

## **\$12.3 million boost for child health research**

Murdoch Childrens Research Institute has been awarded \$12.3 million for vital child health research from the Federal Government's National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

The funding will support 23 research projects into conditions affecting an increasing number of Australian children including cancer, genetic disorders and allergies. Pleasingly, the funding round saw a marked increase in grants awarded to the Murdoch Childrens in comparison to last year, when we received \$4.9 million for 11 projects.

Key projects include \$1.4 million to investigate how environmental factors such as early life infection can influence immune system development and subsequent allergy risk. Murdoch Childrens will also receive \$900,000 for a trial to look at the best methods of treating preschoolers who have a language delay and \$457,000 for a study to compare the health of young adults born with and without assisted conception (eg IVF).

In addition, four of our researchers received Career Development Fellowships: Dr Angela Morgan and Dr Harriet Hiscock, Dr Carl Kirkwood and Dr Lee Wong, with Dr Harriet Hiscock receiving a Partnership Project Grant. Professor Andy Choo (theme director, Laboratory & Community Genetics) received a NHMRC Research Fellowship and Professor Vicki Anderson (theme director, Critical Care & Neuroscience) received a Practitioner Fellowship.

Applications to NHMRC undergo a rigorous selection process based on scientific quality and significance and applicant track record. Only 20 per cent of applications nationally are successful, meaning Murdoch Childrens researchers are amongst the best in the country.

This increased investment in medical research will allow our best and brightest researchers to continue their research at home to make major contributions to improve the health of Australian communities and future generations.

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