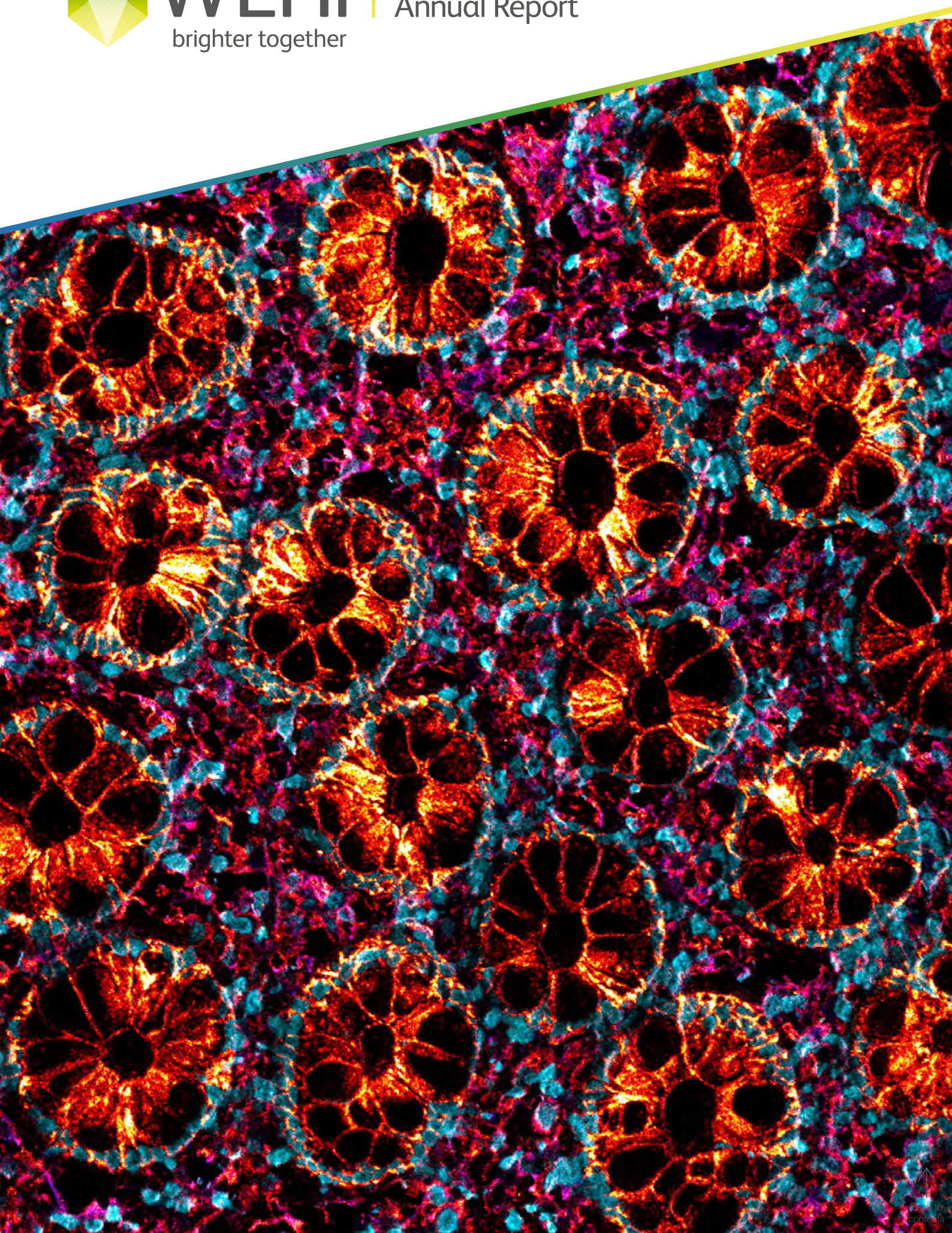
WEHI
brighter together

2023 Annual Report



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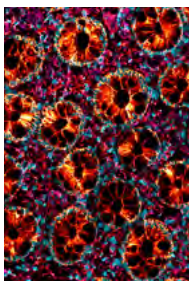

Cover image

2023 Art of Science finalist
ON FIRE
Claire Marceaux and Aysha Al-Ani

This fiery image shows the intricate structure and beauty of the wall of a healthy colon, with small glandular structures (crypts) that play an important role in maintaining its function.

The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research

Parkville campus

1G Royal Parade
Parkville Victoria 3052 Australia
Telephone: +61 3 9345 2555

Bundoora campus

4 Research Avenue
La Trobe R&D Park
Bundoora Victoria 3086 Australia
Telephone: +61 3 9345 2200

www.wehi.edu.au

WEHIresearch
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ABN 12 004 251 423

Produced by WEHI's Communications and Marketing department

WEHI acknowledges the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land on which our campuses are located, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and embrace their continued connection to Country and community.

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About WEHI

1400+ staff and students

130+ consumer advisors

13 scientific divisions

90+ laboratories

WEHI is where the world's brightest minds collaborate and innovate to make discoveries that will help us to live healthier for longer.

Our medical researchers have been serving the community for more than 100 years, making transformative discoveries in cancers, infectious and immune diseases, developmental disorders and healthy ageing.

WEHI brings together diverse and creative people with different experience and expertise to solve some of the world's most complex health problems.

The spirit of collaboration is in our DNA. WEHI was established by a partnership between the University of Melbourne, the Royal Melbourne Hospital and the Walter and Eliza Hall Trust, bringing together the brightest research minds from across the globe, remarkable clinicians focused on the health of the community and the power of philanthropy.

Our passion for improving lives drives us forward, even when breakthroughs are decades in the making. We are brighter because of our collaborations with hospitals, universities, research institutes and industry, and the support of our community, including philanthropists, donors, bequestors, alumni and consumers.

At WEHI, we are ***brighter together***.

Our research

Cancer – understanding the basic processes that are disrupted to generate cancer cells and how these can be targeted to treat disease.

Immune health and infection – discovering how the body fights infection and how errors in the immune system lead to disease.

Development and healthy ageing – studying how the biological foundations laid down during gestation and childhood affect development and how our longer life expectancy presents new challenges for our ageing population.

New medicines and advanced technologies – a powerful hub for cutting-edge technologies underpinning biomedical discoveries and for the translation of these discoveries into new medicines and diagnostics.

Computational biology – developing and applying new tools to analyse the genomes of disease-causing parasites, as well as better understanding the immune system and genetic drivers of cancer.

Our mission

Mastery of disease through discovery

Our vision

To be an innovative medical research institute that engages and enriches society and improves health outcomes through discovery, translation and education

Our values

- Pursuit of excellence
- Integrity and mutual respect
- Collaboration and teamwork
- Creativity
- Accountability
- Contribution to society

President's report

I am proud to be able to present to you the 2023 WEHI Annual Report.

The WEHI Board and executive team continues to focus on ensuring WEHI's long term sustainability and success, and maintaining a thriving institute where researchers perform exceptional science that improves human health. To that end, 2023 was a standout year with two major events that promise to position WEHI for a bright future of continued innovation and impact.

The announcement of the philanthropically funded Snow Centre for Immune Health was a watershed moment for WEHI, our close partners at the Royal Melbourne Hospital and immunology research worldwide. Thanks to the vision and generosity of the Snow family and the Snow Medical Research Foundation, the centre will allow us to accelerate our already leading work in this space, while recruiting and nurturing future scientific leaders, who will help deliver real impacts for people living with immune illness and disorders.

WEHI farewelled its sixth director when Professor Doug Hilton AO departed to take on the role of chief executive with CSIRO. Doug's directorship has been exceptional, and on behalf of the board I would like to commend him for his 37 years of loyal, dedicated and impactful service to WEHI and the wider community.

For only the seventh time in our 108-year history, we were excited to announce the appointment of a new director; Professor Ken Smith promises to be an outstanding leader for WEHI and the Melbourne Biomedical Precinct.

A WEHI alumnus, Ken brings a global perspective, commercial acumen, and a breadth of research, clinical practice and strategic leadership experience to the role. The board has every confidence that he will continue to build on WEHI's strong and distinct legacy of collaboration, integrity and brilliant research, while boldly taking the institute into the future.

I would like to sincerely thank two long-standing members of the WEHI Board who departed in 2023: Robert Wylie, who was appointed honorary treasurer upon his commencement with the board in 2014, and Professor James McCluskey AO, who commenced on the board in 2011. Both these board members made a valued contribution to the board and to WEHI in their differing areas of expertise.

I would also like to extend a welcome to University of Melbourne Vice-Chancellor, Professor Duncan Maskell, who joined the WEHI Board in March 2023, bringing a wealth of strategic leadership experience in the research, education and corporate sectors.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Sir Andrew Grimwade CBE. Sir Andrew served on the WEHI Board from 1963 until 1992, including 14 years as president. He was devoted to improving opportunities for scientists, including working tirelessly to implement a significant expansion of WEHI's Parkville campus.

WEHI is built on solid foundations; a team that operates with integrity, collaboration and strong values. In 2023 we made further advances to enhance our organisation and culture, progressing work in environmental sustainability and in our reconciliation efforts with First Nations Peoples. And we reinforced our organisational resilience by continuing to improve our ability to manage cybersecurity threats.

We remain emboldened and humbled by our partners, donors and supporters, who, at every level, are fundamental to our scientific achievement. On behalf of the board, I thank all of these contributors.

I never cease being inspired by the work of the entire WEHI team, whether it be at the lab bench, behind the desk or out in the community.

To our research and professional services teams, thank you for another year of hard work and inspiring scientific discovery.

Jane Hemstritch AO
President, WEHI

New director for WEHI

Outstanding global leader Professor Ken Smith is WEHI's new director, as announced in November.

A WEHI alum, Prof Smith is the institute's seventh director in its 108-year history.

He commences in April 2024 after returning to Australia from the UK, where he has been Head of the Department of Medicine at Cambridge University since 2010.

With international scientific research links in Hong Kong, Singapore, Korea and Africa, and with long-standing connections with Europe and the US, Prof Smith brings a distinctly global outlook to take WEHI into a new era.

He has been instrumental in forming alliances between industry and academia and has first-hand experience in founding start-up companies and commercial experience with the pharmaceutical industry in the UK, US and Europe.

Acting director's report

It is a real pleasure to reflect on what has been a wonderful year for research, discovery and growth at WEHI.

It has been a privilege to temporarily take on the role of acting director following the departure of Professor Doug Hilton AO, who led WEHI with such confidence and compassion. I have felt immensely proud to lead our energetic and talented team, who continue to innovate in biomedical research, further strengthening our reputation on the national and global stage and improving the health of our community.

Many of our team were recognised for their important scientific and community contributions in 2023. I would particularly like to acknowledge Associate Professor Tim Thomas and Professor Anne Voss, awarded the 2023 UNSW Eureka Prize for Scientific Research, Professor David Komander, elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, and Associate Professor Misty Jenkins, appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia. I would also like to recognise our President Jane Hemstritch and board member Professor Jane Gunn, who were appointed Officers of the Order of Australia.

With an eye to the future, we made some significant announcements to position the institute for long-term impact:

- We launched 66ten, WEHI's first strategic investment fund.
- Together with the University of Melbourne and CSL, we launched Jumar Bioincubator, which will be home to early-stage biotech ventures.
- We celebrated funding from the Medical Research Future Fund that helped kickstart two exciting initiatives, the Australian Centre for Targeted Therapeutics ($15 million) and MedChem Australia ($9.75 million).
- We opened newly refurbished labs at the Centre for Biologic Therapies, a collaboration between WEHI and CSL.

We will continue to drive an entrepreneurial culture at WEHI that celebrates innovation, ingenuity and helping people live better, for longer.

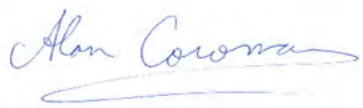
The announcement of the Snow Centre for Immune Health will be a game-changer for immune health research, delivering better outcomes for patients experiencing immune disease and disorders. It's a truly exciting collaboration, and we can't wait to get started on the work that the Snow Medical Research Foundation is so generously supporting.

The tangible steps WEHI is taking to advance reconciliation have been particularly significant in a year where all Australians were asked to reflect on our past and future. The launch of our third Reconciliation Action Plan was an important milestone for WEHI, and the growth of our partnership with DeadlyScience is a practical step towards attracting more First Nations Australians into rewarding STEM careers.

I would like to thank Victorian Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas for her support, and welcome Deputy Premier Ben Carroll as the new Minister for Medical Research.

My sincere thanks go to acting deputy directors, Professor Marnie Blewitt and Professor Sant-Rayn Pasricha, who have handled their roles with aplomb and been wonderful supports to me personally. Thanks also to Elizabeth McMahon, who departed as Chief People Officer after six years of valued service.

As ever, my deep thanks to every member of the WEHI community for everything you have done to make 2023 a productive, memorable and enjoyable year.



Professor Alan Cowman AC
Director (Acting), WEHI

Prof Smith embraces equality, diversity and inclusion, with a commitment to driving the implementation of initiatives that support these priorities.

He completed his Doctor of Philosophy at WEHI through the University of Melbourne, supervised by former WEHI director, Sir Gustav Nossal AC, and Professor David Tarlinton.

"I'm thrilled to be returning to WEHI, and look forward to meeting the staff, students and supporters that are striving to help solve some of the world's most complex and important health problems."

His Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery is from the University of Melbourne and his Doctor of Science is from the University of Cambridge.

Prof Smith was elected as a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences in 2006, to the American Association of Physicians in 2020, and was awarded the Lister Institute Research Prize in 2007.

The Smith Lab at Cambridge University has run an experimental medicine and translational program focused on understanding the mechanisms underlying immune-mediated diseases. Work in the lab has ranged from fundamental immunological principles, including the development of complex animal models, through experimental medicine and genetics to clinical trials.

A qualified consultant physician (nephrology and general internal medicine) and pathologist (clinical immunology), Prof Smith was also Director of the Cambridge Institute for Therapeutic Immunology and Infectious Disease.

Exceptional science and people

The year in research

478
scientific publications

$109.2M
grant income

Innovation and translation

476
active patents

420+
clinical trials based on WEHI discoveries

> “We searched the country to find the best teams with the brightest ideas, and we chose to home this project at WEHI as we are confident it will help transform the lives of so many Australians with immunological disease.”

Snow Medical chair Tom Snow at the announcement of the Snow Centre for Immune Health.

L-R: Snow Medical Research Foundation founder Terry Snow AM, Magda Szubanski AO and WEHI researcher Dr Lauren Howson at the announcement of the Snow Centre for Immune Health.

L-R: Snow Medical Research Foundation founders Terry Snow AM and Ginette Snow with foundation chair Tom Snow, at the announcement of the Snow Centre for Immune Health.

Snow Centre for Immune Health

One of the world's leading immunology research centres is being established at WEHI.

A partnership between the Snow Medical Research Foundation (Snow Medical), WEHI and the Royal Melbourne Hospital, the Snow Centre for Immune Health will be one of the largest and longest-running philanthropic partnerships in Australian history.

With an initial commitment of $100 million over 10 years, the substantial, long-term funding from Snow Medical will allow researchers to pursue a bold and far-sighted research program that aims to revolutionise how we understand and treat immune diseases. It helps move away from incremental science to solving the grand challenges of immunology.

Transformational research

The partnership will support some of Australia's best scientists and their teams to pursue visionary and high-risk, high-reward work that is expected to fundamentally change how immunological diseases are treated.

Research at the Snow Centre for Immune Health will address the increasing 'tidal wave' of immune disease in modern society:

- Debilitating autoimmune disorders such as lupus and rheumatoid arthritis affect up to 10% of the population and are some of our most significant chronic health problems.
- One-in-five Australians live with some form of allergic disease including anaphylactic food allergies.
- 10% of Australians live with asthma.

Treatments for many of these diseases are limited – many people are treated with blanket approaches, and in some cases treatments don't exist.

Bringing together a team of leading Australian and international researchers, the Centre will for the first time, globally at a large scale, look at immune health and the immune system from a whole-of-system, whole-of-person perspective.

The centre's unique approach will deliver transformational impacts for patients living with these debilitating diseases, translating discoveries made in the lab to benefits for patients at unprecedented scale and speed.

Prediction and prevention

The Snow Centre for Immune Health intends to completely change the way we view the immune system, with the ambitious aim of revolutionising healthcare delivery to be about proactively predicting and preventing, instead of reacting to and treating, immune illness and disorders.

While research into immune health has traditionally focused on specific diseases or cells, the centre will invert this and look at the immune system from a 'whole-of-system' perspective – like we do for the cardiovascular and respiratory systems.

The centre will rapidly accelerate this growing field of research and do it at a scale not seen anywhere else in the world.

The partnership will also fund Snow Research Clinics, initially with the Royal Melbourne Hospital and then progressively across Victoria. These clinics will allow patients to join immune system trials, while also concurrently treating those most at need with the best and latest research treatments.

Read more

January

L-R: Dr Agalya Periasamy, Dr Jacqui Gulbis

Read more

Fruit flies decode genetic Alzheimer's link

A WEHI-led research team used fruit flies to decipher an unexplained connection between Alzheimer's disease and a genetic variation, revealing that it causes neurons to die. The findings uncovered a possible cause of neurodegeneration in the preclinical stages of Alzheimer's disease and opened the door for the future development of new treatments for cognitive diseases.

Increased levels of the mitochondrial TOMM40 gene are linked with Alzheimer's disease, but the mechanisms behind this are largely unknown. Researchers used genetically engineered fruit flies to investigate how an over-abundance of TOMM40 was linked to cell death and neurodegeneration.

Protein family's critical cancer role uncovered

The critical role a mysterious superfamily of proteins known as tetraspanins plays in cancer progression is now better understood, thanks to the use of cutting-edge technology. Research led by WEHI and Duke-NUS Medical School used CRISPR/Cas9 technology to screen the entire human genome, and uncovered the underlying mechanisms behind how these proteins are presented in the cell surface – a critical process in the spread of cancer cells.

The researchers pinpointed the specific enzymes responsible for this process, finding that blocking these can impair the spread of cancer cells, in a discovery that could unlock new therapies that target the enzymes' role in cancer progression.

February

Dr Naiyang Fu

Read more

February

L-R: Dr Julie Iskander, Michael Milton, Dr Stefano Mangiola

Read more

Novel data tool helps fast-track research

WEHI researchers launched a world-first tool that compiles massive amounts of information about cells to boost our understanding of disease. The CuratedAtlasQueryR software allows researchers to search a database of 28 million cells across 40 tissues, making it faster and easier to study diseases like Alzheimer's, heart disease, COVID-19 and cancer.

The software was the first to combine this many cells in one database, allowing scientists to easily compare cells from different body parts and different types of diseases. By streamlining the data organisation process, the tool enables scientists to focus more on research and less on managing data, saving time and powering discovery.

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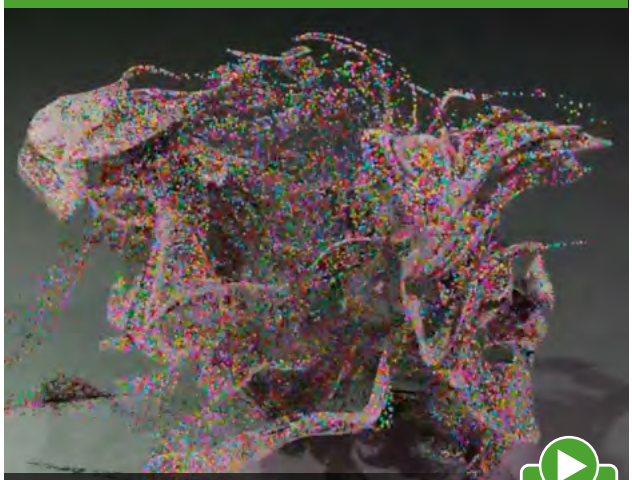
March



An imaginary protein taking shape in the 'mind' of an AI network

Read more

WEHI leaps into the future with new AI strategy

A $26 million bequest from the estate of dedicated WEHI supporter Lesley Patricia 'Pat' Farrant has underpinned a new five-year strategy for artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML).

Developments in AI and ML are rapidly changing medical research, expanding the capacity to analyse data, build new kinds of models and drive discoveries that were not previously possible.

The new strategy leverages WEHI's established leadership in data science, bioinformatics and computational biology. It will support investment in innovative new technologies, the recruitment of researchers with deep expertise, and training and development in AI and ML for researchers across the institute.

NHMRC honours WEHI research excellence

WEHI researchers were recognised with prestigious National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Research Excellence Awards, led by former director Professor Doug Hilton AO, who received the Outstanding Contribution Award in recognition of his impact and advocacy for Australian health and medical research.

Infectious diseases research leader Professor Wai-Hong Tham received an Elizabeth Blackburn Investigator Grant Award as the female researcher whose application for NHMRC funding ranked highest in its category.

Postdoctoral research fellow Dr Caleb Dawson received the Science to Art Award, which recognises outstanding imagery that has arisen from research funded by the NHMRC.

March

L-R: Professor Wai-Hong Tham, Professor Doug Hilton, Dr Caleb Dawson

Read more

April

L-R: Dr Victoria Jackson, Professor Melanie Bahlo, Dr Cavan Bennett, Professor Sant-Rayn Pasricha

Read more

Iron link offers blood cancer treatment hope

A landmark discovery linking iron regulation to a rare blood cancer led to international clinical trials of a potential new treatment for patients with the incurable disease.

Polycythemia vera (PV) is a blood disorder causing excessive red blood cells. The WEHI-led research team found that raising hepcidin, a hormone that regulates how the body uses iron, reduced the production of red blood cells and complications from the disease in pre-clinical models.

The research has been translated into Phase 1/2 clinical trials taking place across Australia, Malaysia and the United States, investigating the effect of a drug that has the potential to control iron regulation in patients with PV.

April

L-R: Professor Alan Cowman, Dr David Olsen (MSD)

Read more

Antimalarial drug candidate enters clinical trials

A new antimalarial drug candidate, discovered through a collaboration between WEHI and global biopharmaceutical company MSD, is in Phase 1 clinical testing in healthy volunteers.

New treatment options are essential in the fight against malaria, given increasing resistance to current drugs. The trial is an important step in the development of a novel agent to combat a disease that kills more than 600,000 people annually.

MK-7602 inhibits two essential enzymes required for survival and spread of malaria parasites. In preclinical studies this mechanism was found to confer a high barrier to the generation of resistance, which is critical in the development of antimalarial drug candidates.

Smoking history changes lung cancer development

A WEHI-led study into the lungs of smokers and those who never smoked found substantially different inflammatory environments, highlighting the need for tailored treatment for lung cancer patients depending on their smoking history.

The study found a subset of T cells, called TRM, were highly enriched in smokers' lungs and applied pressure on tumours to evade the body's immune response. This helps explain why immunotherapy is not always effective in treating the disease.

Researchers are next investigating how to increase the visibility of tumour cells to the immune system in lung cancer patients who have been smokers, an important step in developing precision, tailored treatments.

April

L-R: Associate Professor Marie-Liesse Asselin-Labat, Professor Daniel Gray, Dr Clare Weeden

Read more

April

L-R: Professor Sant-Rayn Pasricha, Professor Kamija Phiri (Training and Research Unit of Excellence, Malawi)

Read more

Malawi trial boosts iron levels in pregnancy

A collaboration between researchers in Australia and Malawi exploring new ways to fight anaemia in developing nations has found a single iron infusion can significantly reduce iron deficiency in pregnant women.

The World Health Organisation recommends pregnant women take oral iron twice daily as standard care in developing nations, however adherence to this treatment is poor, and anaemia remains a leading cause of illness and death in poorer nations.

A trial of pregnant Malawian women found a 15-minute iron infusion could be administered in a resource-limited setting, and could reduce the iron deficiency component of anaemia by around 60%, much better than the recommended oral iron.

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May

Universal screening shows breast cancer benefit

A study of women recently diagnosed with breast cancer found many have identifiable inherited gene abnormalities, but are excluded from subsidised genetic testing that can guide their treatment.

Current genetic testing guidelines for women with breast cancer only extend to patients where the risk of carrying a faulty gene is 10% or greater.

The collaboration between the Parkville Breast Service (Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Royal Melbourne Hospital and Royal Women's Hospital), the Parkville Familial Cancer Centre and WEHI showed universal screening has potential to improve outcomes, with many patients currently missing out on vital information that could change the course of their treatment.

Immunotherapy advance for inoperable brain cancer

Research showed that an advanced immunotherapy treatment could hold promise for children with an inoperable type of brain cancer. Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG) is an aggressive type of brain tumour that affects 20 children in Australia each year. There is currently no treatment and children are unlikely to survive a year beyond diagnosis.

A team from WEHI and The Brain Cancer Centre focused on an innovative treatment called CAR T therapy, which uses a patient's own immune cells and engineers them to become 'super killer cells' that recognise and kill the tumour. In pre-clinical models they found CAR T therapy was effective at targeting DIPG tumours and reducing the tumour burden.

May

May

Ubiquitin pioneer elected Academy Fellow

Professor David Komander was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science for his significant research contributions towards unravelling the ubiquitin system. Ubiquitin is a small protein that acts like a 'tag' to tell our cells which proteins to break down or recycle – a vital process that ensures cells stay healthy and function correctly.

Prof Komander joined WEHI in 2018 to lead the first ubiquitin-focused research division in Australia. His discoveries have transformed our understanding of how this critical protein works and unlocked new research areas, with his key findings translated into drug discovery projects for conditions such as Parkinson's disease.

May

Associate Professor Shalin Naik

Read more

Supercharging cells for new cancer vaccine

Research that could lead to a vaccine for patients with hard-to-treat cancers was supported by the Medical Research Future Fund. The WEHI-led collaboration with the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre aims to improve outcomes for people with cancers that don't respond well to existing treatments, including chemotherapy and immunotherapy.

The team hopes to develop a new type of dendritic cell vaccine – a promising treatment for cancer patients that involves supercharging their own cells to fight cancers. The research, stemming from a landmark discovery made at WEHI over 30 years ago, could lead to a clinical trial for people with conditions like colorectal and lung cancer within the next two years.

King's Birthday honours for research trailblazers

Three outstanding WEHI researchers were recognised with Australia's highest civilian honours.

Associate Professor Misty Jenkins, WEHI laboratory head and joint head of research strategy at The Brain Cancer Centre, was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for distinguished service to medical science as an immunologist, to the promotion of women in STEM and to the Indigenous community.

Professor Melanie Bahlo was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to genetic and infectious disease research, and to public health, while Associate Professor Kelly Rogers was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to medical research.

June

L-R: Associate Professor Misty Jenkins, Professor Melanie Bahlo, Associate Professor Kelly Rogers

Read more

June

L-R: Dr Jeff Mitchell, Professor Guillaume Lessene

Read more

National venture strengthens local medicine outcomes

The Medical Research Future Fund invested $9.75 million into establishing MedChem Australia, a new national medicinal chemistry initiative that brings together the Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, WEHI and the University of Sydney, in collaboration with Therapeutic Innovation Australia.

MedChem Australia helps to fill a significant capacity gap in the nation's drug discovery pipeline. While the National Drug Discovery Centre headquartered at WEHI addresses early challenges in drug discovery, the next crucial steps have been missing.

Together, MedChem Australia and the NDDC are establishing the foundation of a powerful pipeline of translation from discovery to new medicines.

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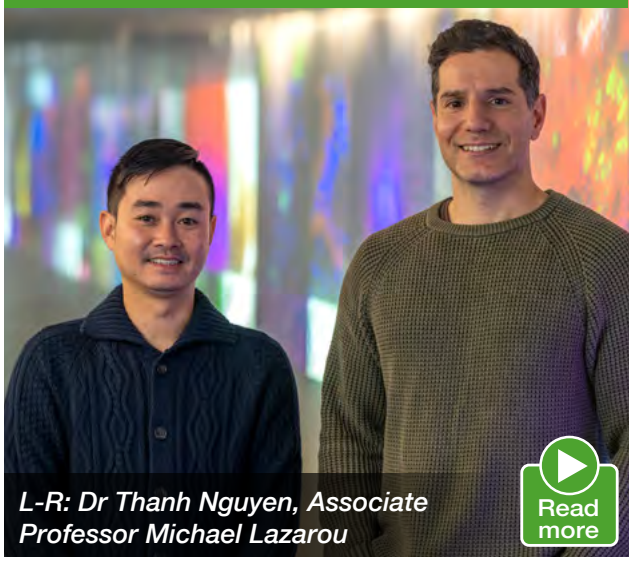
June



L-R: Dr Thanh Nguyen, Associate Professor Michael Lazarou

Read more

Discovery solves mystery of Parkinson's pathway

A discovery solved a long-standing mystery about how a protein helps rid the body of damaged mitochondria, in findings that could help lead to potential new treatments for Parkinson's disease.

Mitochondria are tiny structures found in almost all cells that are essential for the body to function properly.

Researchers unravelled how Optineurin, a protein that is highly expressed in the human brain, helps the body remove damaged mitochondria. Led by a team at WEHI's Parkinson's Disease Research Centre, the study could inform the development of future therapeutic targets for Parkinson's disease – a condition that affects more than 10 million people worldwide and currently has no cure.

Eureka Prize win for new anti-cancer strategy

Associate Professor Tim Thomas and Professor Anne Voss were awarded the 2023 UNSW Eureka Prize for Scientific Research for their pioneering work on a new approach to cancer treatment.

The prize recognised their groundbreaking research in developing a new class of drugs that can put cancer cells 'to sleep' without triggering the harmful side-effects caused by conventional cancer treatments, like chemotherapy and radiation.

The drugs have an unprecedented ability to stop cancer cells reproducing and spreading, without damaging the cells' DNA. The research, spanning over a decade, involves a collaboration with the Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences and the Cancer Therapeutics CRC.

August

L-R: Associate Professor Tim Thomas, Professor Anne Voss

Read more

August

L-R: Professor Marc Pellegrini, Dr Philip Arandjelovic

Read more

Cancer drug venetoclax can kill 'silent' HIV

A landmark study found the blood cancer drug venetoclax can kill hibernating HIV-infected cells and, crucially, delay the virus from re-emerging.

About 39 million people worldwide are living with HIV, including over 29,400 Australians. While current treatments can suppress the virus, they cannot target 'silent' HIV-infected cells, which are responsible for the virus permanently remaining in the body.

Led by WEHI and the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, the study is now being translated into a new clinical trial to assess whether the cancer drug venetoclax – based on a groundbreaking research discovery at WEHI – can be repurposed to offer a pathway towards an HIV cure.

September

L-R: Professor Melanie Bahlo, Karen Oliver

Read more

New insights help explain why epilepsy develops

Specific changes in our DNA that increase the risk of developing epilepsy were discovered, in the largest genetic study of its kind.

The study compared the DNA from almost 30,000 people with epilepsy to 52,500 people without epilepsy, identifying 26 distinct areas in our DNA that may be involved in the brain disorder, which affects over 50 million people worldwide.

The research advances our understanding of why the disorder develops and could help inform the development of new treatments. More than 300 researchers, including scientists from WEHI and the University of Melbourne, collaborated on the study as part of the International League Against Epilepsy Consortium on Complex Epilepsies.

New model for COVID-19 advances understanding

A new SARS-CoV-2 model that enables different disease outcomes to be analysed in detail for the first time was developed by a WEHI-led team. The research is a crucial step towards better understanding how biological factors can impact mild to severe COVID-19 and offers a reliable platform to test potential new treatments across different risk groups.

Using pre-clinical models that closely mimic human disease, researchers from WEHI and the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity compared the genes that become activated in mild and severe COVID-19. The team found severity is not always linked to the amount of virus in the body, and age significantly changes the body's response.

September

L-R: Dr Marcel Doerflinger, Stefanie Bader

Read more

September

L-R: Dr Holly Barker, Professor Clare Scott

Read more

Clinical trial launched for rare women's cancers

An international clinical trial investigating a new way to treat two of the most lethal gynaecological cancers was launched in Melbourne. Based on a WEHI-led discovery, the trial hopes to enhance treatment options for women with ovarian and uterine carcinosarcomas.

Patient outcomes and treatment options for these diseases remain largely unchanged, highlighting a critical need for novel interventions. Over seven years of WEHI research was translated into the trial, testing a novel chemotherapy and immunotherapy combination treatment for women with recurrent ovarian and uterine carcinosarcomas. The trial is being conducted at six sites across Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom.

September

L-R: Andres Tapia del Fierro, Professor Marnie Blewitt

Read more

Toxic muscular dystrophy protein 'switched off'

A study revealed how a toxic protein known to trigger muscular dystrophy could be 'switched off' – a pre-clinical discovery that could spearhead a treatment for the debilitating disease. Facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy (FSHD) is a muscle-weakening condition that affects around 870,000 people worldwide, including over 1000 Australians.

A gene discovered by WEHI researchers in 2008, SMCHD1, is critical for switching off the production of the toxic protein. The new research from a global collaboration led by WEHI found this gene can be safely boosted in the lab to potentially disable the protein, bringing the team closer to finding a future treatment for the incurable genetic condition.

Cell death: millions carry inflammation gene

Researchers for the first time found that millions of people have a genetic change that increases their risk of inflammation. Cell death is an essential process that removes damaged or dangerous cells to prevent disease. One type of cell death, necroptosis, can become uncontrolled or excessive, with an inflammatory response that can trigger disease.

The gatekeeper of necroptosis is the gene MLKL, but the research showed that up to 3% of the global population carries a form of MLKL that is less effective. The WEHI-led study may explain why some people have an increased chance of developing conditions like inflammatory bowel disease or suffer more severe reactions to infections.

October

L-R: Dr Joanne Hildebrand, Dr Katherine Martin, Dr Sarah Garnish, Dr Maria Kauppi

Read more

October

Dr Xueyi Dong

Read more

Determining the best genomics data tools

Many open-source tools are available to study gene activity but researchers currently lack information about how well these tools function in different settings. A WEHI team pinpointed the best options for different uses in a study that will help researchers choose the most accurate and efficient open-source tools for interpreting genetic data.

Using lung cancer cells, synthetic RNA molecules and long-read sequencing technology, the researchers compared a number of tools for detecting changes in different versions of genes. The data, generated in WEHI's Genomics Lab, has been made freely available to enable other researchers to compare the performance of a broad range of analysis tasks.

November

How the mutant protein p53 drives cancer growth

Researchers solved a mystery about an important driver of cancer development that is found in half of all cancers. The p53 protein is a tumour suppressor that plays a crucial role in preventing the formation of cancerous cells. When it mutates, it significantly increases the risk of cancer developing.

Unravelling which behaviours of the mutant protein are critical for fuelling the growth of tumours, the study found that loss-of-function is key – when a protein loses the crucial ability to regulate cellular responses that prevent tumour development. The findings will allow for better focused drug development efforts that target restoring p53's lost function and role as a tumour suppressor.

Outstanding bioinformatics leader recognised

Computational Biology Theme Leader Professor Tony Papenfuss was recognised by the Australian Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Society for his pioneering efforts to drive cancer discoveries through mathematical approaches.

The Honorary Senior Fellow award acknowledges his leadership and outstanding contributions to the fields of bioinformatics and computational biology throughout his 20-year research career.

Prof Papenfuss has developed new computational methods to discover the molecular drivers of cancer progression and has made key contributions towards understanding chromosomal instability in cancer – a defining characteristic of most human tumours.

December

December

Fellowship awarded to top researcher

Dr Sophia Davidson received a 2024 Al & Val Rosenstrauss Fellowship from the Rebecca L. Cooper Medical Research Foundation. The $1 million fellowship will support research into how inflammation is triggered by genetic mutations linked to neurodevelopmental disorders.

Dr Davidson's work focuses on unravelling the inflammatory pathways activated in neurodevelopmental disorders like autism and intellectual disability, which impact 7% of Australian children. Her research uses genetic editing, induced pluripotent stem cells and super-resolution imaging, to uncover new pathways regulating inflammation during brain development, with the goal of improving quality of life for affected children.

Back to contents

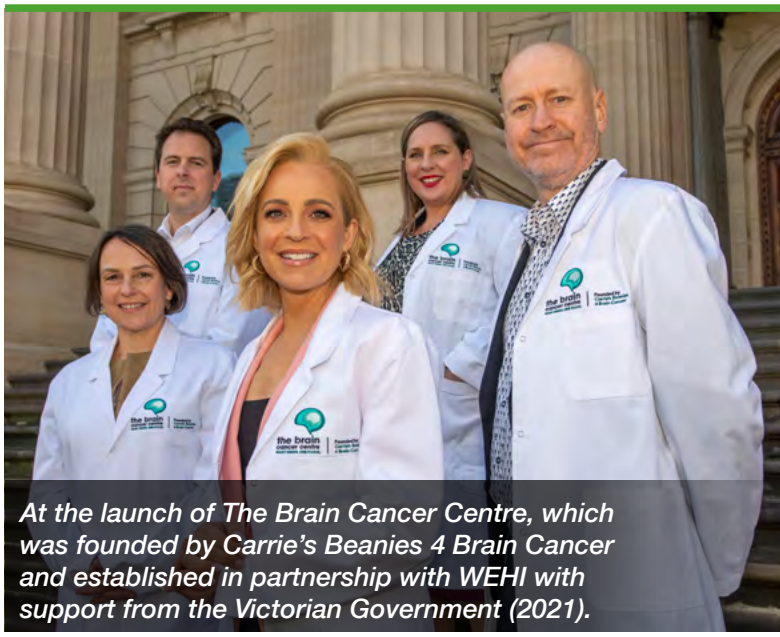
Farewell Doug Hilton (WEHI director 2009-2023)

After almost four decades of unwavering dedication to WEHI and 14 years as director, Professor Doug Hilton AO leaves a rich and lasting legacy.

Prof Hilton ushered in a new era for WEHI that embraces not only fundamental research and discovery but also accelerated effort around translation and commercialisation, while strengthening links with other health, research, philanthropic and educational organisations.

His directorship was characterised by tackling complex health problems and by being unafraid to address important issues that have an impact well beyond the WEHI walls.

He championed major initiatives including the establishment of the National Drug Discovery Centre, The Brain Cancer Centre and the Centre for Dynamic Imaging, as well as the Professor Lynn Corcoran Early Learning Centre – the first on-site childcare centre at an Australian independent medical research institute.



At the launch of The Brain Cancer Centre, which was founded by Carrie's Beanies 4 Brain Cancer and established in partnership with WEHI with support from the Victorian Government (2021).

With the Prime Minister of Australia Anthony Albanese, Minister for Health and Aged Care Mark Butler and Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ged Kearney at WEHI in 2022.

Pictured at the Rally for Research (2011), Prof Hilton helped lead the campaign that was the catalyst for the establishment of the Medical Research Future Fund.

The first sod-turning ceremony for the Professor Lynn Corcoran Early Learning Centre, which opened in 2018.

With First Nations artist Aimee McCartney at the 2023 launch of WEHI's third Reconciliation Action Plan.

Read more

Thank you to our supporters

Your support allows our researchers to advance critical research and translate their discoveries into disease diagnosis, prevention and treatment for the benefit of the whole community.

Below is a list of our generous donations and grants of $10,000 or more between 1 January and 31 December 2023.

A full list of donations, grants and bequests of $1000 or more can be found on our website.

Read More

Centenary donors

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Brian M Davis Charitable Foundation
CSL Limited
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DHB Foundation
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Estate of Peter and Julie Alston
Estate of Ellen Corin
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Donations

Anonymous (12)
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Strathmore Community Bank Branch of Bendigo Bank
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Trevor Taylor
The Brain Ball Committee
The Cuthbertson Family Fund
The Dyson Bequest
The Helping Hand Foundation
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Trujon Investment Holdings Pty Ltd
Two Sisters Foundation
Urquhart Charitable Fund
Morna Vellacott
Allan Walker and Joan Walker
Westminster School Inc
Lyn Williams
Jean Williamson
Heather Winneke

Community fundraising

Berwick Opportunity Shop
Bottoms on the Grass
Dani Breen
Two Sisters Foundation - The Winter Ball

Gifts in memory

Anonymous (1)
Dylan Blumberg
Macquarie Group matching fund
In memory of Margaret and Hugh Middendorp
Ryan Blumberg

Gifts in Wills

Albert H Maggs Charitable Trust
Estate of Alice Heilala Courtice
Estate of Betty Deller King
Estate of Dorothy Mary Braund
Estate of Eleanor Margrethe Albiston (The Stang Bequest)
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Estate of John William Houston
Estate of Judith Margaret Ryan
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Estate of Petar Sember
Estate of Sheila Mary Helpman
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George Thomas and Lockyer Potter Charitable Trust
Irene & Ronald MacDonald Foundation
The Frank Broadhurst Memorial Charitable Fund
The Hazel & Pip Appel Fund
The Mackie Bequest

Australian grants

Anonymous (1)
Amelia Eliza Holland Trust
Annemarie and Arturo Gandioli-Fumagalli Foundation
Arthritis Australia
Australasian Gastro-Intestinal Cancer Trials Group (AGITG)
Australian Academy of Science
Australian Cancer Research Foundation
Australian Cancer Research Foundation (ACRF)
Australian Lions Childhood Cancer Research Foundation
Breast Cancer Trials
Cancer Council NSW (CCNSW)
Cancer Council Victoria (CCV)
Carrie Bickmore's Beanies 4 Brain Cancer Foundation
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Coeliac Australia
Colonial Foundation Limited
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Cure Cancer Australia Foundation
Cybec Foundation
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Garnett Passe and Rodney Williams Memorial Foundation
Geok Hua Wong Charitable Trust
Haematology Society of Australia and New Zealand
Harold & Cora Brennen Benevolent Trust
Isabella and Marcus Foundation
Joe White Bequest
John T Reid Charitable Trusts

The CASS Foundation meets with past grant recipients at WEHI. L-R: Dr Phillip Pymm, David Abraham AM, Tamara Abraham, Associate Professor Tracy Putoczki, David Aitken, Dr Marcel Doerflinger.

Read more

Champions of cutting-edge medical research

The CASS Foundation is a longstanding supporter of WEHI, having championed cutting-edge medical research at the institute for over 20 years. The Foundation is focused on funding early career researcher travel awards and 'proof-of-concept' research; projects that have the potential to make major strides forward in our understanding of disease and treatments but, due to their higher risk, would be unlikely to attract funding from government. The Foundation's dedication and passion in these areas have not only progressed knowledge but also propelled the careers of many WEHI scientists, enabling them to build international collaborations and independent research teams.

K & M Foundation for Women
L.E.W. Carty Charitable Fund
Laurie's Love Inc.
Leukaemia Foundation
Lions Australia Diabetes Foundation
L'Oreal Foundation For Women in Science
Lung Foundation Australia
Max's Cast for a Cure Foundation
Myositis Association Australia
National Breast Cancer Foundation
National Stem Cell Foundation of Australia
Norman Ann & Graeme Atkins Charitable Trust
Percy Baxter Charitable Trust
Rebecca L. Cooper Medical Research Foundation
Royal Australasian College of Physicians
Snow Medical Research Foundation
The Alfred Felton Bequest
The Barbara Luree Parker Foundation
The CASS Foundation
The Galbraith Family Charitable Trust - The Donaldson Bequest
The Harry Secomb Foundation
The Jack Brockhoff Foundation
The Jakob Frenkiel Charitable Trust
The Margaret Walkom Bequest
The Marian & E. H. Flack Trust
The Norman Beischer Medical Research Foundation
The Phyllis Connor Memorial Trust
The Ramaciotti Foundations
The Scobie and Claire Mackinnon Trust
The Sylvia & Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation
The Sylvia and Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation
The Terry and Maureen Hopkins Foundation
The Thomas William Francis & Violet Coles Trust
The Walter and Eliza Hall Trust
The William Angliss (Victoria) Charitable Fund
Tour de Cure
Zoe's Fight Foundation Inc

International grants

American Association for Cancer Research
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Breast Cancer Research Foundation USA
Chan Zuckerberg Initiative
Foundation for Prader Willi Research
FSHD Society
Kenneth Rainin Foundation
Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research
National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Stand Up To Cancer
The International Human Frontier Science Program Organization
The Parkinson's Foundation
United States Department of Defense
Wellcome Trust
Worldwide Cancer Research

Australian Government grants

Australian Centre of Research Excellence in Malaria Elimination (ACREME)
Cancer Australia
Department of Health
Department of Industry, Science and Resources
Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF)
National Foundation for Australia-China Relations
National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

Victorian Government grants

Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions
veski
Victorian Cancer Agency

We've made every effort to ensure all details in this list are correct. However if an error has occurred, please contact DonorRelations@wehi.edu.au.

L-R: Dr Stan Chism and Karen Chism with fellow WEHI alumni Dianne Grail, Professor Suzanne Cory AC, Professor Jerry Adams and Professor Ken Shortman.

Read more

Empowering First Nations scientists

As WEHI alumni who've enjoyed successful careers, Stan and Karen Chism have first-hand experience of the opportunities and pathways that a science degree can open. They're both passionate about supporting the next generation of researchers who may not otherwise have the avenues, connections or resources to succeed. In 2023 the Chisms funded the highly successful pilot Graduate Laboratory Training Program. This structured program is designed to provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander science graduates with clear pathways, internal support, professional development, connections and paid lab work, enabling them to pursue scientific careers or further study.

Entrepreneurship and commercialisation

Our dynamic entrepreneurial culture drives impact and innovation. In 2023 the Business Development Office was renamed Partnerships and Ventures, reflecting a new strategic direction and initiatives that aim to accelerate the translation of brilliant science for the benefit of our communities and advance innovative discoveries with potential to make a positive impact on human health.

$66m investment fund

The largest internal seed fund in an Australian medical research institute was launched at WEHI to invest in early bright ideas and promising discoveries.

Investing $66 million over 10 years, 66ten is WEHI's first strategic investment fund, a groundbreaking initiative to turn outstanding science into commercial reality and support our vision of translating scientific discovery into real-life health outcomes.

The fund is managed by trustee company WEHI Ventures. By making innovative ideas 'investment ready', 66ten bridges the gap between grants for early-stage research and commercial ventures, to bring benefits to patients sooner.

Experienced biotech entrepreneurs, Venture Capital investment managers and industry R&D leaders have joined the 66ten Investment Review Committee.

Advancing translation

Australia's newest biotech incubator was launched by WEHI, CSL and the University of Melbourne, advancing research translation in areas such as pharmaceuticals, diagnostics, medical devices, digital health, bioinformatics and health-oriented AI.

Jumar Bioincubator connects early-stage and scaling biotech ventures with the facilities, infrastructure and support needed to progress discoveries towards real-world treatments, while ensuring world-class medical research is commercialised.

The incubator, located at CSL's new Global Headquarters and Centre for R&D in the Melbourne Biomedical Precinct, is supported by cash and in-kind contributions of about $45 million over 10 years from its founding partners, as well as an initial investment of $25 million from Breakthrough Victoria.

Industry connection

WEHI scientists advanced and showcased their research through industry programs in 2023.

WEHI spinout Proxima Bio, which focuses on BioTACs technology, was highlighted at Boston's prestigious Science2Startup event and was part of the inaugural Innovation to Translation symposium.

This showcase of the Melbourne Biomedical Precinct's achievements in therapeutics development also featured WEHI's CAR-DC project, which is developing an innovative cell therapy for solid tumours.

AMS by Cellworks, an innovative WEHI software technology for managing animal models in research, was part of the CSIRO ON Accelerate program.

And Plunge Uino, a device to transform cryo-electron microscopy with groundbreaking advancements in plunge freezer technology, was part of the CSIRO ON Prime program.

66ten investment recipients Professor Sandra Nicholson, Dr Miles Horton, Dr Thomas Lew, Dr Tom Weber and Dr Andrew Leis with WEHI Ventures CEO Dr Anne-Laure Puaux (third from right) and WEHI Ventures Portfolio and Operations manager Dr Leigh Coultas (right).

Intellectual property

Patents protect unique inventions made by WEHI researchers and facilitate commercial engagements to progress the development of new medicines, diagnostics and enabling technologies.

2023

32 **new patents granted**

7 **new provisional patents filed**

476 **active patents based on discoveries and inventions made by WEHI scientists**

Operational overview

In line with our 2019–2023 Strategic Plan and long-term vision, we continued to enhance our operations, strengthen community connections and nurture a safe, inclusive and innovative workplace.

Powering research

We continued to enable our teams to deliver exceptional research. Highlights included:

- The launch of our 2023–2027 AI/ML Strategy, which recognises the extraordinary potential for new artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) technologies to enhance medical research, including a $4.6 million investment to boost our capabilities in this fast-growing field.
- The start of our three-year Human-based Research and Clinical Translation Strategy, supporting increased use of models of human disease, biospecimens, patient data and clinical translation programs.
- Progress on our 2021–2031 technology strategy, including investment in cutting-edge spatial omics technologies that leverage our expertise in microscopy, genomics, bioinformatics and computational biology.
- Supporting postdoctoral researchers to investigate big, innovative ideas through the celebrated Jenny Tatchell Awards for Blue Sky Research. These were awarded to two teams in 2023 thanks to a generous gift from Jenny Tatchell, matched by WEHI.

Governance, ethics and integrity

Research integrity, good governance and working ethically are fundamental to everything we do. Key initiatives included:

- The launch of our Nexus 2024 Program – several strategic projects that will deliver robust data and organisational understanding to inform the development of our next Strategic Plan.
- Joining the Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART) Openness Agreement on Animal Research as an inaugural signatory.
- The expansion of our team of Research Integrity Advisors and establishment of new reporting mechanisms, including support for anonymous complaints through the independent service Integrity Line.
- WEHI's endorsement of a submission by the Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes, calling for a dual stream health and medical research funding system overseen and administered by one authority, the National Health and Medical Research Council.
- Commencing the Research Data Governance and Management Program, to protect and enhance one of our most important organisational assets. The multi-year program will build the foundations for a robust, scalable and sustainable research data ecosystem.

WEHI's Bioservices team was recognised by the prestigious Biochemical Society, receiving the Research Support Award for outstanding skills and expertise impacting an organisation in scientific research.

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Advancing reconciliation

Reconciliation with First Nations Peoples remains an integral part of our collective purpose at WEHI.

In 2023 we launched our third Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) at a celebratory event during Reconciliation Week. Our 2023–2025 Innovate RAP outlines the initiatives WEHI will undertake as we continue to implement meaningful action towards improving health outcomes for First Nations Peoples.

Recognising that a 'yes' vote would be an important step towards First Nations Peoples having a greater say in the decisions that affect their lives, we made a public statement in advocating a 'yes' vote in support of the referendum on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament. This aligned with two actions from our Innovate RAP: to communicate our commitment to reconciliation publicly and to positively influence our external stakeholders to drive reconciliation outcomes.

We strengthened our partnership with leading not-for-profit DeadlyScience, hosting 24 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from urban and remote schools in New South Wales and Queensland for the first WEHI DeadlyScience Pathways Program. The three-day program aims to foster the next generation of First Nations scientists, immersing them in the world of science and STEM-related study and careers.

NAIDOC Week honours and celebrates the diverse cultures, histories and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia, and we were proud to host an event for staff with guest speaker Kamilaroi man Corey Tutt OAM, founder and CEO of DeadlyScience.

Since 2014 WEHI has supported students through the CareerTracker program, which links pre-professional First Nations university students with employers to participate in paid, multi-year internships. At the 2023 CareerTracker awards, WEHI was recognised with the Partnering for Excellence Award, for going 'above and beyond' to create opportunities for students through the program, while a former WEHI CareerTracker student was awarded Intern of the Year.

Staff and students at the first WEHI DeadlyScience Pathways Program.

Respect and gender equality

Great science comes from a great workplace, and we strive to provide a positive and inclusive culture that is founded on respect and equality. Highlights in this space included:

- Developing the first WEHI Values Charter, designed to capture the essence of the institute and the people who work in it.
- Delivering a new e-learning module on our Acceptable Workplace Behaviour Framework, which supports our desire to continue our strong and real commitment to safety, respect and equality. WEHI staff and students undertook the module to ensure they continue to foster and demonstrate the values that make WEHI a safe, fun and productive place to be.
- Welcoming recognised materials scientist, engineer and inventor Professor Veena Sahajwalla to WEHI to deliver our 2023 International Women's Day address. Prof Sahajwalla shared her creative approaches in recycling science in line with the day's theme of celebrating women innovators.
- Recognising 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence for the ninth consecutive year by lighting the Illuminarium at our Parkville campus in the orange campaign colour, and actively encouraging staff to nurture a workplace where we are all safe, respected and valued.
- Supporting an employee-led initiative to establish a Disability and Neurodiversity Network that aims to provide peer support and increase disability awareness, inclusion and access at WEHI. The group is open to all staff and students with a disability or chronic illness, as well as allies and carers.

Pride in our work

We remain committed to fostering an inclusive, safe and vibrant workplace, where everyone is encouraged to bring their full self to work, every day. We demonstrated our commitment through:

- Joining the annual Midsumma Pride March. Led by WE-Pride – WEHI's LGBTIQA+ staff, students and allies – more than 60 of our team joined the march alongside their family and friends. The iconic march celebrates solidarity in gender and sexual diversity, and WEHI was excited to take part along with LGBTIQA+ networks from fellow medical research institutes.
- Celebrating IDAHOBIT Day, the international day against LGBTIQA+ discrimination, with WE-Pride hosting a morning tea for over 100 staff and students.

WEHI staff, family and friends at the annual Midsumma Pride March, in support of our LGBTIQA+ community.

Sustainability focus

In 2023 WEHI completed the first formal assessment of our greenhouse gas emissions.

Work has begun to reduce the emissions from WEHI's operations by optimising the energy efficiency of our buildings and by promoting environmental sustainability across all campuses through our new green team program. While a long-term plan to significantly reduce our emissions is being developed, WEHI acknowledged the contribution we make to climate change in 2023 by offsetting our combined scope 1 and 2 emissions – our direct emissions, and those from our purchased energy sources – with verified carbon credits that support international and local projects with positive social and environmental impacts.

WEHI also continued to drive broader precinct and sector collaboration through two key groups: the Melbourne Academic Centre for Health community of practice in sustainability of healthcare and research; and the Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes' environmental sustainability working group.

Growth to deliver better science

Exciting new facilities and initiatives are enhancing our capacity to deliver excellent research.

We opened newly refurbished labs at the Centre for Biologic Therapies, a leading collaboration between WEHI and CSL that aims to accelerate drug development from the lab to the clinic.

We formally opened our Protein Production Facility, which helps our scientists access high-quality, affordable and bespoke recombinant proteins for research and treatment development.

The new Australian Centre for Targeted Therapeutics was awarded $15 million by the Medical Research Future Fund's Frontier Health and Medical Research initiative to develop next-generation medicines. The centre – a collaboration between WEHI, the Children's Cancer Institute and Monash University – focuses on the development of targeted protein degrader medicines and technology.

Leading consumer engagement

Consumers involved with WEHI contribute a lived, carer or community perspective from both disease and professional backgrounds and are a valued part of our research efforts.

WEHI's Consumer Program is the largest of its kind in Australian fundamental medical research and it continues to grow. There is a strong desire to continue to enhance consumer engagement within our work at WEHI, demonstrated by the substantial expansion in requests for consumer engagement the program received from across the institute in 2023. The program also celebrated its first journal publication, a product of its 2021 external evaluation, highlighting the impact of consumer engagement at WEHI.

Celebrating the opening of WEHI's Protein Production Facility in Bundoora.

A great place to work and study

WEHI staff and students have continued to be supported to work flexibly and safely, so they can thrive both at work and at home. Initiatives this year included:

- Our Safety team joining our People and Culture team to strengthen our commitment to ensuring health and safety remains the number one priority for all staff and students. The new People, Culture and Safety team is better structured to apply a holistic approach to physical and psychological health and safety across WEHI.
- The WEHI New Parents Group continuing to provide peer support, networking and social opportunities for new parents and carers. WEHI also sponsored parent rooms at five research conferences, supporting attendees to balance their work and family life.

WEHI Voice culture survey

Staff continued to engage highly with our annual survey and rate WEHI positively in key areas.

7882 comments

858 respondents

8.5/10 for flexibility

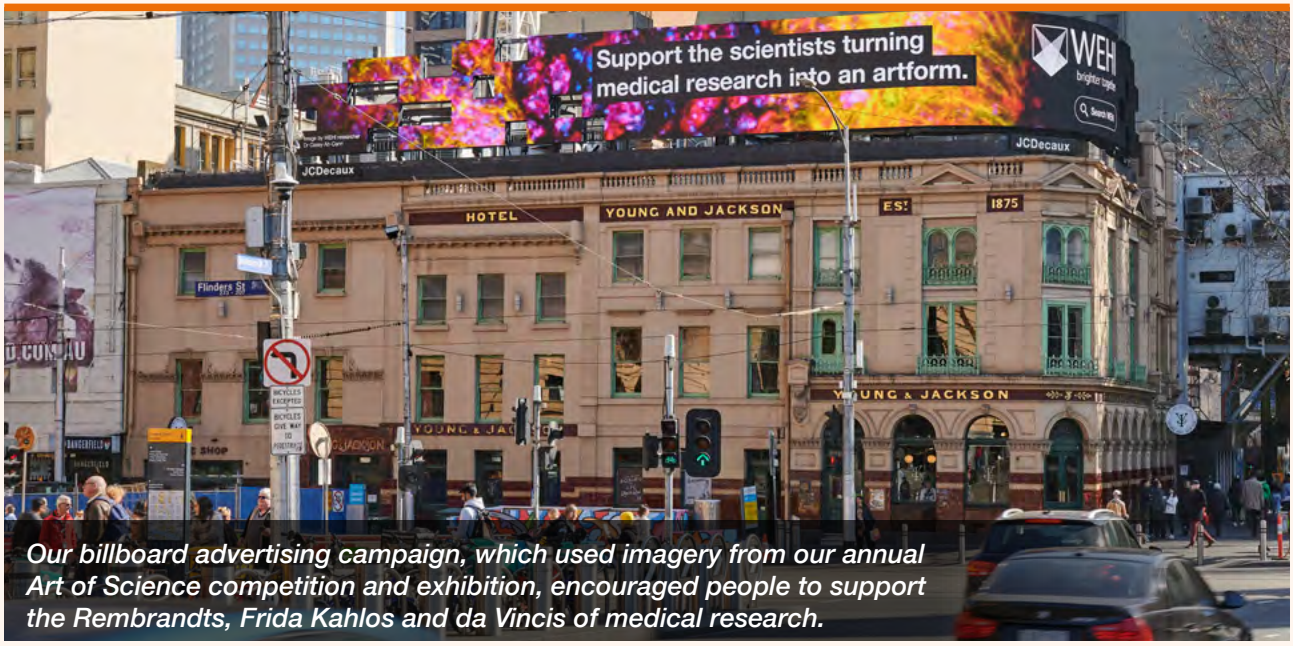
8.3/10 for diversity & inclusion

8.5/10 recommend WEHI as place to work

Connecting with the community

We continued to develop tools, resources and programs to engage closely with the community.

- We launched the new and improved WEHI website after extensive consultation and data analysis. This resource will allow us to continue to share our critical work with the community, celebrate our brilliant research and people and attract the best global talent.
- The 2023 Art of Science competition and online exhibition was timed with National Science Week, and showcased compelling biomedical artwork from our leading scientists.
- We launched two new digital tools that put our researchers in the spotlight, and help the community easily find information on WEHI researchers and learn about what they do. WEHI Elements is a researcher profile platform with automation to keep professional profiles up-to-date, and WEHI Find a Researcher makes researcher details publicly available.
- Our Discovery Tours offered the community a chance to go behind the scenes and witness first-hand what life is like at WEHI. We ran tours for 18 school, community and stakeholder groups, with our scientists presenting current research and guiding people through our working labs.
- A new billboard advertising campaign brought WEHI and our science to the community, to build support for our important work. Coupling visuals from Art of Science with engaging headlines, the campaign drew attention to our brightest minds that are tackling the world's most complex health challenges, with ads appearing on buildings and public transport around Melbourne. During the campaign we received 21% more visits to the WEHI website than the year previous.



Our billboard advertising campaign, which used imagery from our annual Art of Science competition and exhibition, encouraged people to support the Rembrandts, Frida Kahlos and da Vincis of medical research.

Supporting entrepreneurs

To advance the translation of great science for the benefit of human health, we're nurturing the next wave of entrepreneurs.

From industry fireside chats to workshops on engaging stakeholders and commercialisation 101, a range of professional development initiatives were offered in 2023 as part of WEHI's entrepreneurship education program, which aims to foster an entrepreneurial mindset among staff and students.

The Venture Development program was specially designed to support WEHI's budding entrepreneurs in developing the skills and strategies required to turn their ideas and early projects into enterprises.

The program culminated in InnoVision 2023, a pitch-style event where participants showcased their creative visions.

Senior Research Officer Behnaz Heydarchi was awarded both the People's Choice and overall prize for her project developing a new therapy for the global prevention of haemolytic disease of the newborn (HDN), a blood disorder that occurs when the blood types of a mother and baby are incompatible. She received a $10,000 travel stipend to attend an industry event to progress her innovation.

Student Open Days

In-person and online events

200+
prospective students

23
countries

4.5/5
satisfaction rating

Global ties: A WEHI alumni China reunion in Nanjing brought together over 30 staff, students and alumni, celebrating shared memories and creating new connections. The event marked a significant milestone - a rekindling of face-to-face engagement after a five-year hiatus.

Community and collaboration

Created by WEHI graduate students, Citizens of Science is a fun, hands-on course that introduces institute staff and members of the community to scientific principles.

In 2023 nine dedicated research student mentors led 15 people with no formal scientific background through their own diverse research projects, using cutting-edge biomedical research techniques.

Participants were introduced to the basics of biomedical science, including theory and communication.

Brain cancer is a devastating disease, with limited improvements in survival rates over the past 30 years.

In 2023 The Brain Cancer Centre launched a new campaign to raise awareness and vital funding for brain cancer research. The Public Diagnosis campaign features generous families donating their private diagnosis moments for the public to see.

This short film captures the moment Amy Stephenson's son Lachie was diagnosed with diffuse midline glioma. He passed away seven months later at just 19.

Pictured: Amy Stephenson in a still from the campaign.

The Centre for Biologic Therapies (CBT), a collaboration between WEHI and CSL, opened its newly refurbished labs in May.

The CBT combines WEHI's expertise in immunology, cancer, inflammatory disorders and infectious diseases with CSL's world-class human antibody library and experience in biologic drug discovery and development.

The centre fills a gap in the Australian biologics ecosystem and complements the National Drug Discovery Centre by offering multiple translational paths for therapeutic and diagnostic discoveries.

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WEHI's Consumer Program is one of the first and largest of its kind in Australia.

Inclusion of consumer perspectives and expertise is an inspiring and integral part of the Parkinson's Disease Research Centre, where consumers are embedded in labs to help researchers strategise and communicate their work.

Centre head Associate Professor Grant Dewson and consumer Sheenagh Bottrell (pictured) work closely together, bringing insights into the unique experience of living with Parkinson's disease to better direct research efforts.

The Visions of Discovery event brought the extended WEHI community together to farewell Professor Doug Hilton AO and celebrate the scientific discoveries, initiatives and achievements during his 14 years as WEHI director.

Leaders of the scientific community, government, supporters and collaborators gathered to honour Prof Hilton's outstanding and visionary legacy, with the event also showcasing the stunning 2023 Art of Science finalist artworks.

Pictured: Prof Hilton with WEHI supporters Jenny Tatchell (left), Helen Taafe and Michael Taafe (right).

A festive lunch was held in December at the Arts Centre Melbourne for members of the Walter and Eliza Hall Society – a special group of supporters who have chosen to leave gifts to WEHI in their Wills.

As part of the event, guests were treated to presentations from Professor Daniel Gray and Dr Charlotte Slade from the Immunology division and had the opportunity to meet with a range of researchers to find out more about their work.

Pictured: Society members Susan Graze (left) and Jennifer Walker (centre) with PhD researcher Joel Moffet.

Celebrating our graduating students

Students are highly valued members of research groups at WEHI and receive world-class training in medical research and broader skills equipping them for a range of careers. We are proud that many go on to become leaders of our sector.

Congratulations to the following students who successfully completed their studies at WEHI during 2023.

Doctor of Philosophy, University of Melbourne

Dr Rebecca Abbott
Engineering chimeric antigen receptor T cell therapy for glioblastoma
Associate Professor Misty Jenkins, Dr Ryan Cross

Dr Brodie Bailey
Discovery of antimalarials with novel mechanisms of action
Dr Brad Sleebs, Dr William Nguyen, Professor Alan Cowman

Dr Natalia Benetti
Developmental control of Hox genes by the epigenetic regulator SMCHD1
Professor Marnie Blewitt, Associate Professor Edwina McGlinn

Dr Melissa Biemond
A quantitative analysis of the PD-1 immune checkpoint in T cell proliferation
Dr Susanne Heinzel, Professor Phil Hodgkin, Professor Daniel Gray

Dr Wang Cao
Intestinal microfold cells orchestrate microbe immune interactions
Professor Gabrielle Belz, Professor Stephen Nutt

Dr Hao Chen
Targeting E3 substrate recruiters with small molecules
Dr Brad Sleebs, Professor Sandra Nicholson, Dr Christoph Grohmann

Dr Destiny Dalseno
Regulation of TNF expression through its 3' untranslated region
Professor John Silke, Professor Andreas Strasser, Dr Philippe Bouillet

Dr Xueyi Dong
Benchmarking long-read RNA-seq analysis methods
Professor Matthew Ritchie, Dr Charity Law, Professor Gordon Smyth

Dr Meg Elliott
Characterising the consequences of heterozygous CASP3 deletion in colorectal cancer
Associate Professor Oliver Sieber, Dr Anuratha Sakthianandeswaren, Professor Finlay Macrae

Dr Anna Gabrielyan
Identifying and characterising novel regulators of TRAIL-induced cell death and cholangitis-like liver injury
Professor John Silke, Dr Rebecca Feltham

Dr Zhong Yan Gan
Mechanism of PINK1 activation by autophosphorylation
Professor David Komander, Associate Professor Grant Dewson

Dr Ji-Ru Han
Development of novel pipelines to extract more genomic information from malaria parasite sequencing data
Professor Melanie Bahlo, Associate Professor Alyssa Barry, Professor Ivo Mueller

Dr Cassandra Harapas
A genetics-based investigation of NLRP1 driven autoinflammation
Professor Seth Masters, Dr Alan Yu

Dr Robert Hennessy
A quantitative analysis of natural killer cell homeostasis, competition, and collaboration
Dr Nicholas Huntington, Professor Phil Hodgkin

Dr Annette Vivi Jacobsen
Investigating molecular interactions in necroptosis and MLKL-mediated cell death
Professor James Murphy, Professor John Silke

Dr Rachel Joyce
Interrogating the cells-of-origin of BRCA mutant cancers to identify therapeutic targets for cancer prevention
Professor Jane Visvader, Professor Geoffrey Lindeman

Dr Narelle Keating
Investigating SOCS1 regulation of interferon signalling
Professor Sandra Nicholson, Dr Edmond Linossi

Dr Sachin Khurana
Exploring the ubiquitin proteasomal system in *Toxoplasma gondii*
Associate Professor Christopher Tonkin, Dr Rebecca Feltham, Dr Alessandro Uboldi

Dr Lung-Yu Liang
Characterisation of the receptor tyrosine pseudokinases, EphB6 and EphA10
Associate Professor Isabelle Lucet, Professor James Murphy, Dr Onisha Patel, Dr Debnath Ghosal

Dr Joy Liu
Long-term *in vivo* imaging of multiple myeloma in the bone marrow microenvironment
Associate Professor Edwin Hawkins, Professor Simon Harrison, Professor Stephen Nutt

Dr Runyu Mao
Probing the function of tryptophan C-mannosylation through chemical protein synthesis, biophysical studies, and simulation
Associate Professor Ethan Goddard-Borger, Dr Brad Sleebs

Dr Robyn McConville
Investigating protein export in *Plasmodium falciparum* liver stage infection
Associate Professor Justin Boddey, Professor Alan Cowman

Dr Yanxiang Meng
Mechanistic studies of RIPK3-mediated necroptosis in human cells
Professor James Murphy, Associate Professor Peter Czabotar, Dr Jarrod Sandow

Dr Myo Naung
The parasite genetic and host immunological determinants of immune escape in *Plasmodium falciparum* malaria
Associate Professor Alyssa Barry, Professor Ivo Mueller

Dr Halina Pietrzak
Understanding how malaria-induced T-bet expression impacts the development of protective immunity to infection
Associate Professor Diana Hansen, Dr Lisa Ioannidis, Professor Axel Kallies

Dr Joel Rimes
In vivo imaging of plasma cell dynamics in the bone marrow niche
Associate Professor Edwin Hawkins, Professor Phil Hodgkin

Dr Daniel Simpson
A genetics-based investigation into the regulation of RIPK1 and caspase-8 during cell death and disease
Associate Professor James Vince, Dr Rebecca Feltham, Dr Tracy Putoczki

Dr Olivia Stonehouse
Single cell resolution of hematopoietic stem and progenitor cell function and regulation during development
Dr Samir Taoudi, Dr Christine Biben

Dr Shian Su
Computational tools for long-read DNA methylation analysis and benchmarking complex single-cell genomics pipelines
Professor Matthew Ritchie, Dr Peter Hickey, Professor Marnie Blewitt, Professor Dianne Cook, Dr Quentin Gouil

Dr Tao Tan
Moving towards personalised therapeutics for bowel cancer using patient-derived tumour organoids
Associate Professor Oliver Sieber, Dr Anuratha Sakthianandeswaren

Dr Ilariya Tarasova
Deconvolving gene expression changes associated with time and cell division following B cell activation
Professor Gordon Smyth, Professor Phil Hodgkin

Dr Gemma van Duijneveldt
Interleukin-6 family cytokines contribute to pancreatic cancer pathogenesis and can be targeted therapeutically
Dr Tracy Putoczki, Associate Professor Michael Griffin, Professor Sean Grimmond

Dr Shiqi (Stacie) Wang
Chimeric antigen receptor T cell therapy in diffuse midline glioma
Associate Professor Misty Jenkins, Dr Ryan Cross, Dr Seong Khaw

Dr Mary Louise Wilde
Signaling pathways in apicomplexan parasites
Associate Professor Christopher Tonkin, Professor David Komander

Dr Daryl Wilding-McBride
The investigation of algorithmic approaches for improved peptide feature detection in 4D LC-MS data
Associate Professor Andrew Webb, Dr Giuseppe Infusini

Dr Kharizta Wiradiputri
The function and druggability of *Cryptosporidium parvum* aspartyl proteases
Associate Professor Christopher Tonkin, Professor Alan Cowman

Dr Yue You
Benchmarking and methods development for single-cell RNA-seq analysis
Professor Matthew Ritchie, Dr Peter Hickey, Dr Charity Law, Professor Gordon Smyth

Dr Zheng Yuan
Functional and structural characterisation of VDAC2 in BAK-mediated apoptosis
Associate Professor Peter Czabotar, Dr Richard Birkinshaw, Associate Professor Grant Dewson

Master of Biomedical Science, University of Melbourne

Sophie Collard
Investigating inflammation driven by proteasome dysfunction and inhibition
Dr Sophia Davidson, Professor Seth Masters, Associate Professor Edwin Hawkins

Master of Philosophy, University of Melbourne

Dr Christine Kumudhini Muttiah
The role of Venetoclax in the treatment of breast cancer
Professor Geoffrey Lindeman, Dr Catherine Oakman

Bachelor of Science (Honours) or Bachelor of Biomedicine (Honours), University of Melbourne

Anju Abraham
Improving surveillance for recent and current *Plasmodium vivax* infections in regions aiming for malaria elimination
Dr Rhea Longley, Lauren Smith, Professor Ivo Mueller

Wayne Cawthorne
The when, where, and how of necroptotic cell death
Professor James Murphy, Dr Andre Samson, Dr Chris Horne

Natasha Dyson
Innovative methods to improve the detection and control of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*
Dr Shivani Pasricha, Professor Deborah Williamson, Georgina Pollock

Rhiannon Fettes
Establishing screens to assess immune dysregulation in common variable immunodeficiency
Dr Vanessa Bryant, Dr Lauren Howson

Felicia Hendrianto
Slicing through the sweet husk of cancer cells: harnessing a novel human enzyme as a cancer therapeutic
Professor David Komander, Jon Bernadini, Dr Yuri Shibata

Michelle Jahja
Understanding what limits the action of the anti-cancer agent, venetoclax
Professor David Huang, Dr Rachel Thijssen, Dr Christine White

Ash Kerr
Determining the survival reprogramming from naïve to activated human T cells
Dr Susanne Heinzel, Professor Phil Hodgkin

Rebekka Krishtul
Understanding the architecture and assembly of the KAT6A/B complex and functional analysis of its individual subunits
Dr Shabih Shakeel, Associate Professor Tim Thomas, Dr Winnie Tan

Katrina Larcher
Investigating the changing role of glideosome-associated proteins across *Plasmodium falciparum* development
Dr Matt Dixon, Professor James McCarthy, Dr Hayley Buchanan

Tianyao Lu
Integrative analysis of metabolic interactions in glioma using multi-omics approaches
Dr Saskia Freytag, Dr Sarah Best, Dr Jim Whittle

Bhagya Mendis
Characterisation of the MNT:Sin3 interaction as a potential target for developing anti-cancer drugs
Associate Professor Peter Czabotar, Dr Michelle Miller

Dips Thaker
Running out of air: TNF signaling in hypoxia
Professor John Silke, Dr Lorraine O'Reilly

Bailey Williams
Stem cell-like skewed vaccination: A novel approach for modulating immune responses
Associate Professor Joanna Groom, Dr Vanessa Bryant

Xiao Xiao
How to make a ripr malaria vaccine: Revealing the molecular structure of PfRipr inhibitory epitopes
Professor Alan Cowman, Dr Stephen Scally

Bachelor of Biomedicine graduate Rhiannon Fettes.

WEHI Board

The directors of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research Board
31 December 2023

L-R: WEHI Board members Marie McDonald, Professor Sir John Savill, Professor Jane Gunn AO, Professor Duncan Maskell, Jane Hemstritch AO, John Dyson, Associate Professor Pippa Connolly, Kee Wong, Geoff Roberts, Malcolm Broomhead AO.

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Jane Hemstritch AO

BSc (Hons) *London University* FICAEW FAICD

Appointed: October 2013
Appointed President: May 2019

Vice President

Professor Sir John Savill

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Appointed: August 2018
Appointed Vice-President: March 2021

Honorary Treasurer

Geoff Roberts

BComm *Melbourne* FCA FAICD Exec MBA AGSM

Appointed: September 2022
Appointed Honorary Treasurer: May 2023

Board members

Malcolm Broomhead AO

BE (Civil) MBA *UQ* FIE (Aus) FAusIMM FAIM MICE (UK) FAICD

Appointed: July 2014

Associate Professor (Practice) Pippa Connolly

MEng *Leeds* GAICD CPEng(ret) FIEAust

Appointed: April 2019

John Dyson

BSc *Monash* Grad Dip Fin Inv *SIA* MBA *RMIT*

Appointed: May 2016

Professor Jane Gunn AO

MBBS PhD *Melbourne* FAHMS FRACGP DRANZCOG

Appointed: February 2021

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Board members not present in group photograph: Professor Christine Kilpatrick AO (top right), Carolyn Viney (middle right) and Dr Angeli Weller (bottom right).

Professor Christine Kilpatrick AO

MBBS MBA MD DMedSci (Hons) *Melbourne* FRACP FRACMA FAICD FAHMS

Appointed: May 2017

Professor Duncan Maskell

MA *Cantab* PhD *Cantab* FMedSci Hon Assoc RCVS

Appointed: May 2023

Marie McDonald

BSc (Hons) LLB (Hons) *Melbourne*

Appointed: October 2016

Carolyn Viney

LLB/BA *Monash*

Appointed: December 2016

Dr Angeli Weller

BA (Hons) *Mount Holyoke* MBA *Cambridge* PhD *Copenhagen Business School*

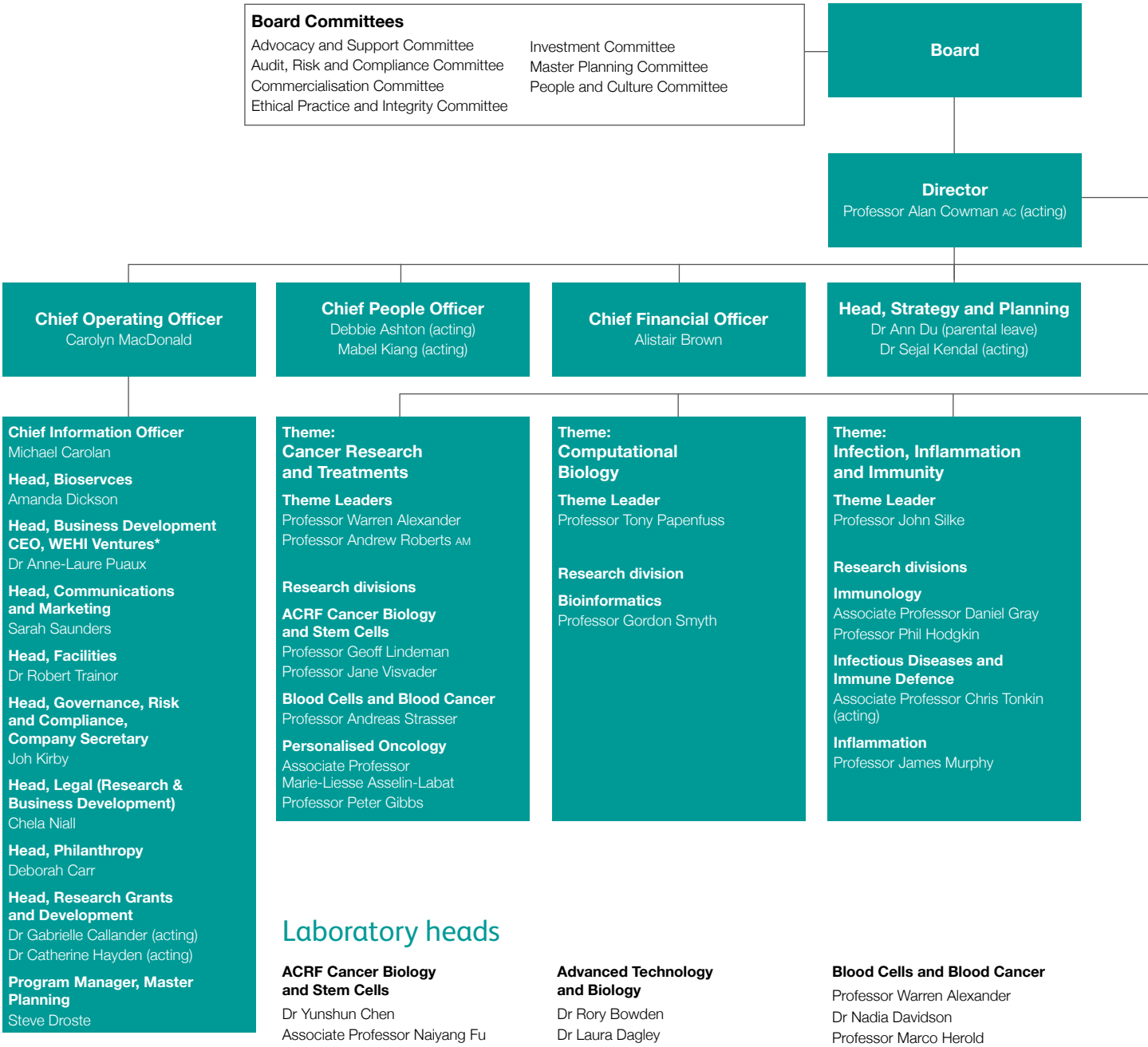
Appointed: March 2022

Kee Wong

BE (Hons) Grad Dip Computing MBA FAICD

Appointed: July 2021

Organisational structure 31 December 2023



Laboratory heads

ACRF Cancer Biology and Stem Cells
Dr Yunshun Chen
Associate Professor Naiyang Fu
Professor Geoff Lindeman
Professor Clare Scott AM
Associate Professor Kate Sutherland
Professor Jane Visvader

ACRF Chemical Biology
Associate Professor Ethan Goddard-Borger
Professor Guillaume Lessene
Associate Professor Isabelle Lucet
Dr Brad Sleebs

Advanced Technology and Biology
Dr Rory Bowden
Dr Laura Dagley
Dr Marija Dramicanin
Associate Professor Kym Lowes
Simon Monard
Associate Professor Kelly Rogers OAM
Dr Maria Tanzer
Ellen Tsui
Associate Professor Andrew Webb
Kaye Wycherley

Bioinformatics
Professor Tony Papenfuss
Dr Belinda Phipson
Professor Gordon Smyth
Professor Terry Speed

Blood Cells and Blood Cancer
Professor Warren Alexander
Dr Nadia Davidson
Professor Marco Herold
Professor David Huang
Associate Professor Gemma Kelly
Associate Professor Ruth Kluck
Associate Professor Ian Majewski
Professor Andrew Roberts AM
Professor Andreas Strasser
Professor Andrew Wei

Clinical Discovery and Translation
Professor Clare Scott AM
Professor Ian Wicks

*Reports to the director

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Management Committees

Diversity and Inclusion Committee
Gender Equality Committee
Reconciliation Committee
Education Committee
Environmental Management and Sustainability Committee
Executive Leadership Team
Learning and Career Committee
Occupational Health and Safety Committee
Professional Services Leadership Team
Risk Management Committee
Strategic Cabinet

Legislative Scheme Committees

Animal Ethics Committee
Biosafety Committee
Human Research Ethics Committee

Deputy Director
Professor Marnie Blewitt (acting)
Professor Sant-Rayn Pasricha (acting)

Head, Scientific Education
Associate Professor Melissa Call

Head, Research Integrity and Ethics
Associate Professor Ian Majewski

Theme: Healthy Development and Ageing

Theme Leader
Professor Melanie Bahlo AM

Research divisions

Epigenetics and Development
Professor Anne Voss

Population Health and Immunity
Professor Ivo Mueller

Ubiquitin Signalling
Professor David Komander

Theme: New Medicines and Advanced Technologies

Theme Leader
Professor Guillaume Lessene

Research divisions

ACRF Chemical Biology
Associate Professor Isabelle Lucet

Advanced Technology and Biology
Associate Professor Kelly Rogers OAM

Structural Biology
Associate Professor Matthew Call
Professor Peter Czabotar

Australian Centre for Targeted Therapeutics
Dr Joanne Boag

Brain Cancer Centre
Sam McGuane

Centre for Biologic Therapies
Dr Jenny Vo

Centre for Dynamic Imaging
Associate Professor Kelly Rogers OAM

Clinical Discovery and Translation
Professor Clare Scott AM
Professor Ian Wicks

Colonial Foundation Healthy Ageing Centre
Associate Professor Andrew Webb

National Drug Discovery Centre
Dr Jeff Mitchell

Parkinson's Disease Research Centre
Associate Professor Grant Dewson

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Professor Marnie Blewitt
Professor Joan Heath
Dr Hamish King
Professor Matthew Ritchie
Associate Professor Tim Thomas
Dr Stephin Vervoort
Professor Anne Voss

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Associate Professor Rhys Allan
Dr Vanessa Bryant
Professor Daniel Gray
Associate Professor Joanna Groom
Professor Phil Hodgkin
Associate Professor Misty Jenkins AO
Associate Professor Shalin Naik
Professor Stephen Nutt
Dr Charlotte Slade
Associate Professor Jason Tye-Din

Infectious Diseases and Immune Defence
Associate Professor Justin Boddey
Dr Anna Coussens
Professor Alan Cowman AC
Professor James McCarthy
Associate Professor Chris Tonkin
Professor Deborah Williamson

Inflammation
Associate Professor Edwin Hawkins
Professor Seth Masters
Professor James Murphy
Professor Sandra Nicholson
Professor John Silke
Associate Professor James Vince
Professor Ian Wicks

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Associate Professor Marie-Liesse Asselin-Labat
Dr Sarah Best
Dr Saskia Freytag
Professor Peter Gibbs
Associate Professor Tracy Putoczki
Associate Professor Oliver Sieber
Dr Jim Whittle

Population Health and Immunity
Professor Melanie Bahlo AM
Professor Len Harrison
Associate Professor Aaron Jex
Professor Ivo Mueller
Professor Sant-Rayn Pasricha
Associate Professor Rosie Watson
Associate Professor Nawaf Yassi

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Associate Professor Matthew Call
Associate Professor Melissa Call
Professor Peter Czabotar
Dr Alisa Glukhova
Dr Nadia Kershaw
Dr Shabih Shakeel

Ubiquitin Signalling
Associate Professor Grant Dewson
Dr Rebecca Feltham
Professor David Komander
Associate Professor Michael Lazarou
Dr Bernhard Lechtenberg

Members of WEHI to 31 December 2023

The Royal Melbourne Hospital
The University of Melbourne
Dr Susan Alberti AC
Professor Emeritus Robin Anders
Professor Emeritus James Angus AO
Donald Argus AC
Barry Axtens
Lisa Bardas
Paul Barnett
Helen Barry
Ann Bates
Robert Bates
Dr Elsmaree Baxter
Dr Glenn Begley
Professor Claude Bernard
Professor Rufus Black
Ngaree Blow
Andrew Brookes
Ken Broomhead OAM
Malcolm Broomhead AO
Rosalind Brown
Professor Emeritus Graham Brown AM
Dr Gerard Brownstein
Beverley Brownstein
Sally Bruce
Dr Margaret Brumby AM
John Brumby AO
Ian Brumby
Professor Tony Burgess AC
Professor Christopher Burrell AO
Greg Camm
Terry Campbell AO
Saul Cannon
Kate Cannon
Dr Amanda Caples
Gill Carter
Pat Cashin
Emeritus Professor Colin Chapman
John Chatterton AM
Dr Julian Clark
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Peter Collins
Pippa Connolly
Jacqui Cooper
Dr Paul Cooper
Professor Lynn Corcoran
Glenn Corke
Ian Coulson
Dr Nicholas Crosbie
Joan Curtis
Professor Andrew Cuthbertson AO
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Ern Dawes OBE
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Professor Karen Day
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Professor John Denton
Mick Dexter
Angelo Di Grazia
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Melda Donnelly OAM
Professor Ashley Dunn
John Dyson
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Dr Martin Elhay
Garry Emery
Dr Peter Eng
Professor Sir Marc Feldmann AC
Wendy Fisher
Mike Fitzpatrick AO
Pauline Flanagan
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Nolene Fraser
Professor Ian Frazer AC
Dr Neil Galbraith
Sarah Galbraith
Ian Galbraith
Pamela Galli AO
Kelli Garrison
Dr Andrew Gearing
Louise Gehrig
Barry Gilbert
Janet Gilbertson
Peter Gilbertson
Rose Gilder
Professor James Goding
Charles Goode AC
Dr Gareth Goodier
Andrea Gowers
John Grace AO
Maureen Grant
Tony Gray
Jean Hadges
Professor Emanuela Handman
Michael Harris
Harry Hearn AM
Jane Hemstritch AO
Deborah Henderson
Professor David Hill AO
Professor Doug Hilton AO
Janet Hirst
Professor The Hon Greg Hunt
Jon Isaacs
Murray Jeffs
Jose Jimenez
Terese Johns
Professor Shitij Kapur
Helen Kennan
Rowan Kennedy
Rob Kilcullen
Margot Kilcullen
Professor Christine Kilpatrick AO
Emeritus Professor Frank Larkins AM
Professor Richard Larkins AC

Belinda Lawson
Gary Liddell
Dr Rowena MacKean OAM
Dr Alexander Macphee
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Karen Mahlab AM
Lorrie Mandel
Josephine Marshall
John Marshall AM
Barrie Marshall
Emeritus Professor Jack Martin AO
Professor Duncan Maskell
Erich Mayer AM
Netta McArthur
Professor James McCluskey AO
Marie McDonald
Professor John McKenzie AM
Kate McMahon
Tim McMahon
Professor Kathryn McPherson
Professor Frederick Mendelsohn AO
Kate Metcalf
Johanna Metcalf
Professor Jacques Miller AC
Professor John Mills AO
Robert Minter
Dr Graham Mitchell AO
Professor Christina Mitchell
Barry Moore
Terry Moran AC
Barbara Morgan
Hugh Morgan AC
Dr George Morstyn
Tony Murphy
John Murphy
Linda Nicholls AO
Sandra Nicola
Professor Nick Nicola AO
Rainey Norins
Maureen O'Keefe
Bill O'Shea
Emeritus Professor Roger Pepperell AM
Gayle Petty
Emeritus Professor Jim Pittard AM
Lady Primrose Potter AC
John Prescott AC
The Hon Jaala Pulford
Cathy Quilici
Denis Quilici
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Kate Redwood AM
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Associate Professor Ken Roberts AM
Linda Rodger
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Karen Roebuck
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Professor Graeme Ryan AC
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Keith Satterley
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Anne Schumacher-Carson
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Andrew Scott
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Sam Sharman OAM
Professor Ken Shortman
Lousje Skala
Steven Skala AO
Professor Stephen Smith
Jack Smorgon AO
Sally Speed
Professor Terry Speed
Ann Sprague
Professor Tom Spurling
Geoffrey Stewardson
Dr John Stocker AO
Jennifer Strangward
John Stratton
Kate Summers
Helen Sykes
Jenny Tatchell
Bruce Teele
Chris Thomas AM
Cheryl Thomas
Professor David Vaux AO
Carolyn Viney
Kyoung Walker
John Walker KC
Stanley Wallis AC
Peter Walsh
Catherine Walter AM
John Walter
John Warburton
Robert Warren
Catherine Watt
Kevin Weight
Dr Angeli Weller
Professor Richard Wettenhall
Dr Senga Whittingham
Dr Mark Wickham
David Williamson
Malcolm Williamson
Professor Robert Williamson AO
Professor Ingrid Winship AO
Sally Wood
Peter Worcester
Rob Wylie
Professor Quan Zhao

WEHI remembers those members who passed away in 2023

Marc Besen AC
Sir Andrew Grimwade CBE

Statistical summary

	2023 $'000s	2022 $'000s	2021 $'000s	2020 $'000s	2019 $'000s
Operating revenue					
Australian Government	56,864	56,930	59,900	64,798	46,298
Victorian Government	9,175	9,598	9,883	10,311	10,513
Foreign governments	725	380	35	-	70
Government revenue	**66,764**	**66,909**	**69,818**	**75,109**	**56,881**
Industrial grants and contracts	20,732	17,588	12,181	13,439	8,689
Philanthropic grants and fellowships - Australia	15,874	10,510	12,563	9,870	13,399
Philanthropic grants and fellowships - international	6,119	6,007	2,885	4,649	3,343
Investment income	33,221	35,740	29,518	19,996	24,156
Royalty income	611	2,434	770	1,654	7,483
General revenue	7,481	7,300	9,105	6,842	8,916
Donations and bequests	20,958	31,949	28,227	26,522	15,449
Royalty monetisation revenue	-	-	27,590	38,961	35,633
Non-government revenue	**104,996**	**111,528**	**122,839**	**121,933**	**117,068**
Total revenue	**171,760**	**178,437**	**192,657**	**197,042**	**173,949**
Operating expenditure					
Staff costs	137,819	121,581	109,662	102,547	98,340
Scientific laboratories	29,718	26,535	24,561	20,212	23,435
Building operations	6,544	6,254	5,585	5,092	5,908
Administration	24,874	13,233	14,716	11,520	8,648
Fundraising	919	911	518	502	620
Business development	3,423	2,355	9,200	2,725	1,219
Allowance for credit loss increase/(decrease)	1,551	0	(32)	(30)	62
Royalty monetisation costs	-	-	(4,418)	2,239	10,104
Net foreign exchange loss/(gain)	(1,010)	(6,413)	(4,669)	10,282	477
Total expenditure	**203,838**	**164,455**	**155,123**	**155,089**	**148,813**
Results from operating activities	**(32,078)**	**13,981**	**37,534**	**41,953**	**25,136**
Other income					
Profit/(loss) on sale of long-term assets	-	-	161	(135)	297
Fair value gain/(loss) on investments	3,501	(8,432)	10,549	816	5,261
Share of profits of equity accounted investments	457	2,011	-	-	-
Gain on merger	-	4,068	-	-	-
Donations and bequests capitalised to Permanent Funds	161	1,620	26,659	673	1,359
Total other income	**4,119**	**(733)**	**37,369**	**1,354**	**6,917**
Other expenses					
Loss on impairment write-down of long-term investments			-	-	-
Depreciation and amortisation	(14,185)	(13,746)	(12,959)	(11,871)	(10,941)
Impairment of property, plant and equipment	-	(142)	(4,422)	-	-
Total other expenses	**(14,185)**	**(13,888)**	**(17,381)**	**(11,871)**	**(10,941)**
Net operating (deficit)/surplus	**(42,143)**	**(640)**	**57,522**	**31,436**	**21,112**
Capital funds					
Permanent invested capital funds	244,672	240,122	229,672	202,322	198,833
General funds	416,697	408,197	419,077	394,285	371,193
Royalty fund	-	55,822	56,389	56,135	55,039
Leadership fund	37,353	35,259	30,225	28,927	27,965
Discovery fund	6,785	6,341	5,746	5,484	5,271
Investment revaluation reserve	118,084	82,526	125,878	70,311	67,200
Total funds	**823,591**	**828,267**	**866,987**	**757,464**	**725,501**
Capital expenditure					
Property, plant and equipment	15,146	15,266	15,710	24,195	12,252
Staff numbers: (equivalent full-time)	**2023**	**2022**	**2021**	**2020**	**2019**
Scientific research staff:					
- Senior faculty	80	82	74	85	87
- Postdoctoral scientists	285	276	252	224	213
- Visiting scientists	7	12	8	32	34
- Other laboratory research staff	345	347	313	240	240
Supporting staff:					
- Other support services	223	193	180	177	175
Total staff and visiting scientists	**940**	**910**	**827**	**758**	**749**
Students	**182**	**197**	**194**	**159**	**206**
Papers published	**478**	**484**	**477**	**424**	**388**

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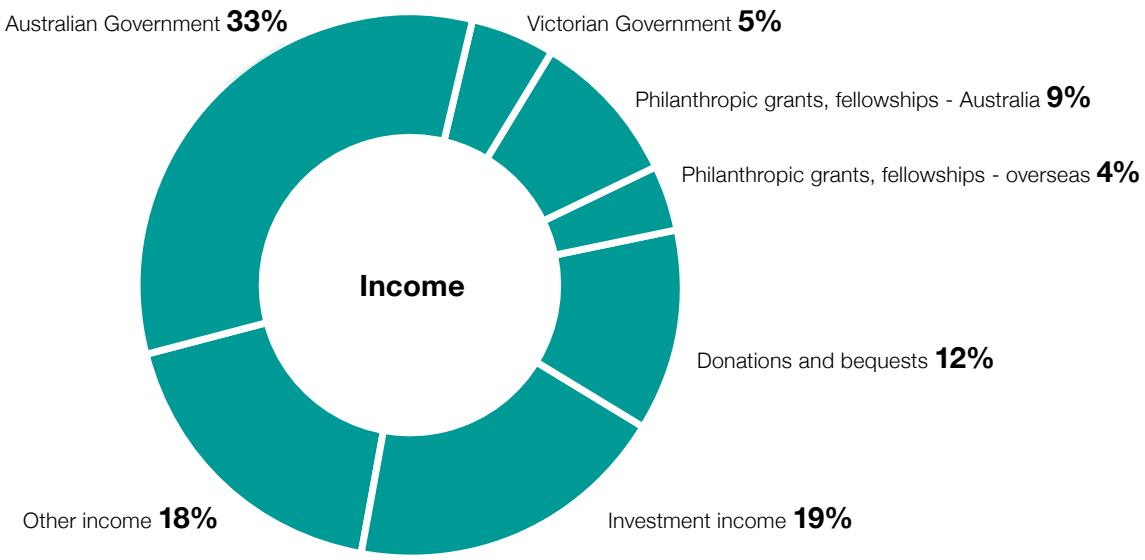
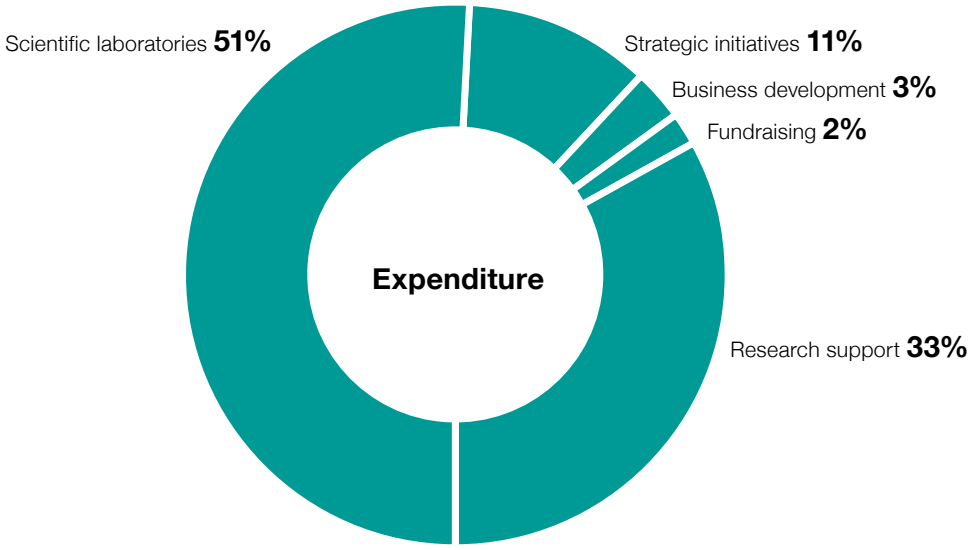
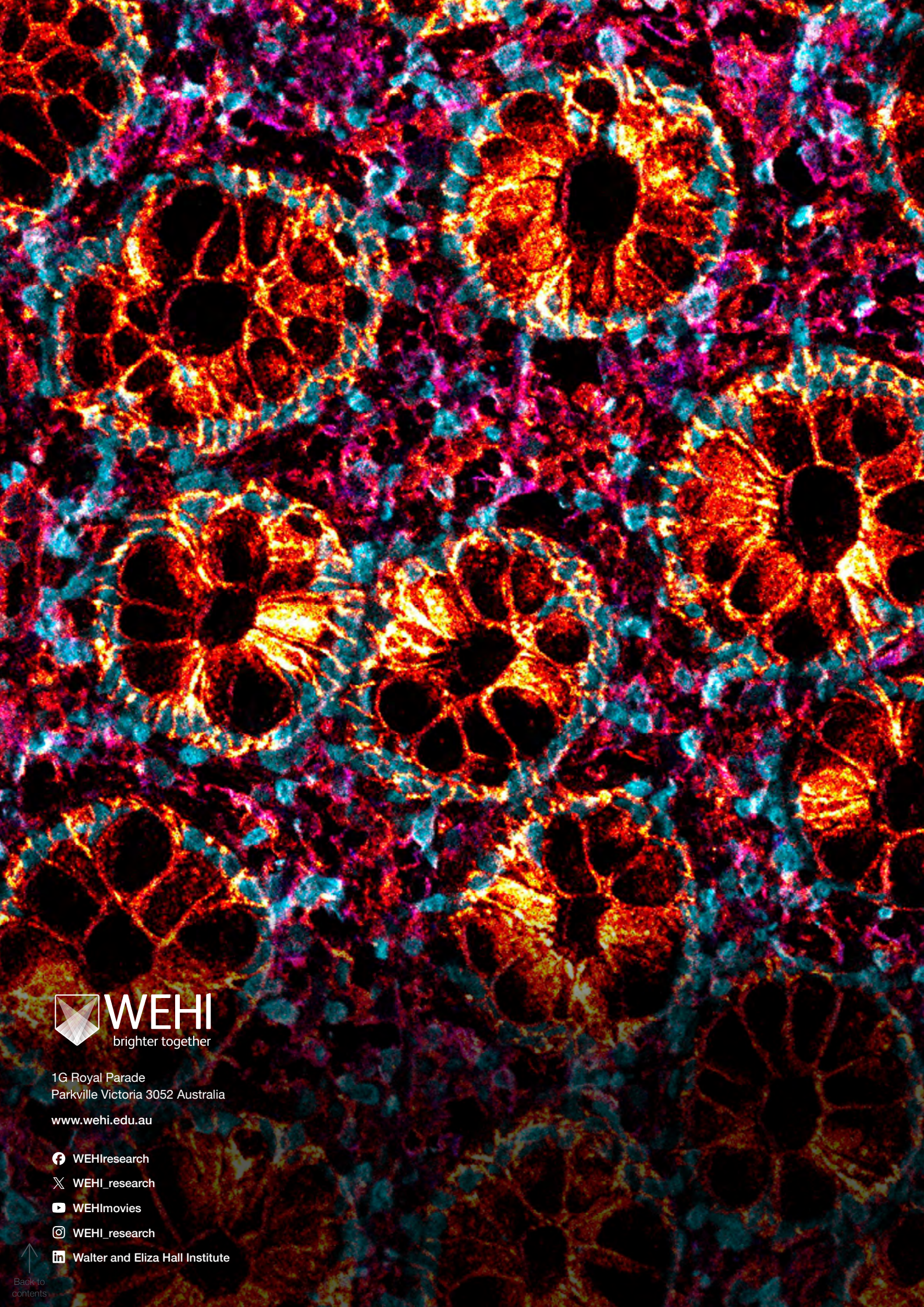
The year at a glance





The Year In Brief	2023 $'000	2022 $'000
Income for operations	**171,760**	**178,437**
Expenditure in operations	**219,032**	**185,086**
Net surplus (deficit) from operations	**(47,272)**	**(6,649)**
Number of staff and visiting scientists	**940**	**910**
Number of postgraduate students	**182**	**197**
Total staff and students (EFT)s	**1,122**	**1,107**



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