

# DRIVING DISCOVERY AT THE PERKINS

Annual Report **2018**



HARRY PERKINS INSTITUTE  
OF MEDICAL RESEARCH



# The Perkins and You.

## Our mission.

Better health outcomes for the community in which we all live.

## A shared passion.

Driving discovery.

Accelerating research.

Positioning Perth at the forefront of scientific endeavours.

Delivering new treatments and drugs for the major diseases affecting the community.

Acknowledging the vital contribution of our supporters.

Spearheading bold projects to address big problems.

Keeping families together longer.

Never stopping research until we have answers.

## Research areas.



Cancer



Heart disease



Diabetes



Rare genetic diseases

## Local focus, global impact.

Proudly Western Australian

Located in three facilities:

- Perkins North  
QEII Medical Centre, Nedlands
- Perkins South  
Fiona Stanley Hospital, Murdoch
- Royal Perth Hospital

Linear Clinical Research delivering world-class first in human trials

Researchers from around the globe

Collaborations with global health leaders

## Our community.

MACA Cancer 200 Ride for Research

Hawaiian Walk for Women's Cancer

Hike for Health

Steps to Better Health

Perth Running Festival benefiting the Perkins

Lotterywest BioDiscovery Centre

Community Q&A Forums

## The Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research conducts innovative research into the diseases that rob us of our loved ones.

The Perkins was established in 1998 to unify West Australian scientists in a collaborative research powerhouse.

In the years since, we have grown to become one of the nation's leading medical research centres, where a close knit team of more than 450 research and trial staff work together to defeat the major diseases that impact our community.

Everyone at the Perkins is driven by a desire to keep families together for longer, but we cannot do it alone. It is thanks to support from people like you that we can continue our lifesaving work.

The Perkins is proof that when you put world-class researchers, scientists and doctors together in state-of-the-art facilities with a culture of innovation, **amazing things happen.**

## Our history.

The Perkins was born from an ambitious plan to unite researchers from different areas of investigation with a key focus on collaboration.

A multi-site medical research institute was established and named the Western Australian Institute for Medical Research (WAIMR), with founding partners that included The University of Western Australia, Royal Perth Hospital and Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and in July 2003, Fremantle Hospital joined.

It was thanks in-part to the leadership of the Institute's inaugural Chairman, Mr Harry Perkins AO, that Wesfarmers became the founding sponsor.

## Translating research to better health.

In 2010, the Harry Perkins Institute established Linear Clinical Research Ltd - WA's only dedicated and Australia's most advanced early phase clinical trials facility, accelerating the translation of discoveries made at the bench to the bedside.

Linear provides the Perkins with a critical base for clinical trials of new medicines and is an illustration of our commitment to hasten the



In October 2013, WAIMR was renamed the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research in honour of Harry, his pivotal role in the creation of the institute and his vision to improve the lives of all West Australians.

In the more than 20 years since the Institute's inception, the Perkins has made and continues to make groundbreaking discoveries that improve the global understanding of disease and has helped tackle WA's major health challenges.

delivery of groundbreaking new treatments to the people who need them most.

Clinical trials are a fundamental tool of modern medicine. They are essential for the development of new interventions, and to determine whether new medicines are effective, safe and better than existing treatments.

# Chair's Report.



## Thank you for supporting the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research in 2018.

It is my pleasure to pen my first report since becoming Chair of this fantastic and productive organisation, and I'm delighted to share with you some of the achievements and highlights that have shaped the Perkins throughout 2018.

I'd like to start by extending my heartfelt thanks to the former Chair Mr Larry Iffla for his service to the Perkins over the past 14 years, in particular his nine years spent as Chair. Larry continues to serve on the Perkins board and his commitment to the Perkins and the WA community is sincerely admirable.

Likewise, I'd like to acknowledge the incredible teams of researchers and staff who are toiling at the coalface of research discovery in the pursuit of new and better ways to defend against disease. Just some of their achievements are showcased in this report but each discovery signifies a step towards the lofty goals that the Perkins has set – such as making cancer non-lethal in our children's lifetime.

Since joining the Perkins, I've been impressed by the Institute's reputation and world-class facilities, both of which contribute to attracting scientists of renown from all over the world. It's this dedication to fostering international collaboration that has placed the Perkins at the very forefront of innovative breakthrough research.

I'm looking forward to doing what I can to take the Perkins forward through its next phase of development and to assist in ensuring we meet our promise to you to improve the health and welfare of West Australians and the global community.

Finally, I'd like to thank the supporters, advocates and donors who sustain this important work and ensure that life-saving medical research can continue no matter what. Thank you for all that you've done for the Perkins in 2018 and for standing beside our researchers as they strive to improve healthcare outcomes for everyone.

I suggest that you read the highlights listed below as an inventory of your impact too, because each achievement began with a supporter like you. You have played a vital role in enabling discovery here in Western Australia and for that I speak for everyone at the Perkins when I say thank you.

**Wayne Martin AC QC**  
Chair, Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research

# Director's Report.



## I am delighted to report to you on the landmark year the Perkins has had in 2018.

From research success and awards, to major events and community building, to teaching and cultivating the next generation of scientists – I am proud to say that the Perkins is continuing to grow as a vital pillar for the community that we serve.

As always, our central mission is to conduct innovative medical research that translates into lasting health benefits and I am confident that our successes in 2018 demonstrate we are realising that goal. These achievements include establishing a significant clinical service for melanoma patients in WA, uncovering a groundbreaking new way to treat 90% of cancers, launching clinical trials for the smart surgical glove, discovering breakthrough new evidence about the structure and function of the energy 'factories' in our cells, and the introduction of a new genetic screening program for couples considering starting a family. These are just a few of the discoveries, services and advances that exemplify why the Perkins is a valuable asset for the people of Western Australia.

Our teams also overhauled and updated our annual flagship events in 2018. The MACA Ride to Conquer Cancer is now the MACA Cancer 200, with management of the event being brought in-house to improve the experience for our riders and strengthen the connection to our cause. The Hawaiian Walk for Women's Cancer was also refreshed with a new look and imagery that features the people who make the Walk what it is. We were also grateful to be selected as the charity partner for the new Perth Running Festival.

Every year I either attend or take part in these events, and am always moved by the thousands of people who ride, walk, run and tirelessly fundraise for the Perkins. Thank you.

I would also like to note the successes of two Perkins subsidiaries – our clinical trials facility, Linear Clinical Research, and our community education program in the Lotterywest BioDiscovery Centre. Both of these facilities offer essential services to many West Australians and I'd like to personally thank each person who volunteers for a trial at Linear or attends a workshop in the BioDiscovery Centre. Both centres play an important role in helping us deliver our goals of better health through leading-edge research and technology.

I would like to thank our remarkable community of supporters, whose generous contributions make our vital work possible. My thanks go to our Division Heads, Laboratory Heads, researchers, students and staff for their endless passion and efforts in 2018. Thanks as well to our research support and executive leadership who together make the Perkins such a fantastic and extraordinary place to work and visit.

Finally I would like to warmly thank our Board of Directors and our new Chair, Wayne Martin AC QC, who offer their time and expertise in guiding the Perkins towards realising its vision to keep families like yours and mine together for longer.

**Professor Peter Leedman**  
Director, Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research



# Perkins year in review.

Here's what you've helped to achieve in 2018.

**January** A new centre for patients with complex and advanced cases of melanoma opens at the Perkins facility in Nedlands. The WA Kirkbride Melanoma Advisory Service (WAKMAS) offers the latest advice on patient management, together with new research opportunities.

**February** Perkins researcher Dr Barry Doyle leads an investigation to help explain the high failure rate of catheters, some of the most commonly used medical devices in the world. Dr Doyle's team created a computational model of fluid movement to illustrate the range of factors that can damage the device or the patient's veins.

**March** A research team at the Perkins investigating genes that control muscle movement, discovered cells commonly found in the heart residing in the lungs and helped uncover why some patients with this condition were experiencing rapid heartbeat.

**April** A 'gene mine' developed at the Perkins by Professor Grant Morahan enabled a breakthrough in the fundamental understanding of chemical biology which will change the way chemistry textbooks are written in the future. The research has the potential to impact our understanding of how the body reacts to diseases such as autoimmune diseases, infectious diseases and cancer.

Our art collection titled 'Curiosity: The Art of Research' is launched, with five much loved WA artists taking on the challenge decorating a Perkins lab coat with their unique style of art.

**May** Perkins cancer researcher Ciara Duffy wins an Innovation Award at the WA Young Achiever Awards for her innovative research into the use of honey bee venom as a possible treatment for aggressive breast cancer.

More than 450 walkers raise \$900,000 in the Hawaiian Walk for Women's Cancer and trek 30km or 42km in support of breast and ovarian cancer research at the Perkins.

Professor Kevin Pflieger wins the UWA innovation Champion Award for his work, developing treatments and combination therapies for kidney disease.

**June** Perkins researcher Professor Oliver Rackham leads the discovery of a new weapon in the fight against cancer. Professor Rackham and his team developed a way to wrap artificial proteins around the ends of chromosomes to effectively block the uncontrolled growth that occurs with most cancers.

**July** Two Perkins biomedical engineers, Nikhilesh Bappoo and Louis Parker, win major awards at the World Congress of Biomechanics.

**August** A breakthrough discovery about the structure and function of the energy 'factories' in our cells provides a new means to target these machines in drug treatments.

Perkins Professor Ruth Ganss partners with Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) to aid the development of new cancer-treating medicines.

Three Perkins laboratory heads, Professor Oliver Rackham, Professor Aleksandra Filipovska and Professor Alistair Forrest, each win extremely competitive and prestigious Fellowships from the National Health and Medical Research Council.

**September** The Hawaiian Walk for Women's Cancer is refreshed with a tenacious new look and slogan - facing a cancer diagnosis is beyond tough, but we're tougher together.

Perkins receives funds from the Ian Potter Foundation for a new system that will better separate out proteins within cancer cells.

**October** An inspirational group of 800 riders raised \$4.1 million and cycled 200km in difficult weather to make a big difference for Perkins cancer research in the MACA Ride to Conquer Cancer.

The Perkins Centre for Clinical Research in Emergency Medicine began investigating a new treatment for sepsis and released pilot trial data.

Perkins Community Q&A on cardiovascular research: Getting to the heart of it, was held with special guests discussing medicine, science and personal stories about heart disease.

The inaugural Perth Running Festival launched with the Perkins as sole charity beneficiary.

**November** Dr Anabel Sorolla Bardaji receives a prestigious Raine Medical Research Foundation Priming Grant for her work developing tiny nanoparticles to treat aggressive breast cancer.

A Perkins team leads the launch of WA's first pre-pregnancy carrier screening program for couples considering having a child. The program screens for 450 debilitating genetic conditions.

MACA wins National Leadership in Corporate Giving Award from Research Australia for their support of medical research at the Perkins.

Perkins wholly owned clinical trials facility, Linear Clinical Research, is inducted into the Hall of Fame for the WA Industry and Export Awards.

**December** MACA Ride to Conquer Cancer relaunched as MACA Cancer 200 Ride for Research to coincide with a new look, new website launch and the event management brought in-house.

Perkins researchers received over \$3.4 million in federal funding, with a grant application success rate significantly higher than the national average.

Perkins spinout company OncoRes Medical is a winner at the 2018 Pitch@Palace Global 3.0 Entrepreneurs of the Year thanks to their groundbreaking medical device that aims to reduce repeat breast cancer surgeries.

Retired Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, The Hon Wayne Martin AC QC is appointed as the new Chairperson of the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research.

A high capacity next generation DNA sequencer arrives at the Perkins thanks to a generous grant from the Australian Cancer Research Foundation (ACRF).

The 300th cancer patient is treated by Linear in one of over 40 ongoing phase 1 clinical trials.

# A combined effort.

Our teams are working with researchers from all over the world to find new and better ways to improve health for our families and yours. Thank you for contributing to this important work.



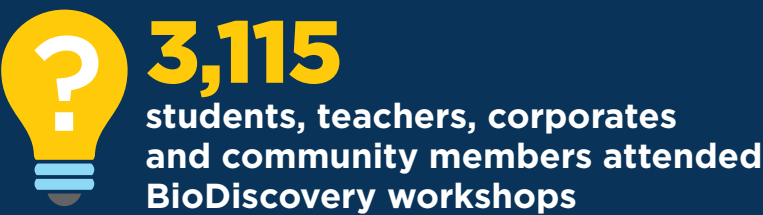
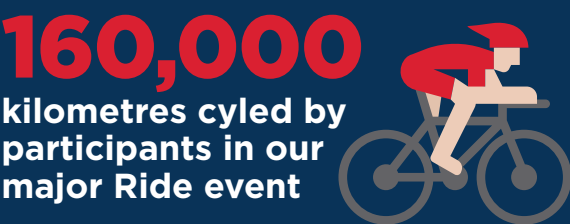
# Research highlights and achievements.

Here's a snapshot of what you helped us to achieve in 2018.



# Community highlights and achievements.

Here's a snapshot of what you helped us to achieve in 2018.



# Board of directors.



**The Hon Wayne Martin AC QC**  
Chair

Wayne Martin AC QC joined as Chair of the Perkins in December 2018. Mr Martin became the 13th Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Western Australia in 2006. In 2012, he was appointed a Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia. He has held many positions as Chair or Patron, and was also the Lieutenant Governor of Western Australia. He was appointed inaugural Chair of the Judicial Council on Cultural Diversity in 2013 and served in that capacity until 2017. He retired from the office of Chief Justice in July 2018.



**Professor Peter Leedman**  
Director

Professor Leedman became Director of the Perkins in early 2014. He is head of the Laboratory for Cancer Medicine, Professor of Medicine at The University of Western Australia, an endocrinologist at Royal Perth Hospital, and is Chair of Linear Clinical Research Ltd. He is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



**Mr Laurence Iffla**

Mr Iffla has served as Non-Executive Director since March 2005 and was Chair of the Board from May 2009 to December 2018. He is a partner in the legal firm Iffla Wade and practices primarily in the area of commercial property law, State taxes and trusts, and joint ventures. Larry is the Non-Executive Deputy Chair of Perron Group.



**Dr Stephen Davis**

Dr Davis joined the Board in 2012. He is a Radiologist and Partner of Perth Radiological Clinic. He is a medical graduate of UWA, a Member of the Royal College of Physicians UK, and Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists.



**Mrs Jan Stewart PSM**

Mrs Stewart joined the Board in February 2015. She was of CEO of Lotterywest from 1992 until December 2014. Mrs Stewart is a social worker by profession, having graduated from UWA with a Bachelor of Arts and a Master's Degree in Social Work. She is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



**Mr Roger Port**

Mr Port joined the Board in April 2015. He is Chair of the Perkins Audit and Risk Committee. He is a chartered accountant and is a former partner in PricewaterhouseCoopers. He has 30 years' experience in financial analysis, company and business valuations, transaction due diligence and mergers and acquisitions, and led the PwC Perth Deals team for seven years. He is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



**Professor Dawn Freshwater**

Professor Dawn Freshwater joined the Board in June 2017. Professor Freshwater is the Vice-Chancellor of The University of Western Australia. Professor Freshwater serves on the Higher Education Funding Council for England's Research Excellence Framework panel, reviews and acts in an advisory capacity for the National Institute for Health Research and Medical Research Council and to the National Institute for Clinical Excellence.



**Professor Steve Wesselingh**

Professor Wesselingh joined the Board in 2018. Professor Wesselingh is an Infectious Diseases Physician and researcher in Neurovirology, HIV and vaccine development. In October 2011 Professor Wesselingh took up the position as the inaugural Executive Director of the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI). Professor Wesselingh was previously Director of the Burnet Institute, an independent medical research institute specialising in infectious diseases, immunology and public health. He also served as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences at Monash University.



**Professor Simon Biggs**  
Alternate Director

Professor Simon Biggs joined the Board in 2018. He is Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor of The University of Western Australia (UWA), a role he commenced in March 2018. His portfolio responsibilities include Science; Health and Medical Sciences; Engineering and Mathematical Sciences; Arts, Business, Law and Education; Human Resources; and Innovation and Industry Engagement.

## Ex-officio members

**Professor Peter Thompson AM**  
Deputy Director

**Mr Tony Spezzacatena**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Ms Diana Forsyth**  
Chief Operating Officer

## Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 31 December 2018

OPERATING REVENUE	2018 (\$)	2017 (\$)
Event income	4,972,837	4,711,092
Facilities income	6,305,706	6,635,238
Operating grants and subsidies	5,022,698	3,334,795
Other operating income	1,176,014	707,905
	<b>17,477,255</b>	<b>15,389,030</b>
 OPERATING EXPENSES		
Administrative, events and utilities expenses	(13,195,721)	(13,552,859)
Laboratory services expenses	(4,462,630)	(3,860,646)
Depreciation and amortisation	(7,322,434)	(7,500,918)
	<b>(24,980,785)</b>	<b>(24,914,423)</b>
 Operating deficit	<b>(7,503,530)</b>	<b>(9,525,393)</b>
 Finance income	590,914	506,432
Finance costs	(11,197)	(6,552)
Donations	1,261,061	627,156
Other income	158,735	163,850
 Net deficit before taxes	<b>(5,504,017)</b>	<b>(8,234,507)</b>
Income tax expense	—	—
<b>Net deficit after taxes</b>	<b>(5,504,017)</b>	<b>(8,234,507)</b>
 Other comprehensive loss		
Gain/(loss) on financial assets at FVOCI	(103,814)	110,106
<b>Total comprehensive loss for the year</b>	<b>(5,607,831)</b>	<b>(8,124,401)</b>

The Statement of Comprehensive Income provided, together with the attached Statement of Financial Position, have been extracted from the audited special purpose financial statements of the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research and its controlled entities. The summary financial information does not include all the information and notes normally included in an audited financial report. The audited special purpose financial report can be obtained upon request to the Chief Financial Officer.

The audited financial report (from which the summary financial information has been extracted) has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015, Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and Regulations 2013, Australian Accounting Standards and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

## Statement of Financial Position

as at 31 December 2018

CURRENT ASSETS	2018 (\$)	2017 (\$)
Cash and cash equivalents	25,386,219	24,125,574
Trade and other receivables	5,858,473	5,574,211
Prepayments	210,144	136,685
Inventories	40,194	2,858
	<b>31,495,030</b>	<b>29,839,328</b>
 NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Investment properties	862,424	862,424
Financial assets at fair value through OCI	1,348,931	1,392,494
Property, plant and equipment	117,213,393	123,713,843
Investment in subsidiaries	1	1
	<b>119,424,749</b>	<b>125,968,762</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>150,919,779</b>	<b>155,808,090</b>
 CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	(5,513,165)	(4,501,896)
Income received in advance	(1,819,122)	(1,915,042)
Grants held in trust	(13,668,857)	(13,685,396)
Provision for employee entitlements	(436,832)	(390,382)
Non-interest bearing loans	(225,000)	(225,000)
	<b>(21,662,976)</b>	<b>(20,717,716)</b>
 NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Loan from related entity	(1)	(1)
Provision for employee entitlements	(83,563)	(84,302)
Non-interest bearing loans	(55,397)	(280,397)
	<b>(138,961)</b>	<b>(364,700)</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>(21,801,937)</b>	<b>(21,082,416)</b>
 NET ASSETS	<b>129,117,842</b>	<b>134,725,674</b>
Accumulated surplus	129,038,385	134,542,403
Asset revaluation reserve	79,457	183,271
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>129,117,842</b>	<b>134,725,674</b>



# Thank you for your support in 2018.

Together, we are reaching  
toward the incredible medical  
solutions we know are possible  
and bringing them closer.

## Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research

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