
SURGICAL RESEARCH TRUST

SURGICAL RESEARCH TRUST
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
August 2013

Introduction:

The Surgical Research Trust was established in 1991 and we are delighted to celebrate the 21st Anniversary of the Trust this evening. The Trust was set up to support the development of research in the Department of Surgery of the Wellington School of Medicine, and today support has expanded to include surgical research in Surgical Departments of several hospitals in New Zealand.

Initially, the Trust established a Summer Student Research Programme, which allows senior medical students to undertake research during their long summer vacation. This programme has been most successful, giving excellent return on the investment. The program regularly results in the publication of papers in peer reviewed journals both locally and internationally. At the same time, we sought donations to support larger research projects by members of the surgical staff. Over the last 21 years, we have been successful in attracting a modest amount of funding for such projects. We have received funding through bequests, generous donations from members of the public, substantial support through the medical supply industry and most recently from phil&teds, a leading Wellington company, which supplies strollers, buggies & other infant products. Tonight we will be announcing two more important sponsors for our summer studentship program. The Trust also relies on other trusts to support its research activities, such as the Nikau Foundation.

Surgical research benefits all members of the New Zealand community and in many instances is of significance to the international surgical community. The Trustees hope the level of support of the Trust will continue to grow, and allow expansion to research in important areas in the future. However in this time of financial constraint we, like many charitable trusts, are finding sources of funding more difficult to access. In order to maintain our level of support for surgical research we are keen to explore funding opportunities, and if you are aware of any such opportunity please contact us.

Summer Studentship Projects:

Our summer studentship program continues to provide invaluable assistance to medical students to work on a research programme over the summer holidays. More often than not, this results in a significant contribution to medical literature and of course provides an invaluable research opportunity for young talented medical students. Hamish Green whose research was funded by a Phil&Teds Scholarship won the prize for the best research project at the Wellington School of Medicine in 2012/2013. His research will be outlined at the annual function by his supervisor Prof Dawn Elder. We are going to fund three or four studentships in 2013/14.

New Initiatives:

The Trust is delighted to announce two new major sponsors at the annual function. The Museum Hotel has kindly provided funding for a summer studentship , beginning this coming summer. This will be known as the Museum Hotel Summer Studentship. We are grateful to Mr Chris Parkin for this generous support.

The second sponsor is the Ideas Shop who have generously agreed to fund a Summer Studentship beginning in 2013/2014. Ideas Shop is a leading public relations consultancy, providing services to clients throughout New Zealand and internationally.

The Trust is fortunate to have two "interns" from Victoria University's IT program to work with trustees to redesign the Trusts web site. The Trust wishes to increase its online profile and thus make its work more accessible to a wider audience , as well as increase the awareness of partnerships the Trust has entered into . This work should be available for all to see in three months at www.surgicaltrust.org.nz, please visit the site to learn more about the Trust and how you may be able to support its work.

The Trust is delighted to be associated with ARTrove for their third Art Exhibition to be held on Thursday 5 September 2013 at Asteron House. ARTrove have generously agreed to give 30% of sales revenue on the opening night to the Trust . Further details of this exciting event can be obtained from Kirsty Fyfe (kafyfe@gmail.com).

Johnson and Johnson Scholarship:

The Johnson and Johnson Scholarship ran for five years and was an invaluable source of funding for the Trust. It resulted in two internationally acclaimed orthopaedic publications, several general surgical and plastic surgical publications and many presentations in NZ and overseas. This body of work advanced surgical knowledge in areas such as artificial joint performance, obesity management, and the management of paediatric birth marks. We continue to receive some funds from Johnson and Johnson Medical which was used this year to fund a research project by Dr Patrix Herst working in conjunction with the Malaghan Institute, and that will be presented at the Annual Function .

The Hospital Bear Project:

We are now in our fourth year of phil&teds sponsorship of the Hospital Bear Project, in which children admitted for surgery to Wellington, Hutt, Waikato and Christchurch Hospital are given a bear to comfort them during what is often a traumatic time. The funding from this project gives rise to the annual phil&teds scholarship. The Hospital Bear project has been one of our most successful projects bringing comfort and security to thousands of New Zealand children, as well as funding many research projects, and we are most grateful to phil&teds for their generous support. Nicola Chloherly from phil&teds joined the Trust as a trustee, and has given invaluable support to the Trust including organising online auctions of Phil&Teds products, the proceeds of which benefit the Trust. In June, the 5000th bear was given out to a young patient by members of the Phoenix football team

Trustee Update:

The Trustees wish to acknowledge the tremendous support given by our secretary Mrs Christine Moore, who runs the Trust on a day to day basis. Without her unfailing efforts the Trust could not provide the support of surgical research in hospitals around New Zealand. The Trust is indebted to Alastair Mansell, of Mansell and Associates, the honorary accountant for the Trust. We look forward to continuing to work with Alastair to fulfil our obligations to maintain robust financial records, and thank him for giving his time to assist the Trust.

The Trust is sorry to note the retirement of Derek Fry as a trustee. Derek has been a source of inspiration to the Trust over many years, and thanks him most sincerely for his contributions.

On a personal note I would like to thank the Trustees for the time they have given to the Trust in the last year. Finally I am delighted to announce that Mr Grant Kiddle, an eminent orthopaedic surgeon and a Trustee will take over as Chairman of the Trust following the annual function. I will continue to support the Trust for the foreseeable future.

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE SURGICAL RESEARCH TRUST...

There are several methods by which you could help the Surgical Research Trust. These are outlined below, and if you would like further information please do not hesitate to talk to one of the Trustees, or contact:

Christine Moore, Secretary – PO Box 14651, Kilbirnie, Wellington
Email: surgicaltrust@gmail.com

1) Individual Donations:

Many private individuals donate to the Trust each year. These donations are usually pooled together and used to fund either a summer student to do research over the summer holidays, or to purchase equipment to use on a research project.

2) Summer Studentships:

Each year the Trust funds summer students who are senior medical students who wish to embark on a research project over the summer holidays. The students are paid a stipend of \$5,000 and during the ten weeks that they are working in the department most of them produce a significant piece of research, which results in publication, usually in the New Zealand Medical Journal, and sometimes overseas.

3) Research Scholarship (\$20,000-\$30,000)

A donation of this size would fund a one year scholarship for a research worker. These scholarships would be named after the sponsor or whoever the sponsor nominates.

An opportunity exists for larger donations to partially or fully fund one of the Trusts major initiatives.