Chemical Proteomics Symposium is hosted by ACRF CFK at CMRI. This is the first scientific event in Australia dedicated to chemical proteomics and its application to developing new and more effective treatments.

Image: Symposium presenters and guests.

October 2014
Following the opening of CMRI’s new building in August 2014, ACRF CFK moves into its new, custom-built facility. This highly specialised space houses the mass spectrometers under pristine conditions. It is expected that usage of ACRF CFK will increase as research programs across Australia look to proteomics and kinomics to give new insights into disease and develop new and more effective treatments.

Image: ACRF CFK, now located on Level 6 at CMRI.
ACRF-CFK Directors and Management

Phillip J Robinson BSc (Hons) PhD
Director, ACRF Centre for Kinomics
Head, Cell Signalling Unit, Children’s Medical Research Institute
NHMRC Senior Principal Research Fellow
Professor, Faculty of Medicine, University of Sydney
Professor of Chemistry, The University of Newcastle, Australia

Adam McCluskey BSc (Hons) PhD
Director, ACRF Centre for Kinomics
Professor of Chemistry & Director, Centre for Chemical Biology (The University of Newcastle, Australia)
Honorary Scientist, Children’s Medical Research Institute

Valentina A Valova BSc/Eng (Biotech) MSc (Biotech) MAppSc (Biopharm)
Manager, Biomedical Proteomics & ACRF Centre For Kinomics

ACRF-CFK Affiliated Researchers

Mark Graham BSc (Hons) PhD
Protein Biochemistry Group Leader, Children’s Medical Research Institute

Peter Hains BSc (Hons) PhD
Senior Research Officer, Cell Cycle Unit, Children’s Medical Research Institute

Kasper Engholm-Keller BSc MSc PhD
Visiting Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Southern Denmark

ACRF-CFK Research Advisory Committee

Mr Michael Crouch
Director, Discovery Program for TGR BioSciences, Adelaide

Associate Professor Martin R. Larsen
Protein Research Group, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Southern Denmark

Professor Ron Quinn
Director, Eskitis Institute for Cell and Molecular Therapies, Griffith University, Australia
Funding Awarded to Projects Utilising ACRF-CFK


Research Achievements: Publications

2010


Full Article: Available at [http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/pr900513d](http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/pr900513d)

Impact Factor: 5.46

Cited: 13

Full Article: Available at http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/pr100223n  
Impact Factor: 5.46  
Cited: 10

Full Article: http://jcb.rupress.org/content/190/4/675.long

2011

Full Article: Available at http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0167488910003356  
Impact Factor: 4.73  
Cited: 9

Full Article: http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/pr1011153  
Featured: Faculty of 1000 featured article http://f1000.com/prime/11682958 (places this in the top 2% of published articles in biology and medicine).

Full Article: http://www.jbc.org/content/286/11/9107.long  
Impact Factor: 5.33  
Cited: 26


2012


Full Article: http://www.jbc.org/content/286/35/30295.long
Impact Factor: 5.33
Cited: 10


Full Article: http://pubs.rsc.org/en/Content/ArticleLanding/2012/OB/c2ob07139h#!divAbstract
IF 3.45
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Full Article: http://www.mcponline.org/content/11/11/1191.long
Impact Factor: 8.35
Cited: 13


Full Article: http://www.pnas.org/content/109/10/3760.long
IF 9.77
Cited: 10

2013


Impact Factor: 4.223
Full Article: http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/jm300844m


Full Article: http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/cb400137p

Full Article: http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/pr400783j
IF: 5.46
Cited: 3


2014

Full Article: http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0110557

Full Article: http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0968089614000492

Abstract: http://pubs.rsc.org/en/content/articlelanding/md/2014/c3md00255a#!divAbstract

Abstract: [Link to abstract]


Abstract: [Link to abstract]


Full Article: [Link to full article]


Full Article: [Link to full article]


Full Article: [Link to full article]


Full Article: [Link to full article]


Full Article: [Link to full article]


Full Article: [Link to full article]


Abstract: [Link to abstract]

Research Achievements: Presentations

Plenary Speakers

- Robinson, P.J. (2012) Biological Psychiatry Australia 2nd Annual Scientific Meeting (Melbourne, VIC, Australia).

Invited Speakers

- Robinson P.J. (2012) Department of Pharmacology, University of Melbourne (Melbourne, VIC, Australia).
- Robinson, P.J. (2012) BABS Seminar, School of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences, University of New South Wales (Sydney, NSW, Australia).
- Robinson, P.J. (2012) *Dynamin Phosphorylation and Dynamin Modulators in Synaptic Endocytosis*. Biophysics Seminar, Department of Pharmacology, School of Medicine, University of Washington (Seattle, WA, USA).
- McCluskey, A. (2013) *Small molecule Ryngo compounds alter dynamin conformation and stimulate GTPase activity*. International Symposium on Advancing the Chemical Sciences:
Challenges in Chemical Biology (ISACS 11), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Boston, MA, USA).


Selected Presentations

- Engholm-Keller, K. (2012) 6th Garvan Signalling Symposium (Sydney, Australia)

Oral Presentations

– Miller, L. (2013) *Isolating the Bulk Endosome from Nerve Terminals*. Australian Neuroscience Society (Melbourne, VIC, Australia)

**Seminar Presentations**


**Poster Presentations**


International Symposium on Advancing the Chemical Sciences (ISACS 5) – Challenges in Chemical Biology (Manchester, UK).

– Moshkanbaryans, L. (2011) Electrical field stimulation of synaptosomes. The Neuroscience and Mental Health Theme, University of Sydney (Sydney, NSW, Australia).


- Young, K., McCluskey, A. (2011) *Utilising technology to streamline the drug development process at the Centre for Chemical Biology Newcastle, Australia*. 5th International Symposium on Advancing the Chemical Sciences (ISACS 5) – Challenges in Chemical Biology (Manchester, UK).


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**Services to Research: Symposia hosted by ACRF-CFK**

**1st Chemical Proteomics Symposium**
20th June 2013
Hosted by the ACRF Centre for Kinomics
Held at CMRI (Westmead, Australia)

**Invited Speakers**

**Dr Mark Graham**
Protein Biochemistry Group Leader, Children’s Medical Research Institute.

*Chemical proteomics approach for determining a glycosylphosphorylation-regulated protein function.*

**Professor Adam McCluskey**
Professor of Chemistry & Director, Centre for Chemical Biology, University of Newcastle, Australia.

Identification of ciliopathy genes in humans and mice

Professor Marc Wilkins
Director, Ramaciotti Centre for Gene Function Analysis and NSW Systems Biology Initiative; Professor, School of Biotechnology and Bimolecular Sciences, University of New South Wales.

The dynamics of protein interaction networks.

Professor Roger Daly
Head, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Monash University

Tyrosine kinase signalling networks in human cancer.

Professor Tony Purcell
Head of Quantitative Proteomics, Immunoproteomics Laboratory, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Monash University

Big and small: chemical interference with immune receptor ligand interactions explains many adverse drug reactions

Associate Professor Mark Molloy
Australian Proteome Analysis Facility (APAF) Director, Macquarie University

Experiences with a Bisindolylmaleimide chemical probe in cancer cells and tissues

Associate Professor Mark Raftery
Director, Bioanalytical Mass Spectrometry Facility, University of New South Wales

Mass Spectrometry and Chemical Proteomics

Associate Professor Sally-Ann Poulsen
Chief Investigator, Chemical Biology, Eskitis Institute for Cell and Molecular Therapies & Manager, Fourier Transform Mass Spectrometry (FT-MS) Facility, Griffith University

Labelling and detection of biomolecules in cells using click chemistry

Associate Professor Stuart Cordwell
Associate Professor, School of Molecular Bioscience, Charles Perkins Centre, and the Discipline of Pathology, School of Medical Science, The University of Sydney.

Functional decoration: post-translational modifications and their crosstalk in myocardial ischemia/reperfusion injury.

Abstract Presenters

Dr Fiona Deane
Research Associate, School of Environmental and Life Sciences, Faculty of Science and Information Technology, University of Newcastle, Australia.

Design, synthesis and evaluation of Clickbeads.
**Associate Professor Clare Hawkins**  
Group Leader, Inflammation Group, Heart Research Institute  
*Cellular targets of the myeloperoxidase-derived oxidant hypothiocyanous acide (HOSCN): Evidence for reversible protein thiol modifications.*

**Jordan Basnett**  
PhD Student, Centre for Cancer Research, Westmead Millennium Institute, University of Sydney  
*Global Proteome Analysis of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia Cells Resistant to MTOR Inhibition by Everolimus.*

**Services to Research: Selected Workshops & Seminar Series hosted by ACRF-CFK**


3. Dr Stephen Tate, AB SCIEX, Toronto, *Mapping differential interactomes by affinity purification coupled with data-independent mass spectrometry acquisition* Proteomics Seminar Series, 13th February 2014

4. Dr Paul Goulding, Nonlinear Dynamics, UK, *Discovery proteomics analysis: How to ensure you get the maximum "bang for your buck" from your analysis hardware* Thursday 20th February 2014
Appendix A: Media Coverage and Photographs

Official ACRF CFK Launch. 27 September 2012.

ACRF Chairman Tom Dery presenting a cheque to Lorimer Dods Professor and Director Roger Reddel. 27 September 2012.
At the ACRF CFK Launch (L-R): Lorimer Dods Professor and Director Roger Reddel, Professor Phil Robinson (CMRI), Professor Adam McCluskey (University of Newcastle), Dr Valentina A Valova (Manager, Biomedical Proteomics and the ACRF Centre for Kinomics), Ed Husic MP, Virginia Judge (National Manager, Strategic Partnerships and Capital Works Program, CMRI). 27 September 2012.

Professor Phil Robinson (Director, ACRF Centre for Kinomics; Head of Cell Signalling Unit, CMRI) presents at the launch of ACRF Centre for Kinomics. 27 September 2012.
CMRI is visited by the former Governor General of Australia, The Honourable Dame Quentin Bryce AD CVO, who stopped by to view the soon-to-be-opened ACRF CFK. L-R: The Honourable Dame Quentin Bryce AD CVO, Professor Phil Robinson (Director, ACRF Centre for Kinomics; Head of Cell Signalling Unit, CMRI), Dr Valentina Valova (Manager, Biomedical Proteomics and the ACRF Centre for Kinomics), Dr Annie Quan (Cell Signalling Unit, CMRI). 2 February 2012.
ACRF CFK hosted the 1st Chemical Proteomics Symposium at CMRI, which was sponsored by a number of vendors who work closely with ACRF CFK. This Symposium is set to become a biannual event that brings together researchers from across Australia who work in or are interested in using chemical proteomics in their own projects or programs. 20 June 2013.

Professor Tony Purcell (Head of Quantitative Proteomics, Immunoproteomics Laboratory, Monash University) presents at the 1st Chemical Proteomics Symposium. 20 June 2013.
The Symposium presented an opportunity for PhD students and research staff to meet with renowned proteomics researchers and industry experts. 20 June 2013.

One of the mass spectrometers purchased with generous funding from ACRF.
Professor Adam McCluskey, co-director of ACRF CFK, in the medicinal chemistry laboratory at the University of Newcastle, Australia.

ACRF CFK moved into its new custom-designed facility space in CMRI’s new building extension in October 2014. This is the entrance to the facility. November 2014.
ACRF CFK moved into its new custom-designed facility space in CMRI’s new building extension in October 2014. This highly specialised space removes any contaminants that may affect samples processed by the mass spectrometers. November 2014.

Dr Kasper Engholm-Keller (Visiting Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Southern Denmark) prepares samples to be processed by one of the mass spectrometers housed at ACRF CFK.
MEDIA RELEASE

NEW CENTRE PROPELSS AUSTRALIA TO FOREFRONT OF CANCER RESEARCH

27 September 2012, Sydney: In an Australian first, a new centre dedicated to the research of ‘Kinomics’ is to be launched in Sydney, giving Australian scientists hope of unlocking some of the mysteries surrounding diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, asthma and neurodegenerative disorders. The centre has received significant funding ($3.1 million) from the Australian Cancer Research Foundation (ACRF).

A joint venture between the Children’s Medical Research Institute (CMRI) and the University of Newcastle (UoN), the Australian Cancer Research Foundation Centre for Kinomics (ACRF-CFK) will provide researchers with an entirely new way of understanding and improving therapeutic drugs.

Working in collaboration, these teams of scientists will embark on a journey to understand the Kinome—the subset of proteins known as protein kinases. Protein kinases are “master switches” that control most normal cell functions in the body and are considered to be the cancer drug target of the 21st century.

Humans have 518 protein kinases, and errors in kinases contribute to at least 400 different diseases, including cancer, neurological conditions, cardiovascular diseases, inflammatory conditions, and asthma.

Health Minister Tania Plibersek says the centre puts Australia on the world map for research and development into disease prevention and treatment.

“This facility offers hope to patients and families living with diseases where there is neither cure nor effective treatment. The research conducted has the potential to improve the future health of Australians and people around the world,” Ms Plibersek says.

The brainchild of CMRI Professor Phil Robinson and Professor Adam McCluskey from UoN, who have been working together for the past decade, the Centre for Kinomics will be based at CMRI in Westmead and the University of Newcastle.

Professor Robinson says, “The Centre will also enable our scientific teams to better understand current cancer therapies and reasons for their unwanted side effects, as well as to develop new drugs for a multitude of human diseases, many of which are currently without any effective treatment.”

“One of the things that’s always been at the back of our minds is: If you give someone a drug, there’s going to be side effects, and that’s one of the things that slows the drug development pathway down immensely,” says McCluskey. “You’ve got to try to figure out exactly where it’s hitting: is it hitting a good target or is it hitting a bad target?”

“We are confident that this new ACRF Centre for Kinomics will propel scientific discovery in Australia to the forefront of global research,” says Robinson. “But our real hope is we will come up with better drugs and better therapeutics for cancer patients and other indications.”
Tom Dery, Chairman of the Australian Cancer Research Foundation, which contributed $3.1 million dollars to develop the new centre says, “We believe strongly in the vision and the skills of Professor Robinson and Professor McCluskey, and have put our name and money behind the new centre, which we expect to help with ACRF’s ultimate goal, which is to find the cures for cancer.”

ENDS

**About Children’s Medical Research Institute:**
Children’s Medical Research Institute conducts fundamental research to understand the genes involved in human health and development and the underlying causes of disease. CMRI is at the forefront of international research in the areas of embryonic development and birth defects, cancer, nerve cell signalling, and gene therapy. CMRI is also a member of the Kids Cancer Alliance, which is committed to speeding up development of new cancer therapies for children and bringing those therapies to clinics in both urban and rural areas. Find out more at [www.cmri.org.au](http://www.cmri.org.au). This not-for-profit institute is funded by competitive grants, a community of supporters and Jeans for Genes Day Friday August 3 – for which you can volunteer. Visit [www.jeansforgenes.org.au](http://www.jeansforgenes.org.au). The CMRI arm of the Centre for Kinomics is directed by Prof Phil Robinson.

**About The Australian Cancer Research Foundation**
The Australian Cancer Research Foundation (ACRF) is dedicated to helping find the cures for cancer through continued funding for world-class cancer research in Australia. Learn more at [www.acrf.com.au](http://www.acrf.com.au).

**About the University of Newcastle**
The University of Newcastle houses the medicinal chemistry laboratory in the Discipline of Chemistry, overseen by ACRF-CFK Co-Director Adam McCluskey.

**Media enquiries contact:** Eliza Newton 02 8281 3252 OR Emma Pearson 02 8281 3233
Community Information Fact Sheet

What is Kinomics?

Kinomics is the study of the Kinome – a subset of proteins known as protein kinases. These act as the “master switch” for many normal cell functions in the body and are considered to be the cancer drug target of the 21st century. There are 518 protein kinases in the human body, and errors in these kinases contribute to around 400 different diseases, including cancer, neurological conditions, cardiovascular diseases, inflammatory conditions and asthma.

Protein kinases are the target of many current therapeutic drugs that treat these conditions, and the research undertaken at the new Australian Cancer Research Foundation Centre for Kinomics will analyse existing drugs as well as develop new, more effective treatments.

What is the Australian Cancer Research Foundation Centre for Kinomics?

The Australian Cancer Research Foundation Centre for Kinomics (ACRF-CFK) is a joint venture between Children’s Medical Research Institute (CMRI) and the University of Newcastle (UoN). The centre is funded by grants from the Ramaciotti Foundation and the Australian Cancer Research Foundation of $1 million and $3.1 million, respectively.

The centre is the brainchild of CMRI Professor Phil Robinson and Professor Adam McCluskey from UoN who have been working together for the past decade. The research work undertaken at the centre will build upon this long standing collaboration between protein kinase experts from the CMRI and medicinal chemists from UoN, as well as CMRI’s expertise in cancer research.

What is the aim of the Australian Cancer Research Foundation Centre for Kinomics and why is it so important to Australian medical research?

The establishment of the ACRF-CFK is an Australian first that will provide researchers with an entirely new way of understanding and improving therapeutic drugs. The ACRF-CFK’s purpose-built laboratories, housed at the CMRI and UoN, will allow scientists to better understand the Kinome and benefit a wide range of medical research programs throughout Australia.

The centre will also enable better understanding of current therapies and their unwanted side effects, as well as the development of new drugs for a multitude of human diseases, many of which are currently without any effective treatment.

What facilities are available for researchers interested in Kinomics?

The new facility will benefit medical researchers throughout Australia. The ACRF and Ramaciotti awards support a broad collaboration, led by CMRI and UoN, which involves three universities, five medical research institutes, and a total of 23 medical research teams across NSW. The ACRF award also widened the collaboration even further to involve cancer research teams throughout the nation, all of which can employ the centre’s facilities for their projects.
UoN houses the flow chemistry laboratory, where they have developed KinoClick™ beads, a new tool for direct profiling of cellular kinases. CMRI houses a mass spectrometry (MS) laboratory to undertake initial evaluation and optimization of KinoClick™ beads, perform quality control and sample analysis for collaborating research teams.

What is mass spectrometry?

Mass spectrometry (MS) is the single most powerful analytical technique that underpins all modern day biomolecular science. It measures molecules to determine their weight, thus facilitating the identification and characterisation of key components in biological processes (proteins, peptides, carbohydrates, DNA, drugs). MS is the best approach for studying the master controls governing basic cell behaviour and how they malfunction in a range of diseases.

What are KinoClick™ beads?

KinoClick™ beads are broad-spectrum protein kinase inhibitors that are physically attached to plastic beads, allowing near complete extraction of the kinome and rapid analysis by mass spectrometry. This rich source of information has major biological relevance, providing for the first time a near complete and quantitative profile of the protein kinases present in a particular cell or tissue sample at any point in time. It is a revolutionary platform technology, requiring a new mind-set and opening new research directions. KinoClick™ beads are not commercially available and their manufacture requires specialised medicinal chemistry equipment and expertise to prepare.

Which organisations administer the new Australian Cancer Research Foundation Centre for Kinomics?

Children’s Medical Research Institute:
Children’s Medical Research Institute conducts fundamental research to understand the genes involved in human health and development and the underlying causes of childhood disease. CMRI is at the forefront of international research in the areas of embryonic development and birth defects, cancer, nerve cell signalling, and gene therapy. As many diseases that affect children have the same origins in adults, the biomedical research performed at the CMRI has the potential to improve the future health of people of all ages. Professor Phil Robinson, Head of the Cell Signalling Unit at the CMRI and Senior Principal Research Fellow of the National Health Medical Research Council, established the Centre of Kinomics in conjunction with the University of Newcastle’s Professor Adam McCluskey.

University of Newcastle:
The Centre for Kinomics at the University of Newcastle is led by Professor Adam McCluskey in the Discipline of Chemistry. This arm of the centre has helped pioneer a new approach for direct profiling of cellular kinases, a multi-million dollar initiative providing a unique service to research teams throughout Australia.
**To:** Children’s Medical Research Institute  
**From:** Ogilvy PR Health  
**Re:** Media Coverage Report - Kinomics Centre Launch  
**Cc:**  
**Date:** 13/12/12  
**Status:** Confidential

## Media Coverage

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## Media Coverage Summary

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Sheryl Taylor reports: Scientists say they’re steps away from coming up with the best cancer drugs of the century. A new research centre in Sydney will bring together teams from across the nation. The centre will target kynomics, the master switches that control most cells in the body and are linked to hundreds of diseases. The Australian Cancer Research Foundation has given more than $3 million for world class equipment.
Newsreader: A new centre for the research of Kinomics will be launched in Sydney today. Phil Robinson, Head, Children's Medical Research Institute Unit, says that this type of research has made a reduction in many cancers.

Newsreader: A new centre dedicated to the research of Kinomics will be unveiled in Sydney today. Professor Phil Robinson, Children's Medical Research Institute Unit Head, cites this research has impacted in the reduction of many cancers.
Fresh hope in cancer fight at the Children’s Medical Research Institute’s new centre at Westmead

AN Australian-first centre aiming to “propel scientific discovery in Australia to the forefront of global research” by unlocking the mysteries surrounding cancer, was launched at Westmead on Thursday.

The Children’s Medical Research Institute’s new centre will provide scientists with the capacity to do better research into cancer, asthma, cardiovascular disease and neurodegenerative disorders.

Cancer survivor Nobby Alcala with mother Delfa (centre) and siblings Melanie and Ruben. Picture: ROMAN KELLY

A $3.1 million funding grant from the Australian Cancer Research Foundation helped make the centre a reality and, according to Health Minister Tanya Plibersek it will put Australia on the map for research and development into prevention and treatment.

“This facility offers hope to patients and families living with diseases where there is neither a cure nor effective treatment,” Ms Plibersek said.

The men behind the institute, Professor Phil Robinson and Professor Adam McCluskey, were confident the new Centre for Kinomics could drive scientific discovery in Australia by developing new drugs for many human diseases currently without any effective treatment.

The Alcala family from Eastern Creek, who have been involved with the institute since 2008 after their son Nobby was diagnosed with neuroblastoma at the age of two, were hopeful research at the centre would make a difference.

“We hope that CMRI’s research will be able to help stop other families and other kids like Nobby from having to suffer so many rounds of chemotherapy and other treatments,” Norbert Alcala said.

For the moment the seven-year-old is in remission but, despite high relapse rates for the cancer, Mr Alcala said he was encouraged by the potential progress to be made at the new centre.
BREAKTHROUGH

The Children's Medical Research Institute's new centre at Westmead will provide researchers with an entirely new way of understanding and improving therapeutic drugs.

Teams of scientists will work together aiming to understand the kinome - the subset of proteins called protein kinases, known as "master switches" that control most normal cell functions in the body and are considered to be the cancer drug target of the 21st century.
Cancer researchers team up

By Jade Wittmann
Oct. 4, 2012, 8 a.m.

A NEW centre at the Children’s Medical Research Institute, Westmead could bring Australian scientists closer to discovering an effective treatment for cancer and other diseases.

The Australian Cancer Research Foundation Centre for Kinomics opened on Thursday.

Scientists will collaborate at the centre to better understand the human kinome—a subset of proteins that control most normal cell functions in the body.

Humans have 518 protein kinases. Errors in them contribute to at least 400 different diseases, including cancer, neurological conditions, cardiovascular diseases, and asthma.

The centre is a joint venture between the Children’s Medical Research Institute and the University of Newcastle.

It received $3.1 million in funding from the Australian Cancer Research Foundation.

Federal Health Minister Tania Plibersek said the centre was an Australian first and would put the country on the map for disease research and treatment development.

The centre is the brainchild of the institute’s Professor Phil Robinson and Professor Adam McCluskey from the University of Newcastle, who have worked together for more than a decade.

"The centre will enable our scientific teams to better understand current cancer therapies and the reasons for their unwanted side effects, as well as to develop new drugs for a multitude of human diseases, many of which are currently without any effective treatment," Professor Robinson said.

"Our real hope is that we will come up with better drugs and better therapeutics for cancer patients."
Kinomics research centre to develop next generation drugs

A new dual-site research centre focusing on kinomics is now open for business, focusing on developing new drugs to battle cancer and other diseases.

Tim Dean (Australian Life Scientist) | 28 September, 2012 12:38 | Comments | Like 0

In 2009 Professor Phil Robinson, Professor Roger Reddel and Professor Adam McClusky received a funding double whammy. Within a week they received a $1 million grant from the Ramaciotti Foundation and a $3.1 million grant from the Australian Cancer Research Foundation to create the world’s first Centre for Kinomics.

Three years later, and the Australian Cancer Research Foundation Centre for Kinomics (ACRFCK) is now open for business.

Kinomics is the study of one particular class of protein, the kinases. These act as the ‘master switch’ for all normal cell functions in the body.

There are 518 protein kinases in the human body and errors in these kinases contribute to around 400 different diseases including cancer, neurological conditions, cardiovascular diseases, inflammatory conditions and asthma.

The Human Kinome
Protein kinases are the target of many current therapeutic drugs that treat these conditions, and the research undertaken at the new centre will analyse these existing drugs and develop new, more effective treatments.

“The money has enabled us to create a tool we call KinoClicks to allow researchers to study protein kinases in cells for drug discovery,” Robinson told ALS.

KinoClicks are tiny latex beads to which protein kinase inhibitors can be bound, and they will be produced by McClusky’s team at the University of Newcastle using flow chemistry technology. These beads are then used to capture kinases in diseased tissue, indicating new potential targets for drug discovery.

The kinases are then examined using purpose-built mass spectrometers based at the Children’s Medical Research Institute (CMRI) – home of Robinson and Reddel.

The centre won’t only be used by the CMRI and Newcastle teams, but will be open for other researcher to come and make use of the kinomics equipment and expertise.

“We have made it a place where visitors can come and work, providing the tools to scientists around Australia and the world,” said Robinson.

Most of the research will focus on cancer, but other diseases will also be under the mass spec spotlight, including epilepsy and infectious diseases.

“It’s very exciting,” said Robinson. “We have long term and lofty goals for the centre.”

The ACFECK was officially opened in a ceremony at the CMRI in Westmead yesterday.
To: Children’s Medical Research Institute
From: Ogilvy PR Health

Re: Media Coverage Report - CMRI expansion, official “turning of the sod”

Date: 13/12/12
Status: Confidential

MEDIA COVERAGE

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Research steams ahead

By Jade Wittmann

BLANK spaces where parts of the day should be are common for Riley Dorman, who was diagnosed with epilepsy at the age of six and takes 10 different medications to try to manage the condition.

The West Pennant Hills resident, 15, suffers about 10 absent seizures every hour.

"When you're having a seizure you miss what the teachers are saying and what you're meant to be doing in class, so in maths you're missing the formulas," he said.

Riley attended a sod turning ceremony to mark the first stage in the expansion of The Children's Medical Research Institute last week. He has regular appointments with a neurosurgeon at The Children's Hospital at Westmead, which is next door.

Riley's parents Ruth and Damien said because of his age, it was unlikely a suitable treatment would be found for him before he reached adulthood, but they hoped it would happen for other children affected by his condition.

"It's incredibly debilitating," Mrs Dorman said. "One of the medications that Riley is on is 50 or 60 years old."

Children's Medical Research Institute director Roger Reddel said the development was designed so research programs for cancer, embryonic development and birth defects, nerve cell signalling, and gene therapy could continue during the expansion.

Supporting research: Damien and Ruth Dorman with their son Riley, 15, at The Children's Medical Research Institute. A five-stage expansion of the facility will cement Western Sydney as Australia's largest centre for medical research.

Picture: Gene Rainbow
Expansion boosts research

By Jade Wittmann

A seven-storey extension to the Children's Medical Research Institute at Westmead will cement western Sydney as Australia's largest centre for medical research.

Children's Medical Research Institute director Roger Reddel, said the facility would be home to about 600 staff — about 500 of them researchers — when complete.

Professor Reddel said the development's design would allow research programs to continue at full pace during the expansion, which will begin with the construction of a tower in the Institute's courtyard area in early 2013.

"We've grown over the past 20 years and we now have critical space constraints," he said.

"We already have world leading research programs in our key four areas of cancer, embryonic development and birth defects, nerve cell signalling and epilepsy, and gene therapy, but we really need to step up the rate at which the discoveries that we've made are translated into therapies that benefit children and their families," he said. Professor Reddel said the five-stage development would increase the institute's space by about 80 per cent.

One in 20 children is born with a genetic disease.

NSW Health Minister Jillian Skinner attended a sod-turning ceremony on Monday to mark stage one of the development, which is set to be completed by March 2014.

RILEY Dorman, 15, was diagnosed with epilepsy at age six, and has been on 10 different medications to try to manage the condition.

His parents Ruth and Damien said because of his age, it is unlikely the CMRI would find a treatment suitable for Riley before he reached adulthood, but hoped it would happen for other children affected by epilepsy.

"He has about 10 absent seizures an hour," Mrs Dorman said.

Turning point: Director of the Children's Medical Research Institute, Professor Roger Reddel, Parramatta MP Geoff Lee, NSW Health Minister Jillian Skinner, and Senator Marise Payne attend a sod-turning ceremony at the institute on Monday.

Supporting research: Damien and Ruth Dorman with their son Riley, 15. He is among the 30 per cent of epilepsy sufferers who find current medications ineffective.
Medical advances

MASSIVE REDEVELOPMENT

Di Bartok

WITH a golden spade, Jillian Skinner gave the Children’s Medical Research Institute at Westmead the ideal 20th birthday gift — $20 million for the first stage of the massive redevelopment.

The Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research was making good on a promise she and Barry O’Farrell made on day one of the 2011 state election campaign — in fact, their first big promise. CMRI director Professor Roger Reddell noted that the day was indeed special, it being 20 years since the institute moved from Campbelltown to Westmead. Since then, CMRI has established a world-wide reputation with research into children’s diseases, specialising in cancer, embryonic research, epilepsy and nerve cell signalling. Clearly, it has outgrown its building and expansion is essential if world-beating scientists are not to trip over each other.

Prof Reddell said the first stage alone would increase capacity by 80 per cent. By the fifth and final stage, CMRI would have grown “by four or five times” over its present capacity.

As everyone pointed out at Monday’s event — Prof Reddell, Ms Skinner, Parramatta state MP Geoff Lee and Parramatta federal MP Julie Owens — the CMRI expansion is key to the Westmead medical precinct becoming the best in the nation.

Ms Skinner said she felt “it was high time this part of Sydney got its share of capital works” in health.

Ms Owens pushed politics aside to congratulate the state government on its commitment to the medical precinct.
Newsreader: An expansion of the Children's Medical Research Institute at Westmead has been announced. Roger Reddel, Director, Children's Medical Research Institute says it will help with research into cancer, birth defects and gene therapy.
AMRITSAR: Contemporary life style and prevailing tension was the cause for increasing neuro diseases all over the world, said Prof Phillip J Robinson of Children Medical Research Institute, NSW, Australia while delivering his special lecture at the second day of 30th Indian Academy of Neurosciences meet held at Guru Nanak Dev University on Sunday. Robinson said that social support and sympathy were required for patients of depression.

He said that many scientists all over the world were doing research on neuro diseases and hoped that they would discover suitable treatment for neuro patients. He said that Epilepsy (Recurrent Seizures) in children was curable. He also stressed upon the use of Dynamin inhibitors as a treatment for epilepsy. He said that epilepsy arises in children due to myelination. He said that epilepsy was found in 90% of developing countries. In India, 70% cases occur in rural areas. He suggested that the cooperative and loving attitude of parents, teachers and society could help the children to respond well.
Looking into reasons for Neuro Disorders

AMRITASAR: Neurosciences problems are not only in India but it is a global issue so the subject experts from all over the world should come together on a single platform to resolve this issue. An awareness campaign regarding this is the need of hour.

These views were expressed by renowned Neurosurgeon, Prof. A.K. Mahapatra, Director of AIIMS at Bhubaneswar and Prof. Phillip J Robinson of Children Medical Research Institute, NSW from Australia while addressing the media-person here today in the Committee Room of the Guru Nanak Dev University.

This press conference was organized by the Department of Biotechnology at the eve of 30th Indian Academy of Neurosciences meet and an International Symposium with the theme ‘Translational Neurosciences: Unraveling Mysteries of Brain in Health and Disease’ which is being organized from October 27th to 30th, 2012 by the Guru Nanak Dev University.

Dr. T.R. Laxmi from Department of Neurophysiology, National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore; Dr. G.N. Pandey from Department of Psychiatry, University of Illionis, Chicago; Dr. B.N. Dhawan from CDRI, Lucknow; Prof. Subrata Sinha from NBRC, Manesar; Dr. Sarah Dunlop from University of Western Australia and Organizing Secretary, Dr. Gurcharan Kaur were also present.

Prof. Mahapatra said that contemporary life styles along with lack of awareness are the major reason from neuro disorders. He said that the major cause of depression among youth is lack of social binding which some times leads them towards the tendency of suicide.

He said that the need of hour is to create awareness among masses about the neuro diseases. He said that more and more doctors are also need to trained in this regard. He said that during depression medicine should be avoided instead proper counseling from trained Psychiatrist should be encouraged.
He said that research in brain is still in its juvenile stage and the neuro aspects for therapeutics have to be explored. He talked about translational medicine which basically refers to research done in lab translated into medical health for patients. He drew attention to the Indian scenario where research is still a thrust area for the government and there is lack of corporate involvement in it.

He said that the brain health and disease is not given its due share of importance in India just as cancer and heart disease is highlighted.

Prof. Robinson said that the financial crunch is not only but is all over the world. He said that the solution to neuro problems should be soughed with the help of the scientists all over the world. He also suggested that the qualified doctors should come forward for further research in neuro science.

He said that all funding involved in research work is generated from public, so, this needed that the research results and benefits should be ensured to reached general masses. He also advocated proper research for proper treatment.

While talking about the stem cell therapy, Prof. Sinha said that the research form stem cell is still under process which is needed to regenerate the capacity of brain cells but some private organizations are generating money by miss guiding general masses.

Prof. Gurcharan Kaur stressed on the fact that this conference was a very strong effort to bring together some 300 budding future scientists and organization on a scale of 20 sessions including 40 chairpersons who will present their summary on the last day of the meet which will be heard over by the DBT advisor and this would lead to fund re-allocation in neuroscience.

She pleaded the media to deliver this message to the masses that basic research and translational neurosciences, hand in hand, are required to provide awareness about neuro health.

Dr. Pandey highlighted the neuro health disorders like depression, suicidal patterns increasing among the youth and old alike. He advocated a holistic approach and compared the approach variance between a developed nation, like USA, and a developing nation, like India. The key focal area remained research and investment into basic sciences and translating this for public welfare.

Dr. Dhawan laid emphasis on various brain disorders and the difference of government and private attitudes to brain disorders. Prof. Subrata Sinha drew special attention to nervous disorders in kids like autism, dyslexia and cerebral palsy.

Dr. Sarah Dunlop rooted for public participation and awareness into neuroscience research and discussed that events like science congress should be held more often so that the public awareness is enhanced.

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LATEST NEWS

Woman booked for hiding daughter's rape

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CMRI scientists discover control point for neuron branching and brain development

Scientists at Children’s Medical Research Institute (CMRI), Annie Quan and Prof Phil Robinson, have identified a specific site in the protein Syndapin I that controls nerve cell (neuron) outgrowth, a discovery that provides a better understanding of brain and spinal cord development. Their work was published in the prestigious journal, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (USA), in February.

In the brain, neurons are the cells responsible for learning, memory and emotions, and form the control centres for the human body. To achieve this, they make an extensive network of connections between each other during development and continuing on into the first years after birth. The connection process involves the cells actively growing protrusions or ‘arms’ called neurites, which extend long distances across the brain to form its ‘wiring’.

Ms Quan and Prof Robinson found that a single site on the Syndapin I protein (called T181) can be modified to increase or decrease neurite outgrowth.

The identification of a single control point with such influence over neuron growth and shape means CMRI scientists now have a target to aim at when developing therapeutic drugs that may one day help treat or prevent some birth defects involving the brain or spinal cord.

CMRI celebrates funding for ACRF Centre for Kinomics

Phil Robinson (Co-Director ACRF-CFK), Valentina Valova (Manager ACRF-CFK), Adam McCluskey (Co-Director ACRF-CFK), David Brettell (CEO of ACRF), Patrick Tam (Deputy Director CMRI)

CMRI supports new electron microscope lab at Westmead

The NSW Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research, Jillian Skinner, and the Member for Parramatta, Geoff Lee, opened the redesigned Electron Microscope Laboratory at Westmead Hospital’s Institute of Clinical Pathology and Medical Research (ICPMR) in May.

Children’s Medical Research Institute (CMRI) was one of the sponsors of the Electron Microscope Laboratory, which is a joint project of the ICPMR and the Westmead Research Hub.

Professor Reddel, Director of CMRI, said, “This facility will be a resource for CMRI researchers and for scientists and clinicians across the Westmead campus.”

The relocation and refurbishment of the laboratory was also sponsored by: The ICPMR Staff Specialists’ Private Practice Partnership; Western Sydney Local Health District Research and Education Network; and Westmead Millennium Institute for Medical Research.

“The electron microscope can identify viruses that are difficult to diagnose by conventional methods,” Mrs Skinner said.

The current work of the laboratory will particularly benefit people with conditions like kidney disease, unusual tumours and some respiratory disorders. The laboratory will also assist new research into many other diseases.

CMRI PhD students Lia Moshkanbaryans and Annie Quan
ACRF Centre for Kinomics provides new hope for cancer treatment

Thanks to significant funding from the Australian Cancer Research Foundation (ACRF), Ramaciotti Foundations and ongoing donations from our supporters, Children’s Medical Research Institute (CMRI) launched a new centre in September dedicated to the research of ‘Kinomics’. This Australian first will help scientists unlock some of the mysteries surrounding diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, asthma and neurodegenerative disorders.

A joint venture between CMRI and the University of Newcastle (UoN), the Australian Cancer Research Foundation Centre for Kinomics will provide researchers with an entirely new way of understanding and improving therapeutic drugs.

The centre is the brainchild of CMRI’s Professor Phil Robinson and Professor Adam McCluskey from UoN. Working in collaboration with scientists across Australia, they will embark on a journey to understand the Kinome—the subset of proteins known as protein kinases. Protein kinases are “master switches” that control most normal cell functions in the body and are considered by many to be the cancer drug targets of the 21st century.

Humans have 518 protein kinases, and errors in kinases contribute to at least 400 different diseases, including cancer, neurological conditions, cardiovascular diseases, inflammatory conditions, and asthma.

“Health Minister Tanya Plibersek says the centre puts Australia on the world map for research and development into disease prevention and treatment.

“‘This facility offers hope to patients and families living with diseases where there is neither cure nor effective treatment. The research conducted has the potential to improve the future health of Australians and people around the world,’ Ms Plibersek says.

Kate Merry, whose one year old son Frederick is currently undergoing chemotherapy for a sarcoma in his leg, attended the opening. “I was excited to learn this sort of research is going on,” Ms Merry says. “It gives our family hope that there will be better treatments one day, if not for Freddy then for other children.”

Tom Dery, Chairman of the Australian Cancer Research Foundation, which contributed $3.1 million dollars to develop the new centre says, “We believe strongly in the vision and the skills of Professor Robinson and Professor McCluskey, and have put our name and money behind the new centre, which we expect to help with ACRF’s ultimate goal, which is to find the cures for cancer.”
Today's scientists for tomorrow's children

The Children's Medical Research Institute (CMRI) is an independent organisation committed to unlocking the mysteries of disease. Our scientists investigate conditions such as birth defects, cancer, and epilepsy. Our philosophy is that major advances in prevention and treatment come from research into the fundamental processes of life. Our work is made possible by our community of supporters and Jeans for Genes®.

With two exciting announcements for major funding in November 2009, Children's Medical Research Institute (CMRI) has secured the means to move full steam ahead with the development of a world-first facility which will bring together state-of-the-art instrumentation, personnel and expertise to enable an entirely new approach to the understanding of therapeutic drugs and ways to improve them.

The grants of $3.1 million and $1 million respectively from the Australian Cancer Research Foundation (ACRF) and the Ramaciotti Foundations will enable the establishment of the ACRF Chemical Proteomics Centre for Kinomics (CFK) supported by Ramaciotti at CMRI and the University of Newcastle (UoN).

The CFK will enable the new discipline of kinomics, not yet available in Australia, to be used in a completely novel drug design strategy. It will enable better understanding of current therapies and their unwanted side effects, as well as the development of new drugs for a multitude of human diseases, many of which are currently without any suitable treatment.
Building plans get Minister’s stamp of approval

Children’s Medical Research Institute (CMRI) often refers to its dedicated researchers as “Today’s Scientists for Tomorrow’s Children”. The research excellence which has led to major discoveries in the areas of cancer, epilepsy, birth defects and gene therapy is the result of world class scientists being supported by a clear vision of the importance of research into the fundamental processes of life. But CMRI is very aware of the need for much more work in all of these areas, and has begun the planning that will underpin a major expansion of our research activities.

CMRI presently accommodates 120 research scientists in twelve laboratories, supported by 30 administration, fundraising, and scientific support staff. In 2008, CMRI’s Board decided that the Institute should substantially increase its research activities by recruiting many more top scientists in all of CMRI’s existing areas of international research excellence, and to build the laboratory space and facilities needed to make this possible. The planning process was overseen by CMRI’s Operations Manager, Greg Craig, who inspected leading research facilities internationally. Dale Swan, from architectural firm Ancher, Mortlock and Woolley who designed our existing building were given the task of planning facilities suitable for the next generation of cutting-edge CMRI research. Together, they have developed a 5-stage, 7-year building program, that will deliver a world-class, energy-efficient “green” building capable of accommodating 500 research scientists, with maximum flexibility and functionality, without major disruptions to the ongoing research work in the meantime.

The building plans have now been fully evaluated and approved by the NSW Department of Planning. The quality of the plans and the submitted documents was so high that full approval was able to be given less than four months after submission. In October 2009, the then NSW Minister for Planning and now NSW Premier Kristina Keneally, accompanied by the Minister assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health and Cancer), Barbara Perry, visited CMRI to tour CMRI’s existing facilities, and announce her Department’s approval of the expansion plans.

A project of this scope will inevitably require government funding to help make it a reality. CMRI was therefore very disappointed to be informed by the Commonwealth Government that the rules relating to the nation-building funds were inadvertently written in such a way that they exclude applications from medical research institutes that do long-term basic research into the underlying causes of disease. Despite this major setback, CMRI will explore other ways of funding its planned building, and is keenly anticipating the many exciting opportunities this will bring towards the ultimate goal of improving the health of future generations of children.

The combination of the expertise of the CMRI in proteomics and UoN in medicinal chemistry in this exciting, world-first venture opens the door to new ways to translate basic research into new and improved therapies in many areas of disease to benefit generations to come.

For Professors Robinson and McCluskey and their teams, and CMRI Director Professor Roger Reddel, this fulfils a big dream. Thanks to the foresight of the ACRF and the Ramaciotti Foundations, and their willingness to support high risk projects with high potential, we expect that the reality will be even bigger.

Postscript

As well as the prestigious award of the 2009 Major Initiative for Biomedical Research Award, CMRI also received two other Ramaciotti awards announced at the Awards Dinner on November 12.

The new facility will benefit medical researchers throughout Australia. The Ramaciotti award supports a collaboration led by CMRI and UoN, and involving three universities, five medical research institutes, and a total of 23 medical research teams across NSW. The ACRF award widens the collaboration even further to involve cancer research teams throughout the nation.

The CFK is the brainchild of CMRI’s Professor Phil Robinson and UoN’s Professor Adam McCluskey, whose teams have worked together for over 10 years. CMRI Director Professor Roger Reddel describes their long-standing partnership as “extraordinarily dynamic and highly creative”.

Working in unison in the two purpose-built laboratories at CMRI and UoN that will comprise the CFK, scientists will set about understanding the Kinome - the subset of proteins known as protein kinases.

Protein kinases are the master switches for all normal cell functions. For this reason they are the target of many drugs to treat human conditions. Humans have 518 protein kinases and errors in kinases contribute to at least 400 different diseases. These include cancer, neurological conditions, cardiovascular diseases, inflammatory conditions, and asthma.

For Professors Robinson and McCluskey and their teams, and CMRI Director Professor Roger Reddel, this fulfils a big dream. Thanks to the foresight of the ACRF and the Ramaciotti Foundations, and their willingness to support high risk projects with high potential, we expect that the reality will be even bigger.