

scope

A vision becomes a reality

The concept of a Wellington-based, independent medical research institute was first proposed in the early 1960's. At that time relatively little research was being conducted in the area due to lack of facilities, nor was it customary for Hospital Boards to foster or support research in their hospitals.

Using funds from a trust established by the Wellington Medical Research Foundation and the Wellington Division of the Cancer Society, the Wellington Cancer and Medical Research Institute was opened on 26 July 1979, in rented premises in the Wellington School of Medicine. In 1986 the name of the Institute was changed to the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research in recognition of the generous support by the late Mr Len Malaghan and Mrs Ann Malaghan. Two decades later the Institute relocated to a purpose-built facility at Victoria University of Wellington.

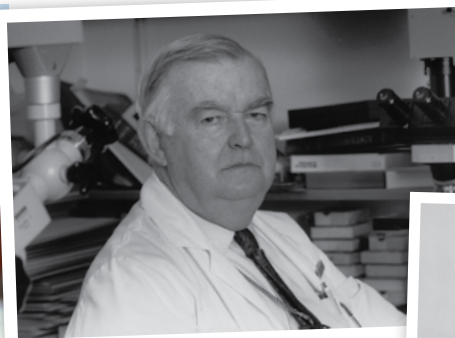
Through challenging times of funding shortfalls and the 'brain drain' of our talented young scientists overseas, the Institute has proudly upheld its original commitment to "quality of work, honesty of purpose and strength of endeavour". From humble beginnings through to New Zealand's premier vaccine and immunology research centre, this is the story of the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research.

"History has taught us that basic research into the cellular and molecular mechanisms which underlie disease represents the best hope for the wellbeing of future generations."

Professor Graham Le Gros, Director.



The Malaghan Institute of Medical Research



Malaghan Institute Directors
Above: Prof W Stehbens
(1978 to 1993),
Right: Prof CR Beasley
(1993 to 1994)
Left: Prof G Le Gros
(1994 to present).

Where there's research, there's hope

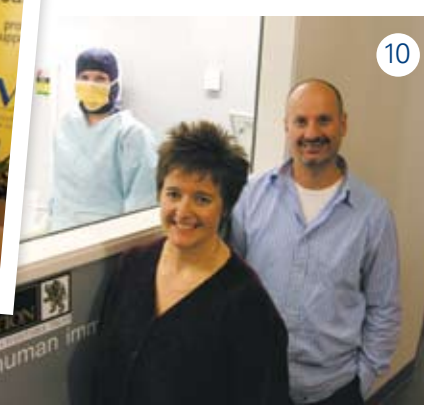
When the Wellington Cancer and Medical Research Institute was first established in the 1970's, it was stipulated that approximately half of the Institute's activities were to be directed to the investigation of cancer, and the remaining half to general medical research. The primary goal of the Institute was to foster research of exceptional quality, for it was considered that to do otherwise would betray the faith and generosity of the Institute's original benefactors.

Under the guidance of the founding Director Prof William Stehbens, the initial medical research focus of the Institute was concerned with the underlying causes and mechanisms of arterial disease (atherosclerosis and its complications), while the cancer component of the Institute's research programme was mainly directed at leukaemia, a malignant or cancerous disease of blood cells.

Work in these areas continued following Prof Stehbens' retirement in 1993, and a new initiative in the field of immunology and asthma was developed by Prof Graham Le Gros with the support of Prof Stehbens' successor, Prof Richard Beasley, and

the Wellington Asthma Research Group. In 1994 Prof Le Gros was appointed Research Director of the Malaghan Institute and was instrumental in helping establish a new Cancer Immunotherapy programme at the Institute, headed by Prof Franca Ronchese, to exploit the potential of a rare class of blood cells for directing immune responses against cancer cells. This pioneering research has since led to the involvement of the Malaghan Institute in clinical trials of dendritic cell-based vaccines for the treatment of individuals with Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, melanoma and glioblastoma multiforme (brain cancer).

In recent years the Malaghan Institute has replaced its original focus on heart disease with world-class research programmes in arthritis, multiple sclerosis and infectious diseases such as tuberculosis but has remained steadfast in its quest for more effective cancer treatments. Today the Malaghan Institute is recognised as New Zealand's premier vaccine and immunology research centre, bringing benefit and hope to our communities through scientific research.



- 1 Malaghan Institute Trust Board Chairman Dr AT Johns presenting a Gold Certificate to Mr Paul Collins, Brierley's Chief Executive, in appreciation of the company's continuing generous support to the Institute (1987)
- 2 Peter McCaffery and Prof Stehbens in the laboratory (1987)
- 3 Current Vaccine Research Group Leader, Dr Ian Hermans, giving a talk when at the Institute working as a Post Doctoral Researcher (circa 1998)
- 4 Princess Anne looking down the microscope under the watchful eye of Dr David Ritchie (1999)
- 5 Director, Prof Graham Le Gros and Cancer Immunotherapy Group Leader, Prof Franca Ronchese working on an experiment (circa 1999)

- 6 PhD student, Emma Dangerfield in the laboratory (2008)
- 7 Construction of the new Institute (2003)
- 8 Harry the Wheelbarrow man setting off from the Malaghan Institute on his trip across New Zealand raising money for melanoma research (2004)
- 9 Opening ceremony for the new premises 2004. From left: Prof Graham Le Gros, Graham Malaghan, The Hon Annette King, Stuart McCutcheon and Dame Sylvia Cartwright
- 10 Julie Walton inside our state of the art GMP Lab, where our vaccines are produced, with Catherine Wood (clinical nurse) and Dr Ian Hermans outside (circa 2005)



Prof Mike Berridge back in the late 70's when the Institute started and today working in the laboratory.

Reflections from a founding Malaghan Institute scientist

Prof Mike Berridge is a household name in the New Zealand science arena. His contributions to the field of cancer research are recognised globally and he has played an active role in advising government on landmark policies such as the Royal Commission on Genetic Modification, stem cell research and cancer innovations.

A lesser known fact is that Prof Berridge was the second Malaghan Fellow and has been associated with the Institute since 1976, before its new premises opened. He describes his laboratory space at that time as "a small, drafty, leaky and dirty room on the roof of the old Wellington Hospital building. In bad weather the corridor outside became a river and in really good weather, the animal facility a couple of rooms away was a sensory offence!" While waiting for the Institute to have its own facility, Prof Berridge was also provided with laboratory space within the Biochemistry Department at Victoria University of Wellington.

Prof Berridge's early research was aimed at gaining a better understanding of blood stem cells, with the goal of improving bone marrow transplantation.

His current research concerns the elusive cancer stem cell, a minor population of quiescent, drug-resistant cells that are thought to be responsible for the initiation of most cancers and their recurrence following treatment. When asked how scientific research compares today Prof Berridge said "being a researcher 33 years on involves some dramatic differences and new challenges, but some things haven't changed much. Not surprisingly, the most dramatic changes relate to the revolution in information technology involving wide use of powerful computers fuelled by search engines and electronic publication systems that have shifted the world of science literature and communication from libraries and the printed page to plastic office screens and electronic mail systems. The pace and scope of research has quickened but it still takes about the same time to fill an order."

From his quirky sense of humour to his unrivalled passion and drive for scientific endeavours, Prof Berridge has been and continues to be a vital contributor to the success of the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research.

The Malaghan family legacy



Len Malaghan, Mrs Childs, Ann Malaghan and Dr R Childs at the reception announcing their original gift for Medical Research, 1967. Below: Graham Malaghan



The namesake of the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research, Len Malaghan, was born in 1906. As a young man, he was a cheese and butter maker at the Tapanui Co-operative Dairy Factory and had a keen eye for business. Following an opportunity to train under a visiting ice cream manufacturer from the United States, Len and his wife Ann opened a milk bar in Wellington in 1936, specialising in ice cream and milkshakes. That humble enterprise was an immediate success and soon expanded into what we know today as Tip Top Ice Cream Ltd. In fact the first ice cream on a stick, the Topsy, was named after one of Len's favourite cows.

Len's generosity to the Wellington Medical Research Foundation began when he was

diagnosed with cancer at the young age of 56. He and his wife Ann established a medical research trust by gifting shares in General Foods Corporation to the Foundation in 1967. Len and Ann's legacy lives on through their family with son Graham serving as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees since 1990, and grandson Matthew joining the Board in 2008. Other family members have played significant roles in various fundraising initiatives.

While Len passed away forty years ago, at the relatively young age of 61, scientists at the Malaghan Institute remain committed to fulfilling his vision of improved health outcomes for all New Zealanders.



0800 MALAGHAN (0800 625 244) TO MAKE A CREDIT CARD DONATION



Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss _____

Address _____

FREEPOST 3554, PO Box 7060, Wellington 6242
(If you wish a stamp would help our efforts)

- I/We enclose a donation of \$.00
- Cheque Cash
- Credit Card - VISA/Mastercard/AMEX/Diners
- Expiry __/__/__ Signature
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Please send me information on how I can leave a gift in my will and invest in a disease-free future

Please call 0800 MALAGHAN (0800 625 244) to find out how to become a regular donor

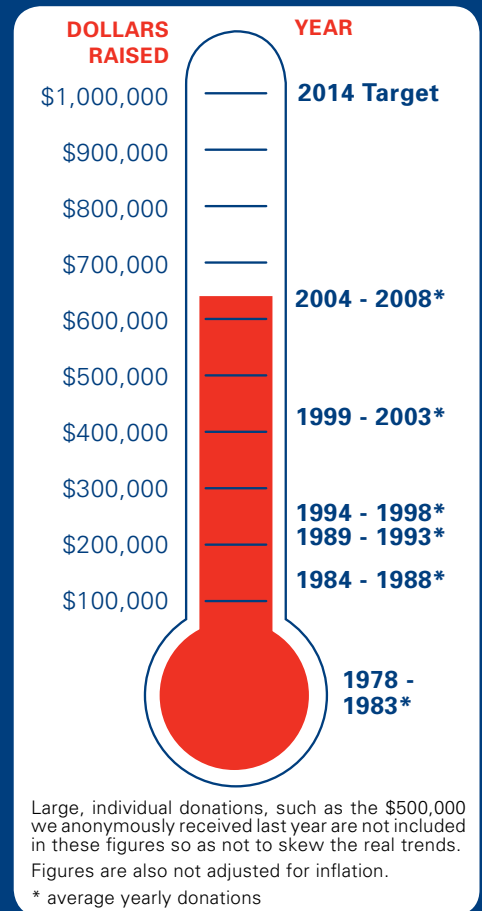
The history of fundraising at the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research

Of course, just as the Malaghan Institute itself has a long history of science going back 30 years, so does the history of its fundraising. As the Malaghan Institute has grown so has the level of support and donations.

In 1978, the first year of operation of the Institute, \$1525.00 was donated - which in those days was quite a lot of money! Just one year later, in 1979 when the Institute officially opened, there was a dramatic increase in the donations to \$32,621.50. Over the next 30 years the donations steadily increased in order to continue to support the growth of

the Malaghan Institute itself. The past five years have seen us surpass the half a million dollar mark and our goal is to achieve one million dollars of yearly donations by the year 2014. A big ask, but one we are working hard to achieve, and one which is important to ensure the continued growth and scientific excellence of the Malaghan Institute.

For everyone who has been with us on this journey from the beginning, and to those who have recently joined us – thank you all for your wonderful support and we hope you feel proud of what you have helped us to achieve.



Fundraising update Oct 08 - Mar 09

Charity Golf Tournaments

Once again our three wonderful Friends Committees in Auckland, Hawkes Bay and Wellington came up trumps by organising three fantastic Golf tournaments. Combined, they had over 300 golfers playing in what has become an annual fixture for many of the participating corporates. Over \$100,000.00 was raised for research which is a phenomenal result. Many thanks to the hardworking committees, sponsors and players for organising and supporting such a great day out on the golf course. Thank you to both AMI Insurance and ING NZ Ltd for sponsoring the events in Auckland and Wellington respectively.

Lollipop Day - 26 Feb 2009

On Thursday the 26th of February, Wellington was inundated by lollipops for the Annual Lollipop Appeal. Over 300 volunteers were out and about in the region with collection buckets and

the people of Wellington responded generously. Just over \$41,000.00 was raised and will go a long way toward supporting our research programmes in the months ahead. Thank you to everyone who gave on the day and to all our volunteers, without whom the appeal would not be possible. Thank you also to our sponsors: the ever generous AMI Insurance, Clemenger BBDO for the great advertising campaign and also Allens for generously donating the lollipops.

Grants (Oct 08 - Mar 09)

Thank you very much to the following Trusts who have generously donated funds for research projects and/or equipment costs:

- Springhill Charitable Trust/Frimley Foundation
- Southern Trust
- Lion Foundation
- Infinity Foundation Ltd