



Australian
Cancer Research
Foundation



Media release

Advanced cancer research facility opens at Menzie's

28 September 2010

Researchers at the Menzie's Research Institute Tasmania now have access to some of the world's leading cancer technology, thanks to a \$1.1 million grant from the Australian Cancer Research Foundation (ACRF).

Minister of Health, Michelle O'Byrne will today [1.15pm, September 28] open the ACRF Tasmanian Inherited Cancer Centre at the University of Tasmania's Medical Science 1 building.

One in three Australians will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime.

The new ACRF Tasmanian Inherited Cancer Centre focuses on cancers in which family history is a high risk factor. These include prostate cancer and blood cancers such as leukaemia.

"Inherited cancers account for five to 10 per cent of all cancers," said ACRF chair, Tom Dery.

"The ACRF Tasmanian Inherited Cancer Centre is a world class facility that brings together geneticists, biologists, clinicians and ethicists from across Tasmania who are committed to identifying genes that predispose people to cancer," he said.

"The Menzie's cancer research program is a gift from Tasmania, not only to the rest of Australia, but to the world.

"The work done at the ACRF Tasmanian Inherited Cancer Centre will do much to lift the shadow of fear from those with a family history of cancer," Mr Dery said.

The new Centre houses a customised robot that rapidly screens for potential genetic markers important to identifying the onset and progress of disease as well as a laser microscope that can select individual cells and chromosomes.

"The ACRF Tasmanian Inherited Cancer Centre enables our researchers to fast track their crucial research into preventing or finding better treatments for inherited cancers," Director of Menzie's, Professor Simon Foote said.

"The ACRF Centre also provides our researchers with advanced IT infrastructure for our genealogical database and genetic analyses, enabling us to take advantage of the latest advances in gene analysis technology," he said.

"This is not only vital for our current research programs but also vital for the expansion of our program to include other cancers.

"This new technology can save us years of research and boost better outcomes for people with cancer.

"These advances would not be possible without the support of organisations such as the Australian Cancer Research Foundation," Professor Foote said.

ENDS

AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW TODAY AT 1.00PM

- WHO:** 1. Mr Tom Dery, Chair, Australian Cancer Research Foundation
2. Professor Simon Foote, Director, Menzies
3. Cancer Patient
- WHAT:** Official Launch of ACRF Tasmanian Inherited Cancer Centre by Michelle O'Byrne [at 1.15PM]
- WHEN:** 1.00 PM Tuesday 28 September (TODAY)
- WHERE:** Menzies Research Institute Tasmania
Medical Science 1
17 Liverpool Street, Hobart

Footage and images

Vision of VIP's and the Tasmanian Inherited Cancer Centre including robotic technology and laser dissection microscope available immediately after official launch at 1.45pm

Menzies Research Institute Tasmania (Menzies)

Menzies Research Institute Tasmania is renowned internationally for its innovation and research excellence that utilises the unique competitive advantages Tasmania offers, including a small island geography, stable population and extensive genealogical records. Our research aims to achieve advances in knowledge and to contribute to the translation of that knowledge into clinical benefits for the whole community. Our ultimate goal is to cure or prevent disease and save lives.

Australian Cancer Research Foundation

One in three Australians will be told they have cancer. And the Australian Cancer Research Foundation is determined to help find the cures. ACRF supports high-level research into the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of all cancers by funding vital infrastructure. Since 1984, thanks to the generosity of the community, ACRF has awarded \$62 million to respected Australian institutes; \$40 million of that in the past five years. All donations go directly to cancer research: www.acrf.com.au.

For more information contact:

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