



PROPOSAL FOR  
PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT

# CABRINI RESEARCH

IMPACT FOR PATIENTS  
IMPACT FOR HEALTHCARE  
IMPACT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

## MEDICAL RESEARCH IMPROVES HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR OUR COMMUNITY, AND BEYOND

This belief drives Cabrini Research, which for nearly three decades has been the home of innovative medical research at Cabrini. Our globally recognised scientists and clinicians work together to tackle the greatest challenges in healthcare.

Our work spans the entire spectrum of research, from laboratory discovery to preclinical models and clinical trials. Our strengths in translational research support the development of new diagnostic tools and therapies, while optimising treatment according to the specific needs of each patient.

The opportunity to conduct world-class research at Cabrini also attracts the best and brightest clinicians to Cabrini, further improving the level of care delivered to our patients.

In redefining clinical standards, we have demonstrated the importance of investing in research within our hospitals. As we continue to improve patient outcomes, we also identify new approaches that optimise how care is delivered, providing a model of excellence that can benefit the broader Australian healthcare system.



**Professor Gary Richardson OAM**  
Group Director, Cabrini Research



## ABOUT CABRINI RESEARCH

Cabrini Research focuses on projects that align with the clinical services provided across the Cabrini Health network. Our projects make critical contributions to the global health community, identifying medical approaches that deliver patient-centred care.

Cabrini Research was founded in 1996 to address unmet needs of current and future patients. Since then, we have grown into a dynamic, multi-disciplinary private research institute delivering scientific discoveries and clinical innovations of global and generational significance.

The Patricia Peck Education and Research Precinct at 154 Wattletree Road, Malvern was funded through philanthropy – this ‘home of research’ provides a multi-purpose facility for our researchers, clinicians, and commercial partners to work collaboratively. Patients and consumer advocates also play a key role in determining our strategic future.

*Hospitals that conduct clinical trials tend to provide better care, have more rapid uptake of newer treatment strategies and technologies, and have lower mortality rates. (Todd and Nutbeam, 2023)*

## RESEARCH PERFORMANCE IN 2022/23

- **296** publications
- **178** presentations
- **76** active clinical trials
- **\$7 million** Annual turnover (\$4 million of clinical trial income)
- **51** staff
- **298** active research projects
- **46%** of projects are cancer-related
- **59** research projects approved
- **23** oncology clinical trials approved
- **38%** of all oncology trials are early Phase I
- **9** first in-human oncology clinical trials conducted
- **\$434,436** in Cabrini Foundation research grants awarded
- Consumer engagement group increase from seven to 15 people
- Implementation of the National Clinical Trials Governance Framework



## RESEARCH LEADERS

**Leaders in their respective fields, our Heads of Department lead Cabrini’s researchers on pathways for disease prevention, diagnosis and treatment.**



### **PROFESSOR GARY RICHARDSON OAM MBBS FRACP**

Group Director for Cabrini Research, Professor Richardson is Head of the Medical Oncology Research Department and the Neil Beaglehall Endowed Chair for Medical Oncology Research. Alongside his contributions towards new approaches in oncology, he has helped shape the national discussion regarding men’s health, actively contributing to policy at both Victorian and Commonwealth levels.



### **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR NATHAN BETTER MBBS FRACP FCSANZ FAANMS**

Professor Better serves as Academic Director for the Department of Cardiology Research as well as Director of Physician Training at Cabrini. Beyond his clinical and research roles, he is dedicated to mentoring the next generation of cardiologists, holding teaching and editorial roles at globally leading organisations, including the International Atomic Energy Agency, the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology and the Journal of Nuclear Cardiology.



### **PROFESSOR MARK FRYDENBERG AM MBBS FRACS FAICD**

Head of the Department of Urology at Cabrini, Professor Frydenberg was appointed to the Department of Surgery at Monash University and as Chair of the Department of Urology at Monash Health in 1997. During this time, he has also served as president and board member of several leading professional organisations, including the Urological Society of Australia and New Zealand.



### **PROFESSOR PAUL MCMURRICK MBBS FRACS FASCRS FCSSANZ**

Professor McMurrick is the Alan, Ada and Eva Selwyn Endowed Chair for Colorectal Research and Head of the Cabrini Monash University Department of Surgery, currently serving as speciality group leader for colorectal surgery at Cabrini Health. Throughout his clinical and research careers, he has led several national and international institutions in colorectal surgery and currently serves as Chairman for Let’s Beat Bowel Cancer.



### **PROFESSOR PHILIP RUSSO RN M.CLIN.EPID PHD**

Professor Russo heads the Cabrini Monash University Department of Nursing Research and serves as Director of Research, Nursing and Midwifery at Monash University. Internationally recognised for his work in healthcare associated infection prevention, he provided a critical voice in guiding Australia’s response to COVID-19.

## RESEARCH THEMES

**Cabrini Research has six research themes that cut across departments and institutions and enable scientists and clinicians to come together, share knowledge and solve critical health challenges.**



### **INTEGRATIVE CANCER RESEARCH**

As Australia's largest private provider of cancer services, Cabrini integrates research as a critical component of its end-to-end care model, including an extensive clinical trials program through the Cabrini Cancer Institute.



### **PRECISION MEDICINE RESEARCH**

Reflecting a commitment to patient-centred care, our precision medicine research integrates clinical datasets, genomics analysis and preclinical models to develop personalised treatment strategies that match the unique biological profiles of each patient and their tumours.



### **MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH**

Our research in psycho-oncology, palliative care, and women's mental health aims to identify, develop and implement effective clinical strategies to support our community as they address the complex challenges of mental health.



### **CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE RESEARCH**

Emergency department and critical care medicine involves a multi-disciplinary approach, optimising healthcare delivery models for rapid and dynamic clinical settings to better support patients with the most critical and urgent of healthcare needs.



### **TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH**

Translating lab discoveries into patient treatment is often called 'bench to bedside' – working in collaboration with the Monash Biomedicine Discovery Institute our translational research gives meaning to scientific findings and creates new clinical innovations to directly benefit patients.



### **HEALTH INFORMATICS RESEARCH**

Harnessing libraries of data generated across the Cabrini Health network, health informatics delivers a data-driven approach to research workflows and healthcare optimisation processes, transforming standards of best practice for patients, clinicians, and researchers.

## PHILANTHROPY ENABLES SUSTAINABLE RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

Medical research requires new technologies and infrastructure, along with leading scientists and clinicians capable of applying them to maximise clinical impact.

Cabrini's research is only possible through the vision and foresight of our donors, who provide the funding required to conduct the growing number of research projects each year.

Currently, there are 298 research projects being conducted through Cabrini Research, with capacity for many more. The following projects require philanthropic funding:

### ENDOWED RESEARCH CHAIRS - CARDIOLOGY, NURSING, UROLOGY

**\$5 MILLION PER ENDOWED CHAIR, IN PERPETUITY**

Through the establishment of an Endowed Chair, a department's path towards discovery is accelerated. Amongst the highest academic honours, an endowed position in research will be named in honour of the donor and remain an enduring tribute to their philanthropic contribution. The principal donation will be invested long term and the annual interest provides a sustainable funding source in perpetuity, supporting future research excellence at Cabrini.

### CANCER ORGANOID RESEARCH PROGRAM - COLORECTAL, BREAST AND OVARIAN

**\$900,000 OVER THREE YEARS PER PROGRAM  
(\$300,000 PER YEAR)**

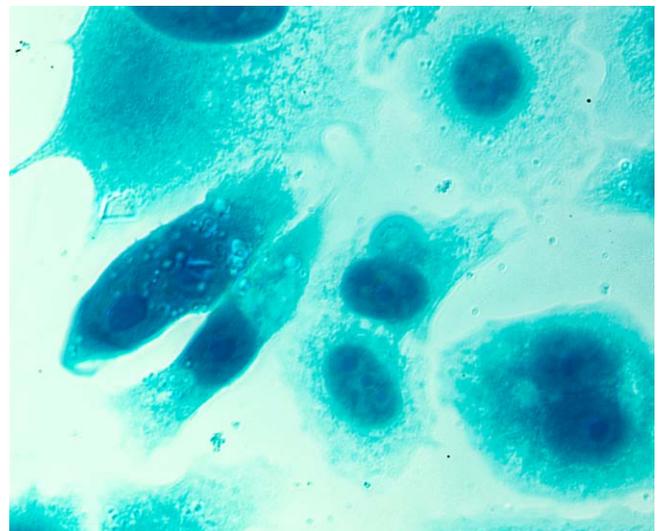
The Cancer Organoid Program is a collaboration between the Cabrini Research and the Monash University Biomedicine Discovery Institute. This research aims to predict patient sensitivity to common treatment regimens using a three-dimensional tissue model of a patient's tumour, called organoids. Organoids are essentially "mini-tumours" which can be grown in a dish from tissue biopsies that mimic the features of the tissue from which they are derived. This powerful model can be used to test common cancer therapeutics to determine if a patient is likely to respond to treatment.

### TISSUE MICROARRAYS TO IDENTIFY BIOMARKERS IN COLORECTAL CANCER

**\$600,000 OVER THREE YEARS OR \$200,000 PER YEAR**

A challenge facing clinicians is determining the best treatment for each patient that produce the best outcome, based on the characteristics of their cancer. Cancer cells often produce different proteins – also known as biomarkers – when compared with normal cells. An understanding of the impact of key predictive and prognostic biomarkers is an essential part in advancing personalised treatment of colorectal cancer. One method of examining biomarkers in cancer is through the use of a Tissue Microarray (TMA).

This research will demonstrate the prognostic and predictive significance of a panel of biomarkers in patients with colorectal cancer. It is hoped that the results from this study may contribute to practical decision-making in the treatment of colorectal cancer. In the forthcoming age of personalised medicine, TMAs will provide a valuable resource to validate and test new cancer biomarkers, not only to provide the best treatment options for a patient but also to highlight potential new targets for future more effective therapies.



## SENIOR CARDIOLOGY RESEARCH FELLOW - DEPARTMENT OF CARDIOLOGY

**\$500,000 OVER THREE YEARS (\$166,000 PER YEAR)**

Clinician researchers drive the cardiac research currently being conducted at Cabrini. While recognising the importance of applying their experience towards the development of new surgical methods and medical innovations, their clinical responsibilities and duty to their patients limit their ability to pursue these opportunities. The impact of supporting a Senior Research Fellow would go beyond any individual clinician, enabling collaborations that would allow our specialist cardiologists to pursue research across the Department.

## PREVENTATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS

**\$400,000 OVER TWO YEARS (\$200,000 PER YEAR)**

Healthcare associated infections (HAIs) frequently occur in hospital settings, with studies placing rates as high as one in ten amongst in-patients. While causing serious health problems for patients, they also have systems-wide effects. This program aims to understand infection transmission, determine the most prominent factors contributing to HAIs and develop a preventative framework that will establish a new standard of best practice in Australia.

## e-PROMS HEALTH SYSTEMS – PATIENT REPORTED OUTCOMES

**\$100,000 OVER TWO YEARS (\$50,000 PER YEAR)**

Patient reported outcomes measures (PROMs) enable patients to communicate their symptoms and functionality through standardised metrics. Cabrini has led national efforts in developing a patented technology platform that captures patient data in real-time, enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of patient monitoring. This electronic PROMs tool has already been implemented across our cancer services with positive preliminary results. Further funding would enable expansion of our e-PROMs systems, furthering Cabrini's commitment to patient-centred healthcare.

## PREDICTIVE BIOMARKER DISCOVERY FOR COLORECTAL CANCER

**\$20,000**

Biomarkers provide critical insights for patients with stage III colorectal cancer, capable of explaining the high variation in treatment outcomes amongst those presenting with similar prognostic features. The Cabrini Monash University Department of Surgery Research aims to identify these biomarkers through an analysis of key proteins found in tumours, which can be used to predict outcomes before chemotherapy is administered.

## VIRTUAL PATIENT TOUR – FOR PATIENTS JOINING THE CLINICAL TRIALS PROGRAM

**\$20,000**

This project involves the development of a video and other onboarding materials for Cabrini patients being enrolled in clinical trials. Delivering these materials will help new patients to navigate their clinical trials experience, by knowing what to expect and who they can reach out to for help and advice. This initiative strongly resonates with Cabrini's commitment to best practice and goal of going the extra distance to support patients when they need it most.

*"...philanthropy has shown to wield profound and outsized impact because it is not subject to the same constraints as other sources of capital...when philanthropists fully embrace the unique attributes of their capital and use it strategically to fill key funding gaps, incentivise new behaviours, and innovate the medical research system, we see positive impacts for science and for patients."*

(Stevens, 2019)

**To learn more about Cabrini Research and all of its current funding opportunities, please contact:**

### Megan Potter

Director, Cabrini Foundation

**E:** mpotter@cabrini.com.au

**P:** 03 9508 1780 **M:** 0455 839 794

### Gavin Horrigan

Director, Research Operations

**E:** ghorrigan@cabrini.com.au

**P:** 03 9508 3460 **M:** 0407 518 370

