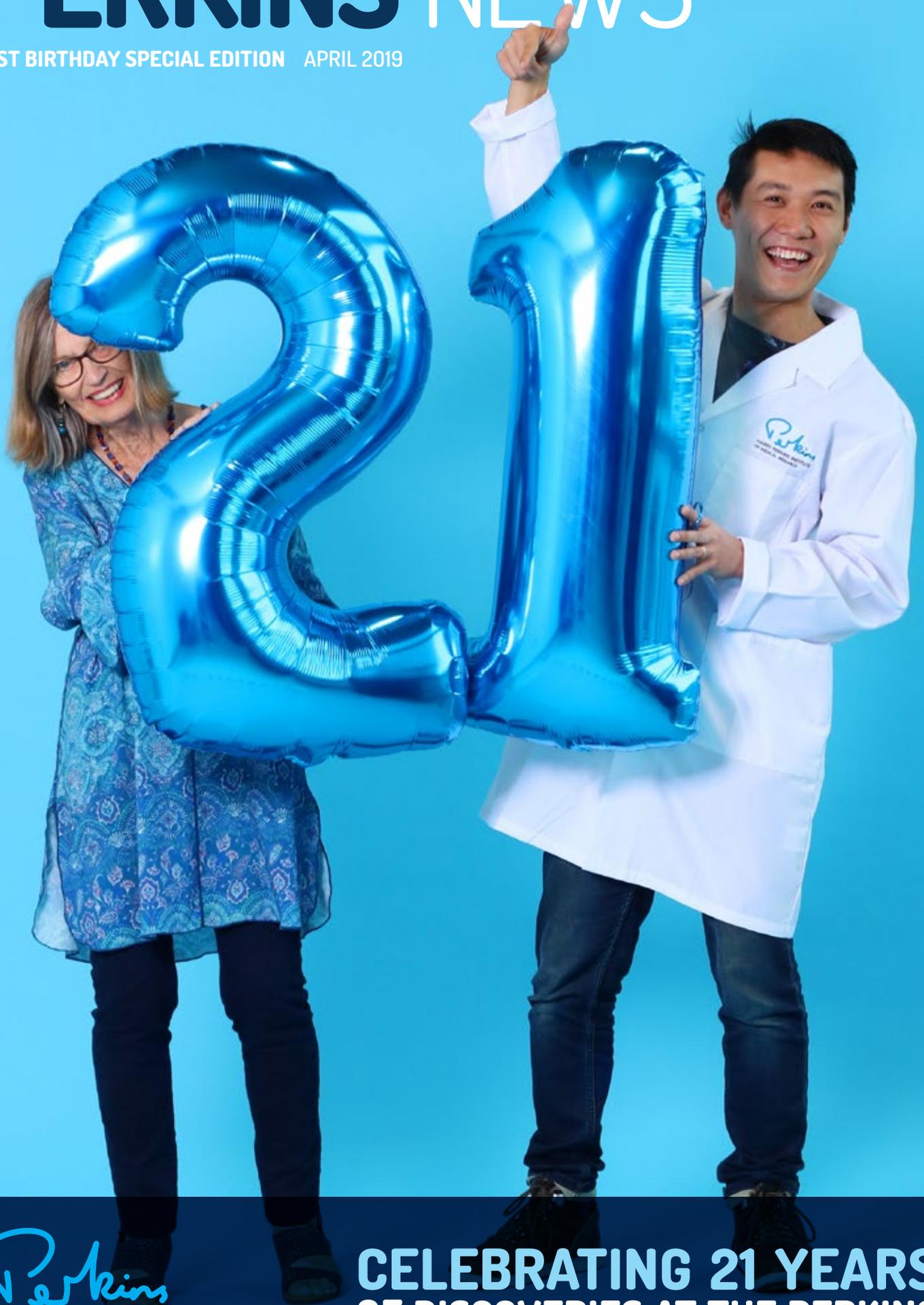


PERKINS NEWS

21ST BIRTHDAY SPECIAL EDITION APRIL 2019



HARRY PERKINS INSTITUTE
OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

**CELEBRATING 21 YEARS
OF DISCOVERIES AT THE PERKINS**

Celebrating a milestone together

It's our 21st birthday and we wanted to celebrate you, the people who have been there for us along the way and stand by us to this day. Thank you for making the Perkins a priority in your lives. We are so grateful for your support. In this bumper issue we'll be looking to the past as we move toward the vision we share of better health outcomes for all West Australians.

BREAKTHROUGHS AND BIRTHDAYS

21 years ago this March, a visionary group of people established the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research, then known as the Western Australian Institute for Medical Research.

The Institute brought together doctors and researchers who had been working in relative isolation and united them under one roof, with one common purpose – to defeat disease and keep families like yours together for longer. To attract and retain the best-and-brightest minds to solve some of the biggest disease challenges our community faces, world-class facilities were needed.

And that's exactly what we achieved with the launch of the Perkins two hubs in 2014. Today, the Perkins has grown to become one of the nation's leading medical research centres, focused on finding answers to the major health challenges facing West Australians.

The growth of the Perkins is a reflection of the generosity of people like you; West Australians who foresaw a need for lifesaving medical research in your own state.

Thank you to everyone who has helped propel the Perkins forward. Together, we are reaching toward the incredible medical solutions we know are possible and bringing them closer day by day.

In 21 years, our research teams have contributed to more than 1300 notable discoveries that have improved the scientific understanding of how our bodies function and fight disease.

Thank you for helping us make this possible.

Cover photo
Bridget Faye, long-time Perkins supporter and Royston Ong, Perkins researcher



Director's message

21 YEARS OF DRIVING DISCOVERY

When I graduated from university in the early eighties and began my career in research and medicine, I saw Perth as an ideal home for a globally significant and hyper-productive research ecosystem.

Our state is geographically isolated and as a result of this, a high portion of our population remain here for life. This makes the WA population unique and sought after by scientists conducting long-term studies. But important to me, as a fellow West Australian, was the potential medical research had to improve our healthcare system through better access to skilled medical professionals and the latest treatments.

Now almost forty years on, I am writing to you from one of Perth's world-class research facilities, where some of the nation's brightest and most inquisitive minds are devoted to pursuing major breakthroughs and better health outcomes for our community. I feel incredibly fortunate. Fortunate that you, the community we strive to serve, in turn support us with such generosity. Because together we have made Western Australia home to this inspiring hub of scientific discovery and medical innovation.

Over the years the Perkins has made major strides towards solving the important and immediate health problems of our time, by recruiting the brightest scientists, supplying them with the tools they need and enabling cross-disciplinary collaboration. As Perth continues to grow as an international leader in medical breakthroughs, I'd like to extend my deepest thanks to you for supporting this important mission.

As I look ahead to the important impact our teams of doctors and researchers are making, I invite you – our enthusiastic community of supporters – to rally behind us. Because with you by our side, I know that our research can continue unwavering toward better health outcomes for families like yours and mine.

Professor Peter Leedman
Director, Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research



You are an important part of our future.

Without you, the Perkins would cease to exist. We value you and need your help to make the Perkins better than ever before.

Please complete the enclosed Perkins Supporter Survey and return in the reply paid envelope supplied so that we can focus our efforts on the research that matters to you.

How a WA farmer led the charge against disease

There are many people like you who have helped make the Perkins what it is today. From champions of medical research and supporters, to leading advocates who ensured the Institute had a reliable foundation on which to grow.

Few have had as big a part to play in this story as our inaugural Chairman and namesake, Mr Harry Perkins AO; farmer, business leader, philanthropist, father, husband and visionary.

The eastern wheatbelt town of Bruce Rock sits about 240km east of Perth, and it was here in 1939 that Charles Henry (Harry) Perkins was born. Harry planned to follow in the farming footsteps of his father, and ultimately took charge of the family farm at 22 when his father passed away.

Years later Harry earned a competitive farming scholarship to travel to Europe for six months and learn agriculture techniques from his international counterparts. It was during this time that Harry's strong appreciation for sharing knowledge and experience took hold.

Three years after returning to Western Australia, Harry's passion for innovation and idea sharing helped secure him a place on the board of farming cooperative, Wesfarmers.

Harry maintained his position on the board, after the company was publicly listed and two years later he became chairman. During his term as the head of Wesfarmers, Harry helped take the company from a \$32 million farming cooperative to a \$10 billion diversified conglomerate. He held the position for more than 16 years right up until the day before his untimely death.

While his corporate achievements are astounding, those who knew Harry remember him best for his passionate drive and enthusiasm for life. Harry's desire to make a difference in his beloved home state was always evident. It was this plan to foster synergy in WA that led Harry to partner with inaugural Perkins Director, Professor Peter Klinken (now WA's Chief Scientist) in helping to establish a world-class medical research facility.

What had originally been groups of scientists working in small siloed teams became a hub of exploration where researchers worked side-by-side to find solutions to major health challenges.

As the chair of Wesfarmers, Harry was able to help secure the initial \$5 million donation to establish the Institute with laboratory space, equipment and top scientific talent.

Harry had a passion for medical research. He saw a need in the community, recognised what could be achieved and how he could help.

Ultimately, Harry helped to inspire the WA community to come together for medical research. This intent to work together and achieve something greater than the sum of our parts has continued for twenty one years.

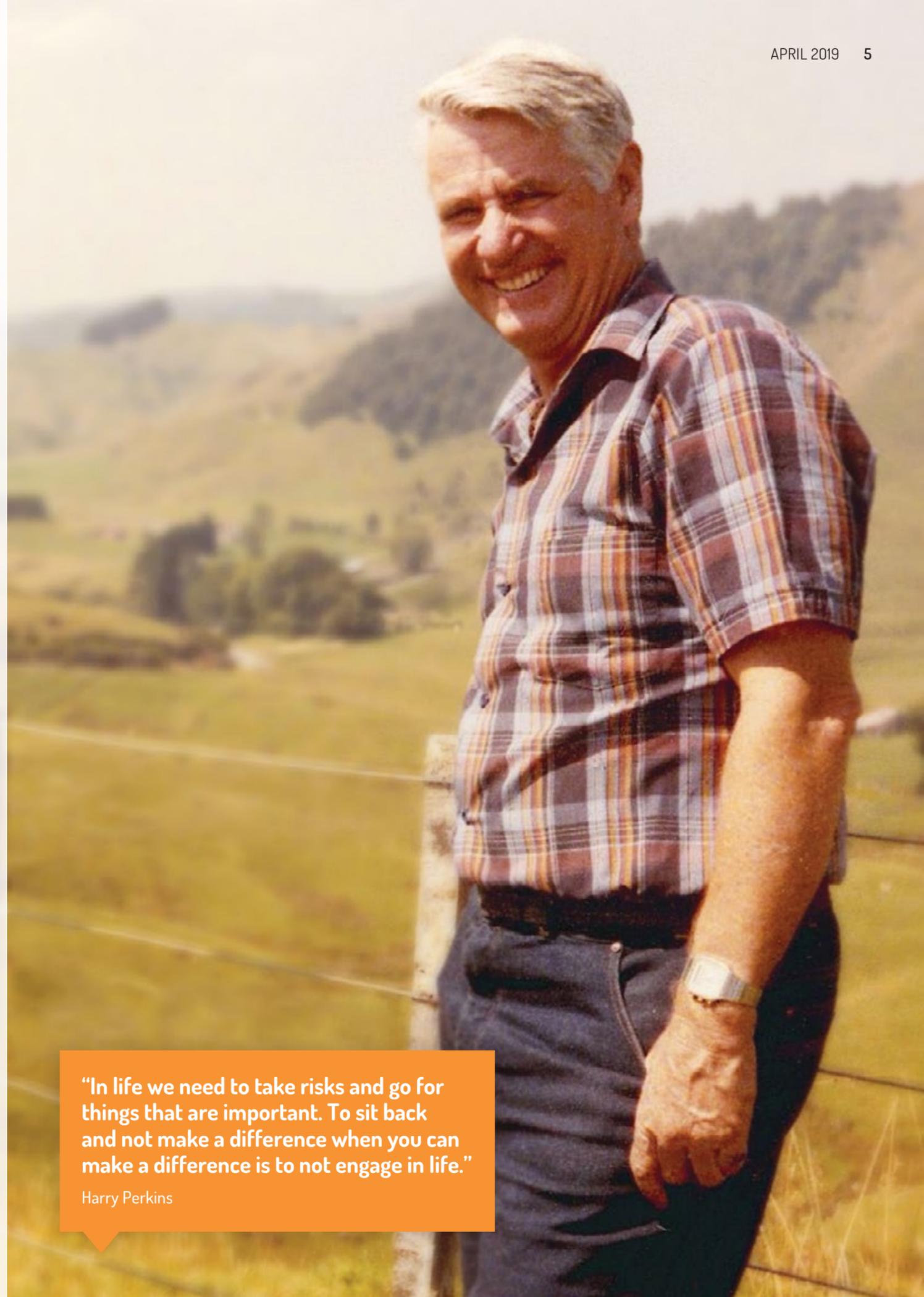
Harry helped start a movement to boost medical breakthroughs in our State, but his vision is carried on by the people of WA who see a need for collaboration and have united with researchers to improve health globally.

Help continue Harry's legacy by donating to the Perkins today.

Your generous gift will give WA researchers vital funds to continue their lifesaving work into the diseases that rob us of our loved ones. Donate today at perkins.org.au

"In life we need to take risks and go for things that are important. To sit back and not make a difference when you can make a difference is to not engage in life."

Harry Perkins



The impact of research

Here's how our collective health has changed in the past two decades.



The survival rate for all cancers increased by more than 20% in Australia.

Five-year survival from all cancers combined increased from 47% in the period 1982-1987 to 66% in 2006-2010. From 1995 to 2015, bowel cancer mortality rates fell 31%*

* bowel cancer mortality rates per 100,000 population



The five year survival rate for women diagnosed with breast cancer continues to increase.

The breast cancer mortality rate fell by 30% between 1994 and 2011.



The mortality rate for heart attack fell by 86% over the past three decades.

Did you know?

For every six grants submitted, only one is successfully funded.

Your support is vital for us to continue our focus on finding answers to the diseases that rob us of our loved ones.

A vital step in the path from bench to bedside

Linear Clinical Research Limited is WA's only early phase clinical trials facility and the most advanced facility of its kind in Australia.

Linear is a critical step in the translation of scientific discoveries into potentially lifesaving new treatments. Linear has a purpose built phase one facility, specialising in first phase clinical trials, where a small number of healthy volunteers test new treatments.

The facility has strong partnerships with major teaching hospitals which enable the recruitment of patient volunteers who need cutting-edge medicine. Linear also recruits healthy volunteers, who have the capacity to stay at the Nedlands clinic so that their diet and other factors can be controlled. Healthy trial participants can earn tax-free income while making a real difference for patients and the community.

If you want to learn more about taking part in a clinical trial, head to linear.org.au

"Creating new medicines is reliant on medical research. And medical research is reliant on people like you." Professor Peter Leedman

2019 so far: Your impact on discoveries

Can your gut bacteria affect your heart?

A team of Perkins, UWA and Curtin researchers has looked into this question and found evidence that your gut might have more of an impact on your heart than you may have thought.

Your gut is full of a complex community of microbiota that cohabitate to break down food and help maintain your health. But changes in the composition and diversity of this microbiome has been linked to a number of cardiovascular diseases, such as atherosclerosis, hypertension, and heart failure. The researchers recently reviewed evidence from a number of studies that supported a link between heart failure and gut microbiome imbalance.

The team is now planning further research to define the microbiota present in typically healthy individuals compared with those who experience heart problems, to determine which bacteria promote heart healing and hopefully help in developing a prebiotic/probiotic treatment to boost your heart health.

Perth team unlock forty-year genetic mystery

A team of Perth geneticists has helped solve an international hunt for the cause of the rare muscle wasting disease - Myoglobinopathy.

Research led by teams in Perth, Spain and Sweden identified the genetic mutation for the late-onset muscle weakening disease, first described in 1980, that can cause heart failure and breathing difficulties around 40 with loss of mobility 15 years later.

It is not known how many people around the world suffer from the disease, but now the genetic mutation has been identified it will be possible to test for it and give patients a diagnosis and important information.

Researchers developing tools to predict risk of fatal illness

A team of Perth researchers is developing precision DNA tests for major diseases that could help predict a person's risk of having a heart attack or dying from cancer.

The team from the Perkins Centre for Diabetes Research has been selected to develop their technology through the prestigious CSIRO ON Accelerate program.

The project entitled 'Advanced Genetic Diagnostics' offers a new way of analysing genetic data to determine the risks associated with widespread deadly diseases.

The tool could one day help doctors predict a person's future health outcomes with far greater accuracy.



"Your DNA holds the secret to your future health and the Advanced Genetic Diagnostics project will help find these secrets hidden in our genetic code." Professor Grant Morahan, Head of the Perkins Centre for Diabetes Research

21 years in breakthroughs

1998



The Western Australian Institute for Medical Research (WAIMR) is established with a focus on cancer research.

1999



Wesfarmers become a major sponsor.

2000

The Institute expands to investigate heart disease, asthma, cancer and immunology, neuroscience, neurotrauma, metabolism and musculoskeletal conditions.

2001

Researchers contribute to important research into a new way to engineer virus-like particles for drug delivery.

2002

Researchers find a gene called Sonic Hedgehog (SHH) that's crucial for rapid, extensive expansion of the developing brain.

2003

Perkins researchers help develop a new technology that improves the real-time monitoring of medicines interacting with cells, to help make better treatments with fewer side effects.

2004

Diabetes researchers at the Perkins lead the creation of the world's most powerful genetic resource - the 'Gene Mine' - helping researchers around the world make important advances in melanoma, mesothelioma, diabetes, dementia, heart disease and more.

2005



Neurogenetic researchers at the Perkins discover that a particular gene mutation causes Laing distal myopathy - a condition named after the team leader, Professor Nigel Laing AO.

2006

Our teams discover a new gene called SLIRP that affects breast and prostate cancer, diabetes and fertility.

We also find that mutations in a skeletal muscle gene is the cause of many cases of a severe condition that paralyses babies in the womb.

2007

Our researchers identify a tiny microRNA that is a powerful inhibitor of cancer cell growth.

We undertake a major study into whether a drug used for generations to treat gout could be used to prevent heart attacks.

2008

A major discovery in the effort to normalise highly chaotic cancer blood vessels and allow immune cells and cancer treatment to penetrate tumours is made.

2009

Researchers identify over 40 genes that affect the risk of someone developing Type 1 Diabetes.

2010

Linear Clinical Research Ltd is established as WA's only dedicated - and Australia's most advanced - early phase clinical trials facility.

2011

Researchers discover a gene that is required by our bodies to produce energy. The discovery gives new insights into how energy production can fail in metabolic disease, diabetes and cancer.

2012

A Perkins team designs gene-controlling artificial proteins used to understand how cancer grows.

The first major cycling event to support Perkins cancer research is held - 1219 riders raise \$4.6 million.

2013



The Perkins moves into a state-of-the-art research facility at the QEII Medical Centre.

Researchers find three new molecules that may have an important role in future breast and prostate cancer treatments.

Linear wins the Premier's Award for Excellence at the WA Industry and Export Awards.

2014

Professor Peter Klinken becomes the WA Chief Scientist and passes the torch to Professor Peter Leedman to lead the Perkins. The Institute is renamed in honour of our founding Chairman Harry Perkins.

The Lotterywest BioDiscovery Centre opens, giving the community a hands-on research lab experience.

Our first Weekend to End Women's Cancer raises \$2.2 million.

Our teams make a groundbreaking discovery in new ways to silence the genes that drive breast cancer growth.

2015

Researchers at the Perkins create a 'smart surgical glove' to help surgeons detect cancer cells that are too small to see or feel during breast-conserving surgery.

A new treatment targeting chronic kidney disease is developed by Perkins researchers.

The ACRF Cancer Imaging Facility opens with specialised equipment to help researchers across the state.

2016

Perkins researchers demonstrate that a recessive gene mutation causes some cases of sudden infant death.

Perkins scientists develop new, more effective methods to tackle aggressive breast cancer using nanoparticles.

Dormant tumour-suppressor genes are successfully 'switched on' in multiple cancer types by a Perkins team.

2017

Perkins researchers uncover evidence linking obesity and metabolic dysfunction to a problem in the energy generators in our cells.

Molecules that inhibit gene expression are implicated in cancer, cardiovascular disease, autoimmune disease and neurological disorders by a Perkins led-study.

2018

Perkins team finds new way to defend against Type 2 Diabetes.

WA Kirkbride Melanoma Advisory Service opens at the Perkins to help Perth melanoma patients.

WA's first pre-pregnancy screening program for genetic disease is launched by Perkins researchers.

2019

The Hon Wayne Martin AC QC becomes the new Perkins chair.

World-class cell sequencing centre opens.

Perkins major cycling event renamed and relaunched as MACA Cancer 200 Ride For Research.

Perkins researchers have contributed to many more discoveries than those featured on these pages, but we've highlighted a few favourites from our 21 years of impact. None of which would have been possible without your continued support.

...and we're just getting started!

Making strides after cancer

There is a person at the centre of every research story. It's these people who inspire us and drive our determination to find answers to the diseases affecting our families. We are so grateful to you for your support of medical research in WA. It's because of caring people like you that we are able to continue our lifesaving work without interruption.

Meet Perkins supporter, Kristina Botsis who is on a mission to live life to its fullest. With three years of recovery under her belt following an extremely tough treatment regime for breast cancer, the 35-year-old has progressed from surviving to thriving.

A traumatic 2016 saw the 31-year-old lawyer diagnosed with a rare form of breast cancer just two weeks after buying her first house. Following multiple surgeries, months of chemo and 25 rounds of radiotherapy, Kristina was given the all-clear but her next steps were just as taxing.

"It was most certainly a challenging year. Treatment was tough, but what followed was equally as difficult, if not more so - adapting to a new normal and learning to live life post-cancer," Kristina said.

Now years on, the new normal is looking a lot brighter for Kristina.

"I am actually very grateful for everything that has changed since 1 February 2016. I am lighter, happier, more relaxed (most of the time) and genuinely more grateful for life than ever before."

You can support Kristina's mission by sponsoring her at WalkForWomensCancer.org.au

Walking 35km is tough, and a diagnosis of cancer is beyond tough... but we're tougher together.

"I catch myself all the time thinking how fortunate I am to be here, to hang out with family and friends, and swim in the ocean, and work, and breathe and live. Life really is a blessing and a privilege and every day I'm reminded of that."

Kristina says her experience with cancer changed her perspective. After adjusting from being a self-confessed workaholic to someone who now prioritises sunshine, walks, friends, family and sleeping-in, Kristina began seeking new ways to give back.

"My mission now is to raise awareness and funds to fight breast cancer. I share my story and my journey in the hope that it helps women recognise that breast cancer does not discriminate depending on age, health, marital status or anything else."

"Ladies, please go check your chest right now!"

On May 4, Kristina and hundreds of dedicated women and men will pound the pavement across Perth, walking 35km to raise important funds for breast and ovarian cancer research at the Perkins in

the 2019 Hawaiian Walk for Women's Cancer.

She will be joined by her sister Thalia and family friend Tania. Together they will walk as the 'Three Stepping Stooges.'

"Research is absolutely vital for a number of reasons. I've met so many young breast cancer survivors and a common fear is that the cancer will return."

"We need more research to understand why breast cancer recurs and to find new and better ways to stop recurrence or metastasis in its tracks. This is only possible with funding to safeguard potentially life-saving research projects."



"To many more years, a little more hair, a bit more fun and whole lot more living."

Kristina Botsis

Riding to beat cancer



After seven years as the nation's biggest fundraising bike ride, the Perkins revamped its signature cycling event for 2019. In March, the MACA Cancer 200 was officially launched with hundreds of devoted riders attending the celebration at the Perkins.

Exciting new changes to the look and feel, the website and the event itself were revealed to the crowd of riders - many of whom had taken part every year since the Ride was first launched in 2012. One of the most exciting updates was that the riders themselves are now the official 'face' of the event, with branding that showcases the people who have made the event what it is today.

Over the years, the community of riders has morphed into a committed family of supporters - some becoming so comfortable with their fellow participants that, in 2018, two long-term riders Dave and Jean became engaged at the Ride in front of the cheering crowd.

In the last seven years, the Ride has raised over \$31 million to beat cancer. Directly funding world-class researchers, investigations into the cause and behaviour of cancer and specialised equipment to fast-track these discoveries into better treatments.

MACA Plant Manager, Adam Struthers, spoke of the company's proud association with the Ride.

"The Ride's brand may have changed but MACA's commitment to the Perkins and to finding a cure for cancer has remained steadfast. We are looking forward to joining forces again at the start line to celebrate the massive difference we've collectively made for cancer research."

One of the biggest changes for 2019 is that the Ride will now start and finish at Perth's iconic Optus Stadium.

Perkins Director, Professor Peter Leedman, an eight-year rider himself, said the most important thing was to give you, the participants, the best possible experience without losing the heart of the event.

"These are exciting times for the Ride with a new name, logo and most importantly we've brought it in-house to be managed by us, for you, our Ride family," Professor Leedman said.

Hundreds will ride 200km over 2 days for cancer research on Saturday 26 & Sunday 27 October.

**CHALLENGE YOURSELF AND
MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN 2019**

Sign up at cancer200.org.au

maca
cancer
200
RIDE FOR RESEARCH

Hub of excellence in genetic discovery

Each year in Australia, 6,000 babies are born with a genetic condition. Currently around 80% of these genetic conditions remain undiagnosed. A genetic hub that could provide answers for these families is the ultimate goal of scientist, philanthropist and Perkins most recently appointed Ambassador, Dr Patricia Kailis and a team of researchers at the Perkins.



Well-known for her work in the fishery and pearling industries in WA, some people may not know that Dr Patricia Kailis conducted world-first, groundbreaking research on genetic diseases, mapped debilitating conditions such as Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD), and provided vital information to families considering having a child.

So effective was her research that, while working in the Neuropathology Department at Royal Perth Hospital, Dr Kailis and Professor Kakulas established a genetic counselling program for Muscular Dystrophy and neuromuscular diseases, resulting in a marked decrease in X-linked muscular dystrophy in Western Australia - the first recorded decrease in the incidence of an inherited disease as a result of genetic counselling.

Dr Kailis mapped extensive family trees, starting from a single patient with a nerve or muscle disease. This work was done before the era of gene discovery,

but it laid the groundwork for the future identification of disease genes related to certain diseases.

Dr Kailis identified distinct patterns in families and, as a result, could give couples information about their chances of having a child with a particular condition. For example, she gave women in a family a risk score of the likelihood of them being a carrier of DMD.

Her revolutionary work was the foundation for the internationally recognised genetic discoveries of Perkins Professor Nigel Laing AO, who was able to use Dr Kailis' family maps and identify the precise genetic mutations causing diseases in families.

Now Dr Kailis is supporting the groundbreaking work of the Perkins Neurogenetic Diseases team - a leading team of experts who have discovered more than 30 disease-causing genes to date. Through valuable collaborations with clinicians across Australia and overseas, the neurogenetics team has made world-first discoveries

that have positively impacted thousands of families affected by disease.

Scientists in the laboratory are still analysing the DNA of some of the more than 300 families with inherited diseases that had been identified by Dr Kailis. Blood samples had all been stored from many of the families for the day when the gene causing their disease could be found. The original 300 families in the laboratory's database has now grown to over 26,000; each family wanting to know the genetic cause of their nerve or muscle disease.

The Kailis family is particularly keen to support the work of world-class Perkins geneticist, Dr Gina Ravenscroft. This support will allow Dr Ravenscroft to build on her body of research work and continue to lead international collaborations necessary for the positive identification of the genetic causes of more neuromuscular diseases.

Cracking the genetic code

A visionary new treatment called gene therapy holds the promise for a potential cure for scores of inherited diseases.

The Neurogenetic Diseases team at the Perkins has been busily hunting for disease causing genes for decades and now with improved technology, the speed at which they are discovering disease clues in our genome is rapidly accelerating.

Now, the team is investigating how they can fix or prevent hereditary diseases by removing the known faulty gene and replacing it with a normal gene to restore a person's health.

Professor Nigel Laing AO who leads the Neurogenetic Diseases group said his team's research involved both looking for defective

genes as well as any modifying factors that could cause the bad gene to 'switch on'.

"Even though everybody in a family has the same mutation, different family members can have highly variable severity of disease. So that means something else is modifying the severity of the disease and it is now possible to start tracking down what these might be."

Professor Laing said a gene-therapy project in his laboratory was showing great promise, but with extremely limited funding its progress was stunted.

"We are extremely reliant on support from the community to continue our work. Without funds we lose not only projects but the researchers who drive them and

their knowledge and experience is irreplaceable. The reality is that without financial backing there can be no research that would move us toward a future where, one day, we could treat all genetic diseases."



Professor Nigel Laing

Mum and dad forge a positive legacy from their loss

The Zac Pearson Foundation was established by parents Alisa and Todd, whose 22-month-old son Zac passed away unexpectedly in his sleep in 2009. To honour Zac and help other parents avoid the same tragic experience, Alisa and Todd set up the Zac Pearson Legacy, which funds research into 'sudden unexpected deaths in children.'

Currently the Legacy is supporting a Perkins-led research project that will mean prospective parents can undergo testing for up to 450 genes which may cause their child to be born with a rare disease or disability. Sadly these children have a 50% or higher likelihood of dying within their first year of life,

so this testing enables at-risk couples to properly consider how they should realise their plans for parenthood.

Alisa and Todd describe the Zac Pearson Legacy as a way to do something positive and meaningful for their community, despite their pain and sense of loss.

"It makes us feel proud that we can contribute in some way to making a difference. The people we have met along the way have been inspirational to us and we feel honoured to be able to connect with such passionate people in the medical research field. We have learnt so much through philanthropy and we highly value what this has brought to our lives."



Alisa and Todd Pearson

"WA is a hub of scientific excellence particularly around genetic diseases and I feel privileged to work and collaborate with some of the world's best researchers right here. My ultimate goal is to help provide answers for the families I work with." Dr Gina Ravenscroft



Ambassadors for healthier hearts



Fellow Western Australians who advocate on behalf of medical research are a vital part of this lifesaving work. It's supporters like you that strive to give researchers a solid foundation on which to take important risks in the pursuit of better health. We are fortunate to also have the support of local ambassadors who use their platform to publicly support our research into major diseases such as heart disease. They have shared their very personal reasons for supporting our work.



DENNIS COMETTI AM

Sports commentator Dennis Cometti has been a vocal supporter of cardiovascular disease research since losing his beloved father to a heart attack. In 1969, during a West Perth football club training session, 19-year-old Cometti learned that his 53-year-old dad had died from a sudden heart attack. As an only child, Dennis and his father were especially close and had bonded over a mutual love of football.

Conscious of his family history, Cometti has yearly health check-ups, tests his blood pressure weekly and exercises daily. In 2017, he joined the Perkins to advocate for more research and better outcomes for people with cardiovascular disease.



JOHN INVERARITY AM

As a former Australian Test cricketer, John Inverarity recognises the importance of having a healthy diet and daily exercise. He's also mindful of the heart and renal problems his father suffered. His dad died in 1979, aged 71.

When he was asked to help in the efforts to establish a Centre of Excellence in Cardiovascular Health with the Perkins, John jumped at the opportunity.

While Perth boasts some of the best cardiovascular clinicians, John noted that more research was needed to turn the tide on heart disease deaths.

"If we in WA turn up our toes and let the rest of the world do it, then we're acting as losers. We need to be on the front foot. We need to show initiative and enterprise."

John Inverarity AM



RIC CHARLESWORTH AO

Ric Charlesworth, aka 'The Coach', lost his dad to a sudden heart attack in January 1980. Before flying to Pakistan for a hockey tournament, a 27-year-old Charlesworth pleaded with his dad to see a cardiologist about chest pains.

As a doctor at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Charlesworth warned his 63-year-old dad to take his health seriously. But by the time his dad finally heeded his advice, it was too late. He died two days before his appointment with a cardiologist. When Charlesworth got a call that his dad had suffered a major heart attack, he rushed to SCGH and witnessed his colleagues in the emergency department unsuccessfully trying to revive his father.

Charlesworth, who went on to become an Olympian and coach, has since lost his brother John to a heart attack on Christmas Day in 2013 while his other brother, David, has had heart surgery. Charlesworth remarked that it was the suddenness of heart attacks that remains troubling and he wanted to promote research into better prediction, prevention and treatment.



ROD EDDINGTON AO

Chair of JP Morgan Australia and former CEO of British Airways, Rod Eddington was 56 when he lost his mother to heart disease. Eddington's mother had suffered from blocked coronary arteries that led to a heart attack while in hospital following a successful routine surgery when she was 84.

Eddington undertakes yearly check-ups to reduce the impact of his high pressure roles on his heart health. Recognising the value of investment in medical research, Eddington chose to support a state-of-the-art institute in his home state.

Thank you to our board

Thank you to the members of our board of directors for their expertise and compassionate leadership. We value their skill and the time they volunteer to serve the Institute and the WA community.

HON WAYNE MARTIN AC QC - PERKINS CHAIR

PROFESSOR PETER LEEDMAN - PERKINS DIRECTOR

DR STEPHEN DAVIS

MRS JAN STEWART PSM

MR ROGER PORT

MR LAURENCE IFFLA

PROFESSOR DAWN FRESHWATER

PROFESSOR STEVE WESSELINGH

PROFESSOR SIMON BIGGS (ALTERNATE DIRECTOR)

Working together

The Perkins is fortunate to be able to partner with some of the nation's most successful businesses, who work with us in the pursuit of better health and to keep families together for longer. Thank you to our corporate partners for their vital support and community focus.



"Mineral Resources Limited is proud to partner with the Perkins to help fund cardiovascular research. Cardiovascular disease kills one Australian every 12 minutes, it is one of Australia's largest health problems.

Our partnership with the Perkins fits within our wider community investment programme which focuses on supporting and giving back to the communities in which we live and helping those in need.

Our organisations are well aligned culturally, sharing the same values of operating as one team to achieve great results, being entrepreneurial to actively explore new ideas and opportunities, and remaining high performing by achieving excellence through discipline and professionalism."

Chris Ellison



"Former Wesfarmers chairman, Harry Perkins AO, was instrumental in establishing the Institute, and was its inaugural chairman. Committing to Harry Perkins' vision, Wesfarmers was a founding sponsor in 1998, and has supported the centre for many years.

Since 1998, Wesfarmers' funding has assisted in the establishment of the three professorial Chairs through which the Perkins has helped deliver better health outcomes for our community."

Naomi Flutter



"Mining and Civil Australia's (MACA) relationship with the Perkins was born many years ago from our desire to give back to the community.

We wanted to be involved in something that was not only adding value to the community but also adding value to our teams and the people working within the business.

MACA's continued involvement in the MACA Cancer 200 Ride for Research is such a fantastic way to engage our people, our suppliers, our clients and our employers – all together to do something that was so worthwhile."

Geoff Baker



"Woodside's support of cancer research had been inspired by the dedication and commitment of our employees and their passion to make a difference. Our staff and community rallied behind local medical research and helped to influence our investment in cancer research at the Perkins.

We are proud to support the cancer research Fellowship as part of our community investment program, and to be a continued part of the MACA Cancer 200 as a team of riders united against cancer."

Sandra McInnes



Spend a day in the life of a researcher

The Lotterywest BioDiscovery Centre, a community education and engagement laboratory led by the Perkins, is now running Corporate Discovery Days.

Now you and your team can spend a day exploring the microscopic world of the human body, learning more about community health and medical research.

Experience a unique and immersive program that benefits not only your team but the community you live in.

Your participation will support the Perkins as a charity, helping to fund the research that delivers better health outcomes for everyone.

Contact us for more information
education@perkins.org.au
(08) 6151 0811



Thanks to MACA's support of Perkins research, they were awarded the 2018 Leadership in Corporate Giving award at the Research Australia Awards.

Why you support the Perkins

Gucci has been at every Ride ceremony and even has her own jersey!



Go and see for yourselves what amazing work is being done on our home turf.

We were so inspired and are so pleased to be able to contribute to this wonderful organisation.



I'm proud to support the Perkins and wish the Institute every success.



The Perkins team has done an absolutely outstanding job and the contribution to WA and beyond is invaluable, continuing to drive improved health outcomes globally.





2019 Event Guide

Help us celebrate 21 years of groundbreaking research in Western Australia.

Saturday 4 May Hawaiian Walk for Women's Cancer

Walk with us and send a message to the cancers that rob us of our daughters, sisters, mothers, aunts and friends that we're coming for you. You can be part of an incredible group of women and men who walk 35km and fundraise \$1,000 to make a real difference to women's cancer research. Making an impact alone can be tough, but we're tougher together.

Thursday 16 - Friday 24 May Great Wall of China Hike for Health

An amazing team of explorers are swapping WA for a World Wonder when they head to heart of China's ancient culture and take an adventure trek to the Great Wall of China.

Monday 24 June, 12pm - 2pm Perkins Annual General Meeting

Hear highlights and important news from the year at the Perkins AGM. Perkins Chair Wayne Martin and Professor Peter Leedman will lead proceedings, which include financial reports and mission strategies.

Thursday 4 July, 5pm - 7.30pm Wesfarmers Harry Perkins Oration

The annual Wesfarmers Harry Perkins Oration is held in honour of our inaugural Chair. Each year a world renowned expert presents the latest research and outcomes on a major health topic.

Tuesday 30 July, 5.30pm - 8pm Perkins Community Q&A: Women in Research

Despite a historic imbalance in gender in science, the number of women in science has been steadily growing in recent years. We want to know what inspires women to choose a career in STEM and hear some of their unique experiences in this important field.

Tuesday 6 August, 4pm - 6pm Perkins Student Information Sundowner

Have you considered a PhD or Honours project in medical research? Come to the Perkins Nedlands building, meet laboratory heads and their teams and discuss student project opportunities in person.

Saturday 24 August, 10am - 3.30pm Perkins Open Day

The Perkins state-of-the-art facilities in Nedlands are an inspiring and informative space. Come and see first-hand the incredible centre where medical breakthroughs take place. Hands-on activities, talks, laboratory tours and a better understanding of medical science are all on offer.

Tuesday 10 September, 5.30pm - 7.30pm Perkins Community Q&A: Neurogenetic Diseases

The Perkins boasts one of the world's foremost neurogenetic research teams. Hear from experts about these disorders and how we're helping to provide answers for families.

Sunday 6 October Perth Running Festival

Join Perth's exciting new running festival and walk or run along the beautiful Swan River to the iconic Optus Stadium. Perth's newest mass participation event supports groundbreaking research at the Perkins so you can do something good for yourself and the community at the same time.

Tuesday 8 October, 6pm - 8pm Perkins Community Q&A: Skin Cancer

Skin cancer remains one of Australia's most commonly diagnosed cancers, yet most skin cancers are preventable. Come along and learn about important risk factors, symptoms and how world-class research in Perth is helping combat this major health problem.

Saturday 26 & Sunday 27 October MACA Cancer 200 Ride for Research

2 days. 200km. One incredible experience. Challenge yourself and make a real difference to cancer research in 2019.



HARRY PERKINS INSTITUTE
OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

Get in touch

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