THE IMPACT OF GIVING 2020
In these pages you will learn how

You helped us fight COVID-19
Read more on pages 5

You gave vital support to early career researchers
Read more on pages 6 & 7

You supported new technologies
Read more on pages 8 & 9

You gave students a leg up
Read more on pages 10 & 11

You invested in ambitious research
Read more on pages 12 & 13

You found your research goals at WEHI
Read more on pages 14 & 15

Your personal histories shaped passionate donors
Read more on page 16

Cover: (from left) Sara Tomei, Dr Shalin Naik, Dr Daniela Zalcenstein and Luyi Tian
Opposite: President Jane Hemstritch and WEHI Director Professor Doug Hilton AO

All photos used in this report were taken following the recommended social distancing and mask-wearing guidelines applicable at the time of the photo.

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which our campuses are located, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, and pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging.

Artwork (left): In Your Hands by Robert Young, commissioned by WEHI.

The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research. ABN: 12 004 251 423.
We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our donors for your support in 2020, one of the most difficult years we have faced as a community. The COVID-19 pandemic has had its constraints, but science has emerged as a shining light.

Your donations, whether large or small, are greatly valued both for the impact they can make through our research – and the health benefits that ultimately flow from this – and also for the spirit of giving behind them. We are truly inspired and heartened by the contributions of each and every one of you.

A warm welcome to all new donors to WEHI, who have recently joined us in the quest for answers to some of the world’s most intractable health conditions and the therapies to solve them.

Your support of WEHI in 2020 has helped sustain progress across many areas of research.

WEHI’s nascent COVID-19 research program was given a boost by the enormous generosity of old and new donors. This allowed our researchers to build on the institute’s longstanding expertise in infectious diseases, immunology and drug discovery to focus on developing desperately needed treatments and rapid diagnostic tools for COVID-19. This research is not only important for this moment in time but will enable us to combat future pandemics.

WEHI’s COVID-19 response has been multidisciplinary and collaborative – this approach is embedded in WEHI’s culture and is fundamental to the way our scientists tackle every research question. You can read about highlights of WEHI’s response to the pandemic in this edition of Impact of Giving.

The pandemic presented a challenge to progress and productivity for many of WEHI’s laboratories but our scientists tackled the challenges with characteristic vigour and collegiate spirit. Breakthroughs still occurred. Confidence triumphed. Investigations powered on.

It was perhaps fitting in a year that demanded widespread collaboration to solve a global health problem that we launched WEHI’s new brand. ‘Brighter together’ emphasises our approach: to make tangible differences to our community’s health through scientific collaborations within WEHI and beyond, and in partnerships with industry, philanthropists and governments.

WEHI’s vision for the future is to focus on big, multidisciplinary, multi-laboratory programs aimed at tackling difficult diseases. For example, we have a number of scientists with considerable expertise who are turning their attention to Parkinson’s disease, dementia and other neurodegenerative diseases, to improve the outlook for people with these devastating conditions.

The very first donation from the Walter and Eliza Hall Trust in 1915 established the institute and philanthropists such as you continue to play a crucial and invaluable role in the future of WEHI. Thanks to your support, which enables and empowers our researchers, WEHI is a powerhouse of scientific discovery that is helping people live healthier and longer lives. I hope you enjoy reading Impact of Giving and feel proud of what we have achieved together.

Thank you again for your loyalty in these difficult times. We look forward to you being part of our bright future.

Professor Doug Hilton AO
Director, WEHI

Jane Hemstritch
President, WEHI
Thank you!

In 2020:

Total donations, grants and bequests received: $21,832,852

WEHI ensures that 100 per cent of your donated funds go to the area of research you have agreed to support.

4,964 gifts received
1,728 new donors joined us
3,059 donors gave

91 research projects funded
32 students received scholarships
WEHI received an incredible $680,375 in donations for COVID-19 research.

Thanks to your support in 2020, together with the support of the Australian and Victorian governments’ research grant programs, many of WEHI’s scientists were able to quickly turn their attention to focus on COVID-19.

WEHI scientists leveraged their immense expertise in a range of fields to investigate the biology of COVID-19, and contribute to global efforts to develop treatments and diagnostic tools.

Some of the projects you made possible:

COVID PROFILE: a study of immunity to COVID-19
Understanding our body’s immune response to a COVID-19 infection has been vital for developing vaccination strategies. It will also help us better respond to and manage COVID-19 outbreaks in our community. The COVID PROFILE study is looking at hundreds of volunteers who have had COVID-19, or been vaccinated against it, comparing them to uninfected individuals, to assess the immune response to infection and vaccination.

Developing c-FIND, a new rapid diagnostic tool
This test is being developed to detect infections in people within minutes – much faster than existing tests – and to detect viral infections even if a person shows no symptoms. c-FIND would be suitable for rapid screening of people at hospitals, general practice clinics or airports, allowing infected people to be identified, isolated and managed to prevent disease spread. c-FIND may also assist in increasing the capacity of screening laboratories to manage larger volumes of tests.

Developing ‘biologics’ medicines for coronavirus infections
Biologics medicines mimic antibodies – proteins produced by immune cells to fight infection – and are already in clinical use for diseases such as cancer, diabetes and autoimmune conditions. We are harnessing our infectious disease research expertise and global collaborations to identify antibodies that can block coronavirus infection. These will be rapidly engineered to become suitable for clinical testing as a COVID-19 therapy.

Antivirals targeting the coronavirus machinery
Upon coronavirus infection, the virus produces its own machinery in our cells to survive and thrive. Stopping these viral machines with a drug would kill the virus and curb infection. Our researchers are engaged in drug discovery campaigns to discover new drug-like compounds to inhibit viral machines directly. They have screened hundreds of thousands of compounds since 2020 to identify new drugs for COVID-19. Such medicines may treat but also prevent COVID-19, and could be complementary to vaccines. These potential drugs target machinery that are present in all coronaviruses, and may be useful for potential future coronavirus pandemics.
Harry Secomb Foundation backs early career scientists to advance their research

When Joan Harris agreed to be a trustee for the Harry Secomb Foundation more than a decade ago, she had little idea of the journey of discovery it would take her on.

“I asked myself what Harry would like to support – that was my guiding light,” Joan said.

“Harry had Parkinson’s disease towards the end of his life and was always interested in medical research. Being connected to WEHI has been amazing: it has opened my eyes to things I had never been involved with before.”

Joan, along with Perpetual, is a trustee of the foundation. Through Perpetual’s Impact Philanthropy Program, the Harry Secomb Foundation has provided important support to WEHI, more recently with a focus on early-career scientists. The foundation provides funding that ensures the continuity of their work, giving them the backing and security to progress their investigations.

Joan is a regular visitor to WEHI, meeting with the director and the researchers supported by the foundation: Associate Professors Marie-Liesse Asselin-Labat, Grant Dewson, Matthew Call and Kate Sutherland.

Associate Professor Dewson said the funds provided by the Harry Secomb Foundation had been absolutely critical in progressing his lab’s research into how defects in proteins may be linked to cancer with the ultimate aim of finding novel drug targets. “This support enables us to push forward when we otherwise wouldn’t have been able to do so,” Associate Professor Dewson said, “Joan’s been a fantastic supporter who is always very engaged.”

Associate Professor Call said support from the foundation had propelled research to improve a CAR-T cell cancer immunotherapy from the idea stage to a patent application, taking it one step closer to cancer treatment. CAR T-cell therapy, which harnesses the immune system to attack cancer, is currently being used to treat people with leukaemias and lymphomas.

“This was a scenario where we didn’t have any other funding sources,” Associate Professor Call said. “Joan Harris is incredible in what she does. She loves hearing updates and understanding the work that she is funding – I find that really inspiring.”

Joan has taken friends, family including grandchildren, and fellow volunteers in her community group to join her in visits to WEHI and its labs, and always enjoys sharing their fascination with the scientific process.

“I feel I have a personal relationship with the people at WEHI,” she said. “I feel privileged actually.”
Barbara and Peter Ruse share an appreciation of the impact of research and the importance of medical innovation.

They met in the Alfred Hospital in 1969: Barbara was a nurse and Peter a patient who almost lost his leg after a motorcycle accident. A new, innovative technique enabled surgeons to save Peter’s leg.

It was an exciting time for medicine, Barbara said. “There were new techniques for managing burns and it was the early days of renal transplants,” Barbara said. “We have seen firsthand the life-changing benefits of advances in medicine.”

Barbara said the couple had long known of WEHI and its landmark research: Barbara through medical circles and Peter as an avid newspaper reader. Together they have donated to WEHI since 1987.

“We couldn't give a lot of money then,” Barbara said. “But we'd both been brought up to understand that if people don’t support all kinds of institutes and charities, other people would be much worse off. WEHI became our main focus because we were really interested in supporting Australian researchers and scientists.”

Barbara and Peter now donate to the Innovation Grants program, which supports early-career scientists who narrowly miss out on major government grants but have important research that needs funding. The Innovation Grants program received more than $100,000 in donations in 2020, which was enough to support three more grants to talented early-career scientists.

Peter said the couple was inspired to support the program after hearing WEHI director Professor Doug Hilton talk about the funding gap for important research.

“For me, if everyone could spare a dollar here and there, we could eradicate a lot of diseases, especially the debilitating ones like Alzheimer’s,” Peter said.

Dr Joanne Hildebrand was one of the 2020 recipients, and said the grant allowed her to pursue a long-term project into MLKL, a protein that causes cells to explode and helps the body defend itself against viruses and bacteria. “The Innovation Grants are a real booster,” Dr Hildebrand said. “My previous government-supported grant paid my salary but did not cover lab equipment or staff. This will really help to accelerate my work.”

“Through our donations, we hope to give talented young scientists the encouragement they need to keep going and to succeed,” Barbara said.
Donors help keep WEHI up to speed with technology

Philip Leahy has a passion for technology and machines. An avid restorer of classic Bristol cars, he enjoys the challenge of understanding how things work and often makes his own machine parts. So when Philip was invited to become a member of WEHI’s Technology Circle, he was in.

The Technology Circle is a group of passionate donors who are dedicated to supporting much-needed biomedical instruments at WEHI. Access to cutting-edge technology underpins WEHI’s ability to make important discoveries. For example the IncuCyte S5 live-cell analysis instrument for example the IncuCyte S5 live-cell analysis software was recently purchased with the help of the Technology Circle to accelerate research into neurodegenerative disorders such as dementia. The group periodically meets to discuss equipment purchases, see the machines in action and hear scientists explain how the technology benefits their research.

Another of the latest advanced technologies supported by the Technology Circle is an ultra-fast DNA sequencer.

“It can take batches of DNA for sequencing and process it overnight at incredible speed,” Philip said. “It was very satisfying to see it installed and used, and know it was like an elixir to the scientists.”

Philip donates with his wife Elizabeth. “We both share the ability to support a range of charities and feel a compelling duty to do so while we are able,” Philip said. “It’s wonderful to share the enthusiasm of the scientists, and it is inspiring to hear how advancing technology expands the possibilities of scientific understanding and accelerates progress.”

Head of WEHI’s Senior Technology Planning Group, Associate Professor Matthew Call, said Philip often asked about the mechanics of equipment, the science involved and its significance for health.

“Philip is one of the most active questioners. His questions are extremely technical and scientific, which is one of the things that makes his visits really interesting and exciting,” Associate Professor Call said.

“We’re a globally competitive research institute – we can’t afford to be lagging behind in technology,” he said. “Partnering with philanthropists is critical for helping to resource some of the advanced technologies that are used across the whole of the institute to drive forward research. We are tremendously grateful for the wonderful support of the Technology Circle and for their incredibly vital contribution.”

Above: (from left) Associate Professor Matthew Call and Technology Circle member Philip Leahy
Opposite: (from left) His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley, Professor Doug Hilton AO, ACRF Chair Mr Tom Dery AO and Professor Andrew Roberts AM
In late 2019, the Australian Cancer Research Foundation (ACRF) and WEHI joined forces to tackle two major obstacles in the treatment of cancer: predicting and improving individual patients’ responses to treatment, and overcoming drug resistance to treatments.

A multidisciplinary team of cancer experts from across WEHI is now investigating the complexity of tumour cells in many types of cancer. They aim to study individual cancers and the environment they interact with, at a single-cell level. This insight will allow researchers to investigate triggers that drive cancers to develop, and to design more effective targeted treatments. ACRF provided a $3.5 million grant for WEHI to purchase cutting-edge equipment to initiate the ACRF Program for Resolving Cancer Complexity and Therapeutic Resistance.

“We fund projects with the potential to shift the dial and we felt this was one that was going to do that,” ACRF CEO Kerry Strydom said. “For us it’s all about finding really pioneering, innovative, big ideas – those big leaps forward. Our focus is on backing the scientists, backing those amazing ideas, by very specifically giving them the technology to explore them,” she said.

The equipment, including the MIBIscope 1, enables high-resolution imaging of cancer cells. “This whole area of overcoming treatment resistance has huge potential,” Kerry said. “It’s not only about saving lives – and hopefully this research will save lives – but also about better treatment plans and more personalised treatment for patients.

“Our donors – and they are the people making this happen – love to hear about the science and why a particular project has met with the approval of the ACRF medical advisors and Board,” she said.

Associate Professor Marie-Liesse Asselin-Labat, whose research into lung cancer is benefiting from the new technology, said this important equipment funding from ACRF allowed her to look at the diversity and level of complexity of cells that live alongside one another in a tumour.

“I am really excited about the opportunity to look at the architecture of tumours and the organisation of the cells,” Associate Professor Asselin-Labat said. “This sort of information is critical to understand tumour development and ultimately response to therapy, an important step towards personalising treatments and making a real impact for people with cancer.”

ACRF has had a longstanding association with WEHI, supporting the institute’s cancer research since 2001.
Strathmore Community Bank, a franchisee of Bendigo Bank, has been supporting young scientists at WEHI for nearly a decade.

Three $5,000 Strathmore Community Bank Honours Scholarships were awarded in 2020 to support and encourage Honours students who demonstrated a high level of academic achievement and community leadership.

Peter Brown, Chair of the Strathmore Community Bank Board, said it was important to support budding young scientists.

“The scholarships save them having to work extra jobs, and allow them to devote their time to what they have a passion for – and the students we’ve seen all have a passion for their research,” Peter said.

Jack Tovey, one of the Honours students supported by the scholarships, said he was grateful for the financial security it afforded. “The honours year is pretty time-intensive, which makes it difficult to keep up with even casual work,” Jack said. “When the pandemic hit I lost my part-time job, and the scholarship made it possible to complete my studies through the worst of the lockdowns.”

Tianwei Chen agreed the scholarship was a big help. “The support from Strathmore Community Bank has really helped me achieve great results for my Honours study during this difficult pandemic year,” Tianwei said.

Building a stronger community together
Gary Williams, a board member from the Rotary Club of Eltham, said he was hard-pressed to remember exactly when the club first connected with WEHI.

“Our two organisations have enjoyed a long and fruitful connection,” he said.

“We think the research that goes on is important and cutting-edge, and that the quality of the people who work there is very high. We can’t speak highly enough of WEHI.”

Gary, whose mother was a donor to the institute, said he really became interested in WEHI in 2004, after talking to the late Roger Male OAM, club member and the honorary treasurer of the WEHI Board for many years. The club visited WEHI in 2006 and the members were so impressed that they raised money to purchase two microscopes.

WEHI director Professor Doug Hilton addressed the club’s district conference in Wangaratta in 2011.

“Doug spoke of the early work on immunology techniques and had lots of wonderful videos and slides,” Gary recalled.

Later that year around 80 Eltham Rotarians came to a WEHI dinner, at which Professor Hilton spoke, and the number of members donating individually grew.

“We feel we’re part of something that is making a difference to community – and Rotary is about community above all else,” Gary said. “There’s a sense of pride, connection and belonging.”

In 2018, the inaugural $5,000 David McFarlane Memorial Scholarship was launched, named after the late Eltham Rotary president. The scholarship, which is funded by Eltham Rotary and David’s family, holds a charity golf day in his honour, raising money to support PhD students.

Scholarship recipient Brigette Duckworth, who lives in Eltham, said she enjoyed keeping the club abreast of her research in immunology.

“They’re such an engaged group of people. We always have interesting discussions about my research and I am so grateful for their support,” Brigette said.

Current Eltham Rotary president Frank Lynch said he had extra incentive to support WEHI: Frank’s daughter-in-law Dr Felicity Jackling works here. Frank is excited to continue this longstanding relationship with WEHI.

Above: Eltham Rotary members (from left) Josh Ogden, Jess Ogden, Ash McFarlane, Marlene McFarlane, Judy Sharp and Jill Ramsay with PhD student Brigette Duckworth (second from right)

Opposite: (from left) Strathmore Community Bank Honours Scholarship recipients Tianwei Chen and Jack Tovey
Focus on values and impact leads family to WEHI

When Sarah Galbraith’s family was looking for an organisation to donate their great-aunt Georgina Donaldson’s generous inheritance towards, they took a scientific approach.

Sarah’s father, Dr Neil Galbraith, had been an organic chemist with CSIRO, and as “logical, fact-based people” Sarah and her brother Ian wanted to ensure their donation was aligned with their values and would have impact.

Enlisting a service that helps philanthropists to establish a giving strategy, as well as a scientific advisor and a financial advisor, they developed a ‘giving arrangement’.

The family felt strongly about medical research: Sarah and Ian’s father has Parkinson’s disease and their younger brother had melanoma, she said.

“Perhaps in Ian’s and my lifetime people with these diseases could be cured or substantial advances in research made around helping people detect and prevent their debilitating impact,” she said.

Their scientific advisor, Professor Tom Spurling, introduced the family to WEHI director Professor Doug Hilton, whom he knew through an earlier collaboration. Through this, Sarah and Ian met Dr Rebecca Feltham, who is leading an ambitious Parkinson’s disease research project.

“We connected very easily with WEHI,” Sarah said. “It was rewarding to put our giving arrangement into place so quickly; the fit was strong.”

The Galbraith Family Charitable Trust – The Donaldson Bequest began donating to WEHI in mid-2020, supporting Dr Feltham’s lab for three years. Dr Feltham is searching for early indicators of Parkinson’s disease, which will help to design more effective treatment options for the debilitating disease.

Dr Feltham said the philanthropic support was crucial. “I’m very grateful – the funding really enables this amazing project to go forward,” she said.

Sarah said she valued WEHI’s strong emphasis on connecting with people and its genuine passion for making a difference.

“Philanthropy comes from the heart too: the personal connection is fundamental,” she said.
The late Brian M Davis AM was founder and head of the market-leading kitchenware company Décor for 55 years. Under Brian’s leadership, Décor sold its products in 38 countries, won 300 awards for design excellence and was inducted in the Design Institute of Australia Hall of Fame. Yet whilst his kitchenware is ubiquitous in homes throughout Australia, Brian Davis is not a household name.

Brian was down-to-earth and very modest, longtime friend Darvell Hutchinson AM said. Darvell met Brian in Sunday school at St Luke’s, Brighton, when they were both five years old. He was a director at Décor from the day Brian launched it in 1958 to the day he sold it in 2012. Darvell said he admired Brian’s great vision and ambition, leaving a perfectly good career working with his uncle to launch his own kitchenware company.

"Design was Brian’s passion," Darvell said. "A wine cooler he produced created quite a stir – he sent it to Buckingham Palace and MOMA in New York, which took it into its permanent collection."

Darvell has been a trustee of the Brian M Davis Charitable Foundation since it was founded in 2012. "I think Brian always felt that, because Décor had been a great success, he should share this with people in need. Like me, he was a child of the Great Depression and saw a great number of hardships faced by many people."

Darvell introduced Brian to WEHI and the idea of supporting medical research. The Brian M Davis Charitable Foundation currently supports a WEHI Centenary Fellowship, providing $100,000 per annum for five years to an early-career researcher. Darvell has also been honoured for his work in the philanthropic sector: he was chairman of the L.E.W. Carty Charitable Fund for 43 years, which also supports research at WEHI.

Centenary Fellow Associate Professor Ethan Goddard-Borger said he felt immense gratitude towards Brian for supporting his translational research. "Brian’s generosity has really helped us to develop promising new drug leads for the treatment of respiratory diseases. Without it this would have been a lot slower and much harder," he said.

As a philanthropist, Brian Davis did not seek recognition for his giving. Darvell predicts however that, with a charitable foundation worth around $30 million and more after the estate is settled, he will go from being an almost anonymous donor to one whose generosity is widely noticed.

Philanthropist Brian Davis: a quiet achiever
Decades-long connection with WEHI prompts donor’s bequest

Heather White first took an interest in WEHI decades ago, when she heard on the news about some of the exciting medical research happening at the institute.

Heather said she had been interested in medical research – particularly vaccine development – since she contracted polio at age 13 in 1953, three years before the polio vaccine was available.

“Because of my interest in vaccines, I was aware of the wonderful research being done at WEHI,” she said. “So, when I felt I was able to donate some money to support medical research, WEHI was an ideal choice for me.”

Heather first visited WEHI in 2013 and said the institute she’d admired from afar quickly revealed a personal side.

“They treat you so well, right from the beginning,” she said.

Heather was introduced to malaria expert Professor Alan Cowman to hear about his vaccine progress.

“I decided to give to malaria research because malaria has such a negative influence on so many people, particularly children – millions and millions around the world,” Heather said.

Heather attends WEHI events regularly to listen to its scientists talk about their latest research. “Everyone is just so lovely, including the donors. It’s a bit like a family,” she said.

More recently Heather, who had a successful career as a primary school teacher and a principal, has decided to include a gift in her will to WEHI.

“Since making this decision, I feel a part of the institute and I am so proud when I hear of the wonderful work being achieved,” Heather said.

“I don’t have immediate family and just thought that if I donate through my estate I can give a sizeable enough gift that could do some real good. There are all sorts of diseases people suffer from, which have an enormous effect on the quality of their lives. Supporting research and contributing to do something about it feels so worthwhile,” she said.
Sharon Bocarro began donating to WEHI within two months of starting work here in mid-2016. She is one of a growing number of WEHI staff and former staff who give financially to the institute. “I could see firsthand the amazing work being done by the researchers, and their passion and absolute desire to ease human suffering,” Sharon said. “I was also inspired to donate having had breast cancer myself and realising that it was because of medical research that I was alive.”

Sharon recalls being taken down the ‘WEHI galleria’ with its timeline of discovery and research milestones stretched along the walls. One of the discoveries she was shown was of colony stimulating factors (CSFs) in the 1970s. CSFs were approved for clinical use in the 1990s and are now routinely given to cancer patients to kick-start their immune systems after the ravages of chemotherapy, providing life-saving protection against infection. More than 20 million cancer patients have now benefited from this discovery, and Sharon realised she was one of them. “It was a very powerful moment. I remember thinking ‘oh, my goodness, I’m working at the place where CSFs were discovered, which possibly saved my life!’”

Sharon, who worked in fundraising at WEHI from 2016 to 2019, continues to make monthly donations. “As a fundraiser I know the importance of regular donations,” she said. “I know that collectively if we all give a little bit we can have a huge impact.”

She donates to WEHI’s general donation pool rather than a specific area and believes her gift helps humanity in general. “Alongside education, I think medical research has the power to change the world. It can stop people suffering needlessly from diseases that can be treated, provide a vaccine to eradicate terrible diseases like smallpox, or deal with a pandemic like the one we’re experiencing now,” she said.

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**Life-saving power of medical research inspires giving**

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Above: Regular giver Sharon Bocarro
Opposite: Donor and bequestor Heather White
Philanthropic connection a game-changer for rare paediatric brain cancer

In 2010, Robert and Khush De Rose began a quest to find scientists researching diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG), the devastating brain cancer that claimed the life of their six-year-old daughter Isabella in August 2008. The couple was stunned to find there was almost no research in Australia into this incurable disease and there had been no progress in treatment options for decades. All that was available was palliative radiotherapy.

In 2017, they registered the Isabella and Marcus Foundation, together with Tony and Daniela Ruberto, who lost their son Marcus to DIPG. The foundation has raised significant funds for brain cancer research. As well supporting research Australia-wide, the foundation’s founders have raised awareness and lobbied governments to make brain cancer a priority.

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The Isabella and Marcus Foundation has also funded scholarships for three PhD students investigating DIPG and immunotherapy in Associate Professor Misty Jenkins’ lab at WEHI.

“I’ve got a background in immunology, so I recognise the power of the immune system in tackling cancer and specifically the role it can play in DIPG,” Robert said. “The moment we found out that Misty had started doing that sort of work, we jumped.”

Last year Associate Professor Jenkins and her team, despite the constraints of COVID-19, made an exciting finding about a type of immunotherapy called CAR T-cell therapy.

“CAR T-cell therapy redesigns the patient’s own immune T cells so they attack cancer cells,” Associate Professor Jenkins said. “We identified a CAR T-cell that had been used in other solid cancers like breast cancer that may be applicable to brain cancer as well.”

She said the PhD scholarships had been a game-changer.

“Work with our philanthropic partners gives us that life experience and human element to our work,” Associate Professor Jenkins said. “It reminds us every day of why we do what we do.”

Robert and Khush – along with other DIPG donors and volunteers – enjoy a strong relationship with WEHI and attend an annual get-together held by Associate Professor Jenkins. “We find bringing the scientists, donors and volunteers together is inspiring for both sides – it excites the donors and spurs on the students and scientists,” Khush said.

“We are hopeful that research will lead into a clinical trial in the next few years. We want the researchers to be able to manage the disease and eventually find a cure.”
Thank you

The advances in medical science at WEHI are made possible by your generosity. We are proud to acknowledge gifts and bequests received in 2020 (of $1,000 or more).

**Centenary donors**
- Anonymous (3)
- The Alfred Felton Bequest
- Bodhi Foundation
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- The Walter and Eliza Hall Trust

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- Mrs Meredith Evans and the late Mr Robert Evans
- Mr Michael Harris and Ms Kelli Garrison
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- Brian Siepen, the late Dot Siepen and Family
- Mr John A Simpson
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- Ms Catherine Walter AM and Mr John Walter

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- The Alfred Felton Bequest
- AWM Electrical
- Professor Suzanne Cory AC and Professor Jerry Adams
- Michael Heine and Family
- Professor David Huang
- The Stafford Fox Medical Research Foundation
- The Yulgilbar Foundation

**Gifts up to $200,000**
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- DHB Foundation
- Quintessential Equity

**Gifts up to $100,000**
- Anonymous (1)
- Beck Family Foundation
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**Gifts up to $10,000**
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- 6A Foundation
- Sawiyah Ali and Family
- Ms Sue Clifton
- Ms Ruth Crutch
- The Cuthbertson Family Fund
- Demak Timber and Hardware
- Mr John Dyson and Ms Trudie Horsfall

**Gifts over $5000**
- Anonymous (10)
- Ms Elizabeth Abbott
- AET Foundation - Tong Family Legacy
- Dr Robert Allan
- Mrs Barbara Anderson
- Mr Grant Beaumont
- Mr Angelo Bladeni
- Mrs Anita Casta
- Mr Neville Castles
- Ms Kaye Cleary
- Mr Arthur Coates
- Mr Mark Devlin and Mrs Elizabeth Devlin
- Mr Matt Duckworth and Mr Nathan Duckworth
- Ms Roz Edmond
- Ms Kay Ehrenberg and Mr Scott Herne
- Mr Cyril Evans and Mrs Pauline Evans
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- The Green Family
- Mr Keith Harrison
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- Mr Graham Jackson and Mrs Barbara Jackson
- Mrs Caroline Johnston
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- Mrs Christine McConnell and Mr Denis McConnell
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The Helping Hand Foundation
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The Valda Klasic Foundation
Mr Philip Leahy and Mrs Elizabeth Leahy
Dr Darren Lockie
MJ Maughan Foundation
The McPhee Charitable Trust
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The Ruse Family
Mrs Sam Sharman OAM
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Mrs Jan Richards and Mr Keith Richards
Ms Caroline M Richardson
Mr Dieter Rinke and Mrs Maxine Rinke
Mr Rohan Stanton
The Veith Foundation
Mr Duncan Tuck
Ms Jenny Vero and Mr Greg Vero
Dr Keith Watson
Ms Marjorie Wilks

Gifts $1000 to $2000
Anonymous (18)

Professor Emeritus Robin Anders and Dr Margot Anders
Mrs Debra Askew
Ms Andrea Baldwin
Mr Stuart Bales and Mrs Jillian Bales
The Joan Elaine Barry Memorial Fund
Mr Ian Bates
Ms Katherine I Behrend
Mr Ian Black
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Mr John Walker QC and Mrs Angela Walker
Mr Robert Warren
Mr Robert Warren and Mrs Diane Warren
Mr Mark Winfield
Ms Heather White
Mr Josh Wigg
Mrs Norma Wilkinson
Mrs Heather Winneke
Ms Lorraine Woolley

Community organisations
Australian Rotary Health
Berwick Opportunity Shop
CALAC (Chinese Australian League Against COVID)
Gundagai Golf Club Lady Members
Loyal Orange Trust
Rotary Club of Eltham
Rotary Club of Melbourne
Strathmore Community Bank Branch of Bendigo Bank
Twin Towns Services Community Foundation
The Victoria Golf Club Ltd

Community fundraisers
Ms Dani Breen
Ms Molly McKenzie

Companies and institutions
The Australian Cellulose Insulation Manufacturers Assoc
Hengyi Pacific
L2D Architects
Donald Cant Watts Corke

Gifts in Wills
(listed by bequest amount)
Estate of Marjorie Talan
Estate of Margaret Anne Ireland
Estate of Patricia Desiree Field
Estate of Marcel Gystertus Petrus Visseren
Estate of Michael Sutherland Stansfeld
Estate of Robert Rowan Drury
Albert H Maggs Charitable Trust
The Hazel & Pip Appel Fund
Estate of Lawrence Owen Esson
Estate of Sheila Mary Helpman
Estate of Maxwell Gardiner Helpman
Alan Ambrose Murray Testamentary Trust
Irene & Ronald MacDonald Foundation
Estate of Eleanor Margarete Albiston (The Stang Bequest)
Frederick and Winifred Grassick Memorial Fund
Estate of Ethel Mary Drummmond
Estate of Florence Mary Young
Estate of Coral Francis McConnell
Estate of Alan G L Shaw
Estate of Gwynedd Thornton
Estate of Vivian H Campbell
Estate of Clara Julia Ursula Oostergetel
Estate of Roy Nicholas
The George Thomas & Lockyer Potter Charitable Trust
Estate of Lindsay James Baldy
Agnes Maude Reilly Charitable Trust
The C.H. Boden Memorial Trust
Estate of Joyce Helen Iggulden
John Frederick Bransden Charitable Trust
Estate of Vivienne Paul
Estate of Doreen Merle Taylor
The Frank Broadhurst Memorial Charitable Fund
Margaret Lewis Reilly Charitable Trust
Thomas, Annie & Doris Burgess Charity Trust

Grants (listed by grant amount)
Australian Cancer Research Foundation
Colonial Foundation Limited
Epworth Foundation
The Harry Secomb Foundation
The Marian & E. H. Flack Trust
Percy Baxter Charitable Trust
Leukaemia Foundation
Drakensberg Trust
The Phyllis Connor Memorial Trust
Cure Brain Cancer Foundation
Harold and Pam Holmes Charitable Trust
The Collie Foundation
MS Research Australia
Erica Foundation Pty Ltd
The Kids’ Cancer Project
Joe White Bequest
Isabella and Marcus Foundation/Upstream Foundation
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research
Shake It Up Australia Foundation
The Jack Brockhoff Foundation
Cybec Foundation
Pancare Foundation
Geok Hua Wong Charitable Trust
Lung Foundation Australia
The Medical Advances Without Animals Trust (MAWA)/Australian Ethical Foundation (AEF)
The Thomas William Francis & Violet Coles Trust
Harold & Cora Brennen Benevolent Trust
Janko-Inge Foundation
The Margaret Walkom Bequest
The Clive and Vera Ramaciotti Foundation
The Jakob Frenkeli Charitable Trust
Norman Ann & Graeme Atkins Charitable Trust
Craig Perkins Cancer Research Foundation
Cure4 Cystic Fibrosis
Rigg Memorial Trust
Nell & Hermon Slade Trust
The William Angliss (Victoria) Charitable Fund
S.T.A.F - Rupert Ethel & Ronald Fraser & Ruby Thomas
The J Elliston Endowment

Trustee companies
Australian Communities Foundation
Australian Executor Trustees
Equity Trustees
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State Trustees

We are medical researchers serving the community for more than 100 years.
We are WEHI.