



MEDIA RELEASE
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BIG DOLLARS FOR CANCER RESEARCH DESPITE DOWNTURN

DESPITE the growing world financial crisis medical researchers in Australia are once again being offered the chance to receive substantial funding in their ongoing fight to find a cure for cancer.

The Australian Cancer Researcher Foundation (ACRF) is calling for applications nationally from leading scientists for cancer research grants of \$1.5 million to \$5 million for capital works, facilities, equipment and national cancer research enterprises.

Professor Ian Frazer, co-inventor of the world's first cervical cancer vaccine, is Chair of the ACRF's prestigious Medical Research Advisory Committee.

"Only major research initiatives, with a high chance of success and meeting a criterion of global research excellence will qualify for this critical funding" commented Professor Frazer.

"Each year we routinely assess upwards of \$50 million in applications for potentially ground-breaking projects and the applications are increasing in quality, number and value..

"The foundation is in cancer research for the long haul, continually striving to provide up to \$10 million each year for infrastructure, but there is still a long way to go to meet the demand" Frazer added.

For more than 25 years now, the Australian Cancer Research Foundation, established by Sir Peter Abeles in 1984, has awarded \$55 million in cancer grants nationally. Despite the tightening economy, the past three years have been Australian Cancer Research Foundation's biggest funding years ever. Almost \$25 million in grants have been awarded to projects now underway at many of Australia's leading cancer research institutes in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Brisbane and Hobart.

"It is my belief that one day, with the invaluable contributions of individuals and companies to cancer research, we will see cancer become a condition which can be managed and even prevented", said ACRF's Chief Executive, David Brettell.



First stage Grant Applications close on Friday May 8, 2009.

Ends

Attached: Grant Announcement

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