

# M MALAGHAN INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH



Our journey started in 1966 with a vision to improve the lives of all New Zealanders.

Since then we have grown into our nation's leading independent biomedical research institute, committed to finding cures for cancer, asthma, allergy and infectious and inflammatory diseases.

50 YEARS

1966  
2016

# WELCOME



**Graham Malaghan**  
ONZM FCILT Hon DSc. Chairman.

Fifty years ago I, along with my brother Neil and sister Margaret, witnessed our parents, Len and Ann, gift an initial 100,000 shares of their company, General Foods, to seed this institution. Their desire was to fund research in diseases of the blood, particularly cancer. Today we acknowledge the 50 years of work that has delivered this first class organisation, which is among New Zealand's many jewels. The Malaghan Institute will continue to resource and lead contributions to medical knowledge and create wealth for our country. I believe we have entered a new phase in our history, marked by self-determination and independence, and I look forward to all that lies ahead.



Malaghan Institute staff 2016.



**Professor Graham Le Gros**  
CNZM FRSNZ FRCPA(Hon) Bsc, Dip Immunol, MPhil, PhD. Director.

A golden anniversary is a good opportunity to celebrate our past and look forward to the future. I would like to acknowledge and thank everyone who has contributed to the Institute since 1966 – our Trust Board, our staff, our funders and our loyal Friends and supporters. You make our work possible and it is thanks to you all that the Institute is what it is today. Recent discoveries in immunobiology are raising the hope that some of the most difficult and intractable human diseases may be effectively prevented, cured or treated. Our own discoveries and innovative steps are contributing new ways for immunology to be applied to a whole range of human diseases and strive for a better future.

# 1966–1975

## A BOLD VISION

Early  
1960s

The idea of an independent medical research institute is conceived by Wellington surgeon Mr Tom Collins and epidemiologist Dr Ian Prior.

1966

The Len and Ann Malaghan Medical Research Trust is formed.

1967

A foundation gift of shares in General Foods worth \$200,000 is made by Len and Ann Malaghan for research into diseases of the blood.

On Christmas Day Len Malaghan passes away.

1968

The Wellington Cancer and Medical Research Institute Trust is created jointly by the Wellington Division of the Cancer Society and the Wellington Medical Research Foundation to foster medical research in the capital. Its purpose is to raise funds for the erection, equipping and maintaining of an appropriate building in Wellington.

1969

Dr Gerald Green begins his appointment as the first Malaghan Fellow.

1974

Professor Stehbens takes up the post as director of the Institute, conjoint with the Chair of Pathology in the Wellington Clinical School of Medicine. He advocates strongly for the value of medical research.



Len and Ann Malaghan.



Len Malaghan co-founded Tip Top in 1936 and General Foods Corporation (NZ) Ltd was formed as its parent company in 1964. The Topsy ice-cream was named after one of Len's favourite cows.

*“... the aim of the Institute must be to foster medical research of high quality for to do otherwise would betray the faith and generosity of all those benefactors who contributed generously to the establishment of the Institute.”*

-First Annual Report, Wellington Cancer and Medical Research Institute.

**1976–1985**

# OUR FIRST HOME

THE WELLINGTON  
CANCER & MEDICAL  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

**1976**

Dr Michael Berridge begins work as the second Malaghan Research Fellow.

**1979**

Official opening of the Wellington Cancer and Medical Research Institute (housed in the Wellington Clinical School of Medicine) by Sir Charles Burns. At the opening ceremony, Burns asked guests to join with him "in a Blessing on this Institute" and offered congratulations "on this magnificent beginning to what... we will one day, I believe, see as the Capital City's most treasured possession".

**1980s**

Significant new knowledge about the causes of plaques (that harden and narrow arteries) is generated.



Mr George Gair, Minister for Health, inspects "New Zealand's most modern medical research institute"... With him is the Institute director, Professor Bill Stehbens (right).



Staff photo 1980. Bill Stehbens back left, An Tan and Mike Berridge front left.

## SCIENCE IN 1985



PUBLICATIONS: 11



RESEARCH: Atherosclerosis, blood vessels and cancer.



NUMBER OF STAFF: 15

**1986–1995**

# RENAMED TO HONOUR



**1986**

Name changes to the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research. This honours the generosity of the Malaghan family, recognises the Institute's national presence and avoids confusion with the Cancer Society.

**1987**

Friends of the Malaghan Institute founded to provide a support network for the institute.

**1989**

A breakthrough discovery that the hormone erythropoietin promotes the production of platelets in blood is made.

**1990**

Graham Malaghan becomes Chairman of the Trust Board.

**1991**

Ann Malaghan passes away. "The Institute over the years was greatly assisted by gifts made by Mrs Malaghan. Throughout her life she shunned publicity and sought no acknowledgement of her generosity." Scope October 1991.

Changes to the Trust Deed are made to widen the scope of research and the basis for trustee appointments, and make the Institute independent from its sponsors (Wellington Medical Research Institute and Cancer Society).

**1993**

Landmark paper published showing how a well used cell proliferation assay works.

**1994**

Drs Franca Ronchese and Graham Le Gros appointed, bringing a new focus on immunology. These appointments are supported by the Wellington Medical Research Foundation and Brierley Investments Limited.



FACS cell sorter and operators Jocelyn Street (left) and Karen Armitage, 1986.



The inaugural Friends group established in Wellington in 1987.



Asthma, allergy immunology researchers, 1996. From left Franca Ronchese and, Graham Le Gros, Penny Fitzharris, Rod Dunbar, Katherine Garrigan, Ian Hermans. Front, Michael McDonald.

## SCIENCE IN 1995



PUBLICATIONS: 16



POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS: 6



NUMBER OF STAFF: 22



RESEARCH: Cancer immunotherapy, cancer cell and molecular biology, asthma, tuberculosis and immunology.

# 1996-2005

## A NEW DIRECTION



**1998**

First cancer vaccine trial begins, using dendritic cell based immune therapy to treat non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Evidence supporting the hygiene hypothesis (that dirt is good for immune development) is gathered.

**2000**

Certain types of bacterial lung infections (such as TB) are found to alleviate the symptoms of allergic asthma in experimental models.

**2002**

MalCorp Biodiscoveries is established to commercialise Malaghan discoveries.

**2004**

The Institute moves to Victoria University of Wellington to address critical issues of adequate space and facilities but retains links with the University of Otago. The refurbished building is opened by the Governor-General Dame Sylvia Cartwright.

First patient from the Wellington region is enrolled in a Phase III melanoma vaccine clinical trial.



Princess Anne, pictured here with Mike Berridge, visits the Institute in 1999.



'Let's lick cancer' Lollipop Appeal raises more than \$70,000 in 2003.

### SCIENCE IN 2005



PUBLICATIONS: 28



POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS: 12



NUMBER OF STAFF: 55



RESEARCH: Cancer immunotherapy, vaccine research, cancer cell and molecular biology, asthma and parasitic diseases, infectious diseases, multiple sclerosis, arthritis and inflammation and biodiscovery.

# 2006-2016 FORGING AHEAD

**2006**

The Institute is the first good manufacturing practice laboratory in New Zealand to gain approval from Medsafe to manufacture cancer vaccines using human cells.

**2009**

Victoria University awards an Honorary Doctorate in Science to Graham Malaghan in recognition of his contribution to medical research.

**2010**

Opening of the Keith and Faith Taylor Cancer Research Laboratories, designed for vaccine development, by Hon Tony Ryall, Minister of Health.

Pivotal discovery is made that could lead to a vaccine for human hookworm.

**2011**

The Hugh Green Cytometry Core is established through the support of the Hugh Green Charitable Trust.

**2014**

The Health Research Council of New Zealand provides funding to the Institute from the Capability in Independent Research Organisations Fund.

Concept for a new type of asthma vaccine is found to be effective.

**2015**

Avalia Immunotherapies is formed with the Ferrier Research Institute to progress patented cancer vaccine technology.

Seminal discovery showing gene transfer between cells published.



Evelyn Bauer working in the GMP laboratory.



Kylie Price, flow cytometry suite manager, receives the Cyber Gold Award from Mayor Celia Wade-Brown at the Wellington Gold Awards, 2014.

The Institute also wins the Supreme Dominion Post Wellington Gold Award.

## SCIENCE IN 2015



PUBLICATIONS: 25



POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS: 11



NUMBER OF STAFF: 75



RESEARCH: Cancer, asthma, allergy, parasitic diseases, gut immunology and multiple sclerosis.

# CREATING THE FUTURE

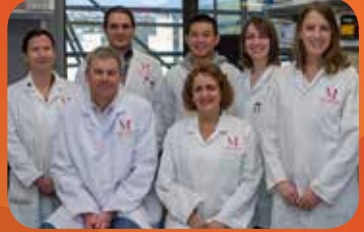
The opportunity to create a healthier world has never been closer. Decades of investment and strong support for clarifying the operations of the human immune system is paying off. We are learning how to teach the body to heal itself.

Until now, our work has focused on cancer, asthma and allergy research, but in the next decade or two – perhaps sooner – I believe we will see an immune-based approach applied to treating conditions such as multiple sclerosis, autism and diabetes. Even more challenging, and very timely given the world's ageing populations, could be its extension to treating dementia and other neurological problems. Being able to lead a full and healthy life for as long as possible will have massive implications not just for the individuals and their families but for society more broadly.

We are in an excellent position to make the world change. The Institute is recognised globally as a world leader and we are well-supported by a strongly interested set of philanthropic individuals and organisations, who want to see us play an important role in New Zealand's future.

And we haven't forgotten that we need to train the next generation – young people who have the drive, the skill and the interest in more than their own careers. Our students are coming in behind us and pushing us to go faster. They are the future leaders in medical research and will shape society for good.

Professor Graham Le Gros



Professor Graham Le Gros (front left) with the parasitic diseases research team.



Olivia Burn, PhD student (Otago)