

THE NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH TRUST

SUPPORTING CANCER RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO

The New Zealand Institute for Cancer Research Trust was formed in 1986, with the aim of establishing a fund to encourage and support cancer research in New Zealand.

In 2005, the New Zealand Institute for Cancer Research Trust contributed significantly to the University of Otago's Leading Thinkers Initiative. The gift was matched by the Government under the Partnership for Excellence Programme, creating the Professorial Chair in Cancer Pathology at Otago's Dunedin School of Medicine. The Chair provides a dynamic means of ensuring quality and continuous efforts are focused on the study of cancer.

Professor Michael Eccles was appointed to the Chair in December 2006. He completed a PhD in Biochemistry at the University of Otago, before gaining his postdoctoral qualifications at Princeton University. Professor Eccles has been involved in important discoveries with the PAX family of genes – some of which appear to play a key role in the ability of cancer cells to survive – as well as other prominent discoveries in cancer therapeutics and genetics.

Eccles says the establishment and appointment of the Chair strengthens cancer research at the University of Otago, "New Zealand has some of the worst cancer statistics in the OECD and the creation of a Chair like this will go some way to helping address those poor figures."

Professor Eccles focuses on gene expression profiling in his research practice using human cells and tissue from a number of cancer types, including one of the most prevalent cancers in New Zealand, melanoma. This skin cancer is by far, the most serious, giving New Zealand women the highest skin cancer death rate in the world, ahead of Australia.

This Chair will contribute to the research environment in perpetuity. But, for Professor Eccles and those who come after him, continued and sustained research funding is required. Further support for the laboratory, staff, PhD and post-doctoral students is critical to understanding and solving the riddle of cancer.

Dr John Broughton

CHAIRMAN OF THE NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH TRUST



Dr Aaron Jess and Professor Michael Eccles (right) contemplate the spectrum of gene expression in a metastatic melanoma cell line. Each purple dot represents the expression of a single gene; they are putting up to 20,000 genes under the spotlight at any one time. Their aim is to unravel the secrets of melanoma.

Donations to the New Zealand Institute for Cancer Research Trust are always welcome. Please forward to:

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Receipts will be issued for all donations. The Trust is a registered Charitable Trust and all donations are tax deductible.

Bequests can also be made to the New Zealand Institute for Cancer Research Trust.

All donations to the Trust are invested in perpetuity and managed by Guardian Trust. Income from the Trust provides the financial resources to continue and sustain support for the Chair of Cancer Pathology at the University of Otago.

We are deeply grateful to the many generous benefactors to the New Zealand Institute for Cancer Research Trust who, with their gifts, made the initial endowment of this important Chair in Cancer Pathology possible.

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