

ANZHCNS Research Foundation

Report to AGM

Adelaide Convention Centre

30 August, 2025

The Society membership is reminded that the Foundation is managed by an advisory Board reporting to the Trustee of the Foundation, which is the Executive of the Society.

Current Board Membership

Chair Associate Professor Kerwin Shannon, Head & Neck Surgeon, Sydney

Treasurer Dr Felix Sim, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon, Melbourne

Immediate Past President, Professor Eng H Ooi, Otolaryngologist Head & Neck Surgeon, Adelaide

Scientific Committee Chair, Dr Jacqui Frowen, Clinical Lead Speech Pathologist, Victoria

Committee Members

Associate Professor Martin Batstone, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon, Brisbane

Dr Suren Krishnan, Otolaryngologist Head & Neck Surgeon, Adelaide

Dr Ryan Sommerville, Otolaryngologist Head & Neck Surgeon, Brisbane

Professor Swee Tan, Plastic & Reconstructive Surgeon, New Zealand

Scientific Committee

Chair

Dr Jacqui Frowen, Clinical Lead Speech Pathologist, Melbourne

Committee Members

Associate Professor Martin Batstone, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon, Queensland

Dr Tim Iseli, Otolaryngologist Head & Neck Surgeon, Victoria

Professor Camile Farah, Oral Medicine/Pathology/Oncology Specialist, Western Australia

Dr Alesha Thai, Medical Oncologist, Victoria

Dr Chris Daniels, Radiation Oncologist, Victoria

Dr Rebecca Packer, Speech Language Pathologist, Queensland

Head and Neck Cancer Research Foundation Aotearoa

(A separate report has been tabled.)

Other than the changes of the ex-officio positions, there have again been no significant changes to the make-up of the Board nor the Scientific Committee. None are anticipated in the coming year, however members are encouraged to approach the Board or Society Executive members if you are willing to make a contribution. A non-clinical or community representative on the Foundation Board, and New Zealand representation on the Scientific Committee has not been found since the last AGM.

Fundraising

All of the contributions to the Foundation in the last 12 months have been either from member donations and modest contributions from workplace giving. The Treasurer reported a significant improvement in the Foundation's financial position over the previous financial year, but the reality is that the difference is due to a large substantial donation from an individual. In the previous calendar year, the majority of donations were directed to the Trudi Shine Adenoid Cystic Fund and again we are grateful for the ongoing support of Doug Strain, Trudi's family and friends. We are looking forward to the Gala Ball in November, with proceeds to be shared between the Foundation and Head and Neck Cancer Australia. It is a sold-out event, but those too slow to have acquired

tickets are encouraged to check out online items, or simply to make donations to bolster the outcome of the event. I remind members also of the mechanism allowing donations to the Foundation at the time of membership renewal – a donation of \$100 from each member would allow at least ongoing grants totalling \$20000 a year. Fundraising activities are also taking place throughout the ASM, particularly at the meeting dinner.

At the end of the financial year, the Foundation's net assets were held \$88 854, a slight increase over the previous year, so once again there are still sufficient to offer modest grants in the coming year.

Funds in the Foundation include:

- General Fund
- Heschel Wiesenfeld Fund - for research into oral and oropharyngeal cancer
- Skull Base fund
- The Trudi Shine Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma Research Fund
- Reconstructive Surgery Fund
- Lauren Barrett Fund - for research into OCSCC in the Young

Grants

The grants process was repeated this year, in that applicants were invited to submit initially an expression of interest. 11 applications were submitted, 9 for the general fund and one each for the Lauren Barrett Fund and Trudi Shine Fund. Four invited to submit a full application. Two unfortunately did not proceed because of late ethics applications and discussions have been had at our most recent Board meeting to try and ameliorate this issue in later years.

As was announced in the opening Plenary Session, grants for 2025 were awarded to

Fund: General Fund

Name: A/Prof Daniel Xing

Title: Circulating human papillomavirus (HPV) DNA for surveillance of HPV-related oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma (HPV OPSCC)

Institution: Townsville University Hospital & James Cook University

Amount requested/awarded: \$10,000 (over 12 months)

Fund: Lauren Barrett fund

Name: Dr Rebecca Venchiarutti

Title: Investigating the rise in tongue cancer in young people in Australia: preparatory work for a case-control study

Institution: Chris O'Brien Lifecare, Sydney

Amount requested/awarded: \$10,000 (over 12 months)

Fund: Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma fund

Name: Dr Rajdeep Chakraborty

Title: Functionalised nanoparticles transforming adenoid cystic carcinoma into an immune hot tumour

Institution: Macquarie University

Amount requested/awarded: \$9,984 (over 12 months)

I acknowledge again ongoing support from the Barrett family and Doug Strain. My thanks again for the work of Jacqui Frowen and the Scientific committee, and for the ongoing support of Board Members and the TAS secretariat.