



PRESS RELEASE – Friday November 13th 2015

The mission to improve the 6.1% survival rate of Pancreatic Cancer gets a boost today with the announcement of Avner’s Foundation Grant Funding Recipients.

Today, on World Pancreatic Cancer Day, Avner’s Foundation is pleased to announce the recipients of a number of important Grants which it is hoped will pave the way for making survival of Pancreatic Cancer possible.

One of the driving forces behind the tireless efforts of the Foundation is the current 5-year survival rate of Pancreatic Cancer of just 6.1% (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report 2014). Coupled with median survival of between three and six months post diagnosis, it paints a grim picture for the majority of patients.

Tremendous progress has been made through focused efforts in research for other cancers. Survival rates for all cancers combined have improved from 47% for the period 1982-1987 to 66% in 2006-2010, however for the same period Pancreatic Cancer has only increased from 3% to 5% (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2012).

The key for pancreatic cancer is to recognise that one size does not fit all. Research focused specifically on the challenges of pancreatic cancer is the only way forward and this is what these research programs are designed to do.

The \$1.9 million funding pool was raised through incredible corporate and community fundraising efforts across the country and has translated into a total of six Grants. They will now be directed to a number of highly regarded researchers and prestigious organisations such as the Garvan Institute of

Medical Research, the Centenary Institute, University of Sydney and the University of NSW.

Caroline Kelly, Director and Co-Founder of Avner's Foundation, believes that the use of funding for these Grants will result in a more positive outlook for Pancreatic Cancer patients. "These grants have the potential to transform the knowledge and understanding of this disease and bring hope to the thousands of families who receive such a heartbreaking prognosis every year. It is making survival possible."

The nature of the Grants are divided into two categories – Accelerator Grants and 'Woolies on Wheels' Innovation Grants. The Accelerator Grants are designed to support specific projects and/or infrastructure for research into Pancreatic Cancer. The key objective to be met is to clearly demonstrate support for the Foundation's vision 'to break through 40 years of no progress by doubling the number of people who survive pancreatic cancer by 2020'.

The 2015 Accelerator Grants have been awarded to The Garvan Institute of Medical Research based Australian Pancreatic Cancer Genome Initiative (APGI) network and the Centenary Institute, University of Sydney.

The second category, the 'Woolies on Wheels' Innovation Grants (of which there are four) are in recognition of the efforts of the Woolworths' business leaders who cycled the 2014 'Woolies on Wheels' charity cycling event to raise funds in support of Avner's Foundation. The Grants will support \$100,000 (GST exclusive) in seed funding for innovative projects with a desire to increase interest and investment in Pancreatic Cancer research. Their key objective is to support established scientists and/or early career researchers and to encourage and retain talented, skilled individuals in the field of Pancreatic Cancer.

The 2015 'Woolies on Wheels' Innovation Grants have been awarded to The Garvan Institute of Medical Research, the Kolling Institute of Medical Research, University of Sydney and the University of New South Wales (two grants).

The Foundation formed a Scientific Advisory Panel consisting of national and international experts in the field of Pancreatic Cancer and this group

assessed the Grant submissions which were then recommended to the Board.

Going forward, Avner Pancreatic Cancer Foundation Grants will be offered on an annual basis as assessed by our Scientific Advisory Panel set up by the Foundation exclusively for the pursuit of pancreatic cancer research.

Avner's Foundation congratulates all recipients and is dedicated to supporting their important, collective work towards a brighter future for those touched by Pancreatic Cancer.

EMBARGOED UNTIL FRIDAY NOVEMBER 13th 2015

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About the Avner Pancreatic Cancer Foundation:

Incorporated as a Foundation - the Avner Nahmani Pancreatic Cancer Foundation Limited on 30 July 2010. The organisation supports research and helps build awareness of Pancreatic Cancer. It is the only Foundation in Australia exclusively dedicated to Pancreatic Cancer and is named in honour of Avner Nahmani, a former senior executive of Woolworths Limited who succumbed to the disease thirteen months after diagnosis. The name of the Foundation was changed to Avner Pancreatic Cancer Foundation Limited on 10th March 2015.

For more information please contact –

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Commentary available from:

Associate Professor Nick Pavlakis, member of Avner Pancreatic Cancer Foundation's Scientific Advisory Panel

Amber Johns, Project Manager – Pancreatic Cancer, at the Garvan Institute of Medical Research