

# Annual Report 2024



HARRY PERKINS INSTITUTE  
OF MEDICAL RESEARCH





#### Perkins North

QEll Medical Centre  
6 Verdun St  
Nedlands WA 6009

SIR  
CHARLES  
GAIRDNER  
HOSPITAL

ROYAL  
PERTH  
HOSPITAL

#### Perkins South

5 Robin Warren Dr  
Murdoch WA 6150

FIONA  
STANLEY  
HOSPITAL

The Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research is co-located with three major teaching hospitals to ensure researchers are working closely with doctors and clinicians at the forefront of patient care. This means that the projects you're supporting are aligned with the health issues most impacting West Australians.

## About the Perkins

### A Western Australian institute making a global impact

The Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research was established in 1998 to improve the health of the WA community through world-class research. With over 450 researchers, students, clinical trial and support staff based on major hospital campuses, the Perkins supports the State's brightest minds to make innovative breakthroughs in cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and rare genetic conditions. Perkins researchers are backed by strong partnerships and driven by community support. Our community is united by a clear purpose: to keep families together by helping people live longer, healthier lives.

## Our Values

### Respect

We treat everyone in our diverse community with honesty, integrity and respect.

### Innovation

We are a talented group of like-minded individuals at the forefront of modern medical research, using our creativity and the latest technology in our relentless quest for medical breakthroughs.

### Passion

We bring passion and commitment to every aspect of our work.

### Collaboration

We recognise the power of working closely with each other and our collaborators to achieve the outstanding results for which we strive.

High school students experience  
PC2 lab conditions in the Perkins  
BioDiscovery Centre.





## Our Research Focus



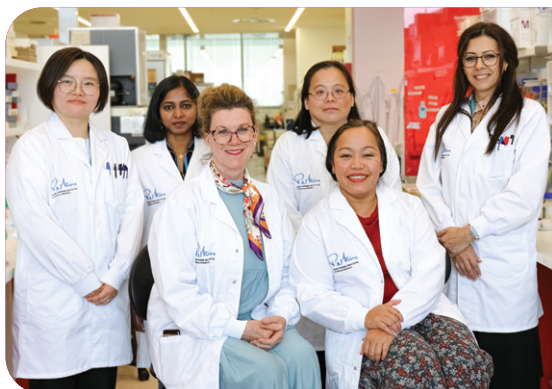
### Cancer Program

From understanding the biology of cancer to developing targeted new treatments, every day researchers at the Perkins learn more about the genetic changes that drive cancer, how tumours grow and spread, how the immune system responds and how this knowledge can save lives.



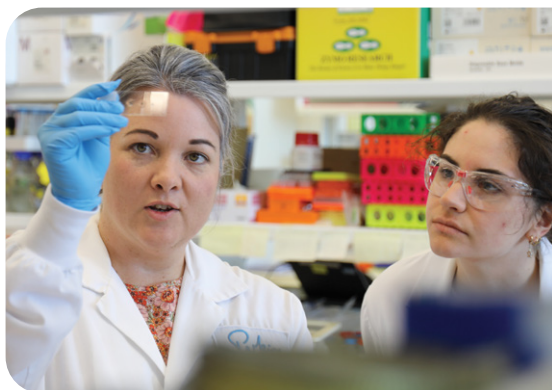
### Cardiovascular Disease

Teams of clinicians, scientists and biomedical engineers at the Perkins are focussed on identifying genetic and early warning signs to improve risk detection, supporting clinicians to prevent heart attacks and strokes and developing new treatments and devices to extend and improve life.



### Diabetes

Researchers at the Perkins are investigating the causes and complications of diabetes, improving early diagnosis and developing new ways to prevent, manage and treat the disease, with special focus on the vascular complications, across all stages of life.



### Genetic Diseases

Perkins researchers are improving diagnostic tools, creating new treatments and are global experts in discovering the genetic mutations that cause rare diseases, providing much need answers for families and changing the lives of affected individuals.

Dr Edina Wang, Postdoctoral Associate in the Cancer Epigenetics Group, is part of the team researching honeybee venom as a treatment for women's cancers.

## The Perkins at a glance

### Our people

**450+**

researchers, students  
and support staff

### Our focus

**22**

research groups

### Our impact

**206**

discoveries  
published

### Research investment

**56**

major grants won

### Research translation

**110**

active clinical trials

### Education outreach

**2,346**

BioDiscovery Centre  
participants



## Chair's Report

**As Chairman of the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research, it is my privilege to reflect on what has been a year of significant progress, powerful community engagement and meaningful scientific achievement in 2024.**



It has been my privilege to serve on the Perkins Institute Board for the past six years and as Chair since 2021. As my term concludes in June 2025, I present this report with pride in what has been achieved, gratitude for those I've worked alongside and optimism for the Institute's future.

This year brought notable progress in research, community engagement and institutional maturity. In 2024, we learned that our researchers achieved a 46% success rate in National Health and Medical Research Council 2023 Ideas Grants, well above the national average of 10%. Since 2018, 88 public policy

statements have cited Perkins research, reflecting our growing influence on public health and medical practice.

The Institute returned to financial surplus in 2024 through disciplined management and diversified revenue, including significant fundraising growth. Fundraising income has nearly doubled over the past five years, increasing from just under \$10 million in 2019 to more than \$20 million in 2024. Unique donors grew 83% to more than 47,000, a clear sign of growing community support and trust in the Institute's work.

During this period of strategic development, the Board and Executive:

- Developed a new Strategic Plan to 2030, with a strong focus on advanced technologies, precision medicine and sustainable funding
- Established Health Translation Group Ltd to drive commercialisation in partnership with Lions Eye Institute and Perron Institute
- Renewed the Board with greater diversity in gender, age and expertise, enhancing governance and decision-making
- Strengthened People and Culture, to foster leadership, innovation, inclusivity and talent development

Perhaps most significantly, the Perkins team worked closely with the WA State Government to secure endorsement of the Strategic Investment Plan for the Perkins WA Comprehensive Cancer Centre in March 2025. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reshape cancer care and research for Western Australia.

Since joining the Board in 2019, I've seen the Perkins grow into a more resilient institution focused on both discovery and translation. The support of Early to Mid-Career Researchers under the Safe Harbour initiative demonstrates our commitment to future leaders.

During the year, we farewelled long-serving Directors Jan Stewart PSM and Roger Port, each completing nine years of distinguished service. Roger continues his contribution as Chair of Linear Clinical Research.

We also welcomed new Board members bringing new expertise and perspective. Lorraine Driscoll has provided outstanding leadership as Chair of the Audit & Risk Subcommittee. The Hon Ben Morton has made a significant contribution to our strategic direction, both in and beyond the boardroom. Rebecca Ostergaard was appointed Strategic

Technology Advisor, and in 2025, Professor Joseph Trapani AO and Frank Cooper AO joined the Board.

I thank all Directors for their contributions and acknowledge Jennifer Lawrence, who retires in June 2025. To Professor Leedman, the Executive, researchers and staff, my thanks and deep respect for your leadership and achievements.

From 1 July 2025, the Hon Ben Morton will assume the role of Chair. I have every confidence in the continued leadership and direction of the Board and the Institute.

Serving the Perkins has been one of the great privileges of my professional life. Thank you for the trust placed in me and the opportunity to contribute to such important and enduring work.



**Mr John Barrington AM**



## CEO Report

**I am delighted to share with you several important milestones in the 2024 Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research Annual Report. As I reflect on 2024, I am incredibly proud of the achievements and momentum we've built with your support. This year has been one of impact, innovation and growth, from groundbreaking scientific discoveries to inspiring community events.**

In research, 2024 was marked by discoveries that have reshaped our understanding of how our bodies function and how disease progresses. Professor Ruth Ganss published a landmark paper exploring how lower doses of existing, approved cancer drugs can normalise tumour blood vessels, improving the effectiveness of immune-boosting cancer therapies. Meanwhile, Professor Alistair Forrest led a *Nature* publication uncovering how ovarian cancer cells evade immune system detection, a major insight into cancer biology.

Perkins researchers made vital advances in rare disease too, identifying six new genes that cause devastating conditions and offering long-awaited answers to affected families. Thanks to support from the *FSHD Global Research Foundation*, our Rare Diseases teams were able to install a Bionano Saphyr Optical Genome Mapping Instrument, improving diagnosis for people with facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy.

The Perkins continues to translate our research into real-world impact to ensure that West Australians can benefit from the discoveries they have made possible. One standout this year is Cytophenix, a startup co-led by Dr Kieran Mulroney. Cytophenix's AI-powered platform, FloCAST, enables rapid, personalised antibiotic prescriptions, a crucial tool in the global fight against antimicrobial resistance. Similarly, Corametix, co-founded by Perkins researchers,

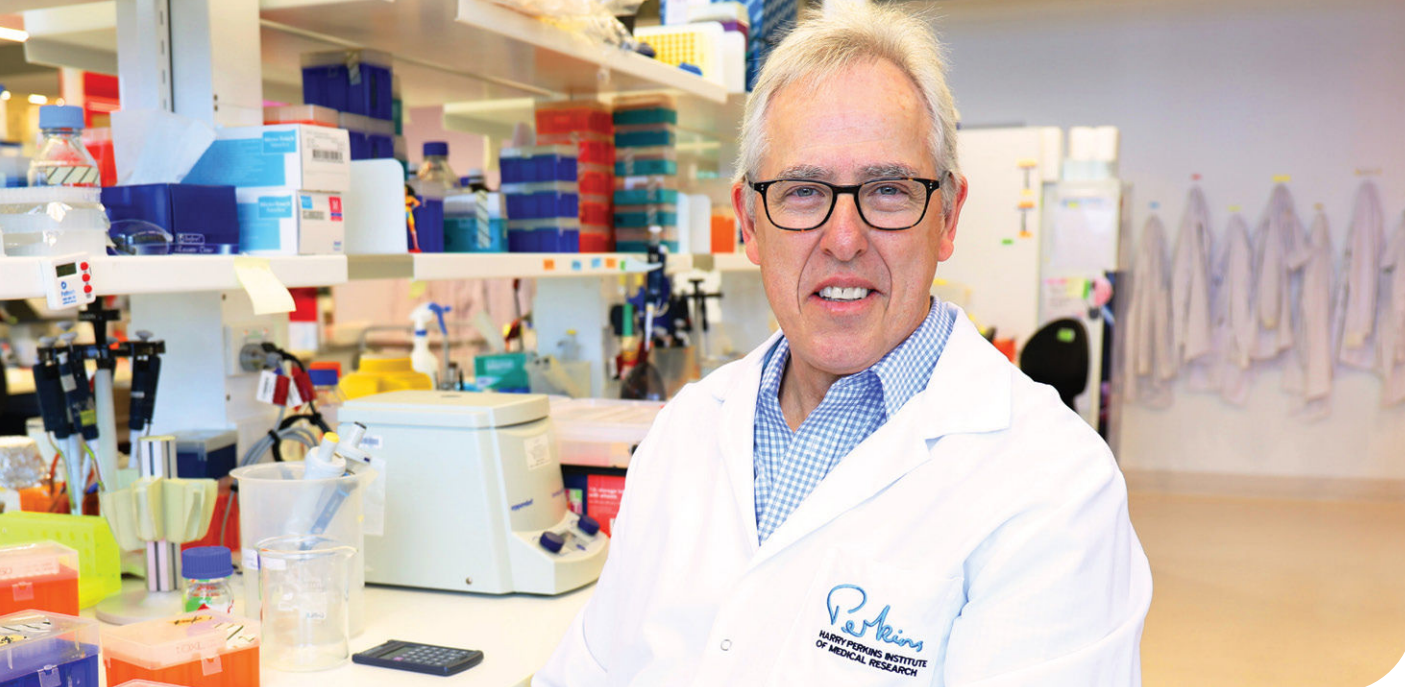
is developing 3D printed biopolymer heart valves, aiming to improve patient outcomes with more affordable and longer-lasting treatments.

In fundraising, our supporters and teams continue to set the bar high. The 10th birthday celebration of the *New Town Toyota Walk for Women's Cancer* was awarded Best Supporter Experience at the *Fundraising Institute of Australia's Awards for Excellence*. I'd like to extend a big congratulations to our Community Engagement team for this well-deserved honour and thank all our wonderful walkers who have supported this event for a decade now.

Throughout the year, our community once again rallied to fund life-saving research. The *MACA Cancer 200 Ride for the Perkins* saw over 1800 Riders raise a record-breaking \$10.2 million, an extraordinary show of generosity and determination. These funds are already hard at work powering the next cancer breakthrough here in WA.

This year also saw us dive into new territory, literally, with our inaugural *Perkins Plunge* event. Over 150 swimmers took part in the 12-hour overnight relay, raising an astonishing \$235,000. We're grateful to Mineral Resources, our major sponsor, for their generous support of this fantastic new event and look forward to growing the event in 2025.





I was thrilled that the Safe Harbour initiative continued in 2024 thanks to the foresight of some incredible supporters. This innovative fund allows us to nurture the next generation of scientific leaders in Western Australia. In 2022, the inaugural Safe Harbour was awarded to Dr Olivier Clement. This Fellowship supported him while he investigated the molecular mechanisms that control memory formation, storage and recollection. In 2023, the fellowship was awarded to Dr Rhonda Taylor and Dr Chuck Herring to pursue their research on genetic diseases in children and the epigenetics of brain development respectively. And this year, we announced that the latest Safe Harbour grants would support Dr Joshua Clayton and Dr Qi Fang. Dr Clayton's work focuses on congenital myopathies, a group of genetic diseases leading to muscle weakening and wasting. Dr Qi Fang, a biomedical engineer and physicist, is tackling a critical issue in breast cancer surgery. Thank you to our visionary supporters for making this possible.

Professor Gina Ravenscroft's recognition as one of the *2024 Premier's Science Awards Mid-Career Scientists of the Year* was a proud moment for all of us. Gina's pioneering work in neuromuscular disease research exemplifies the Perkins spirit—groundbreaking science with real-world impact.

We were also pleased to welcome a new lab dedicated to groundbreaking ageing research,

led by Professor Alexey V Tersikh and supported by Dr Kenta Ninomiya, as we continue to broaden the scope of our scientific efforts. I look forward to bringing you more news from these international experts in future reports.

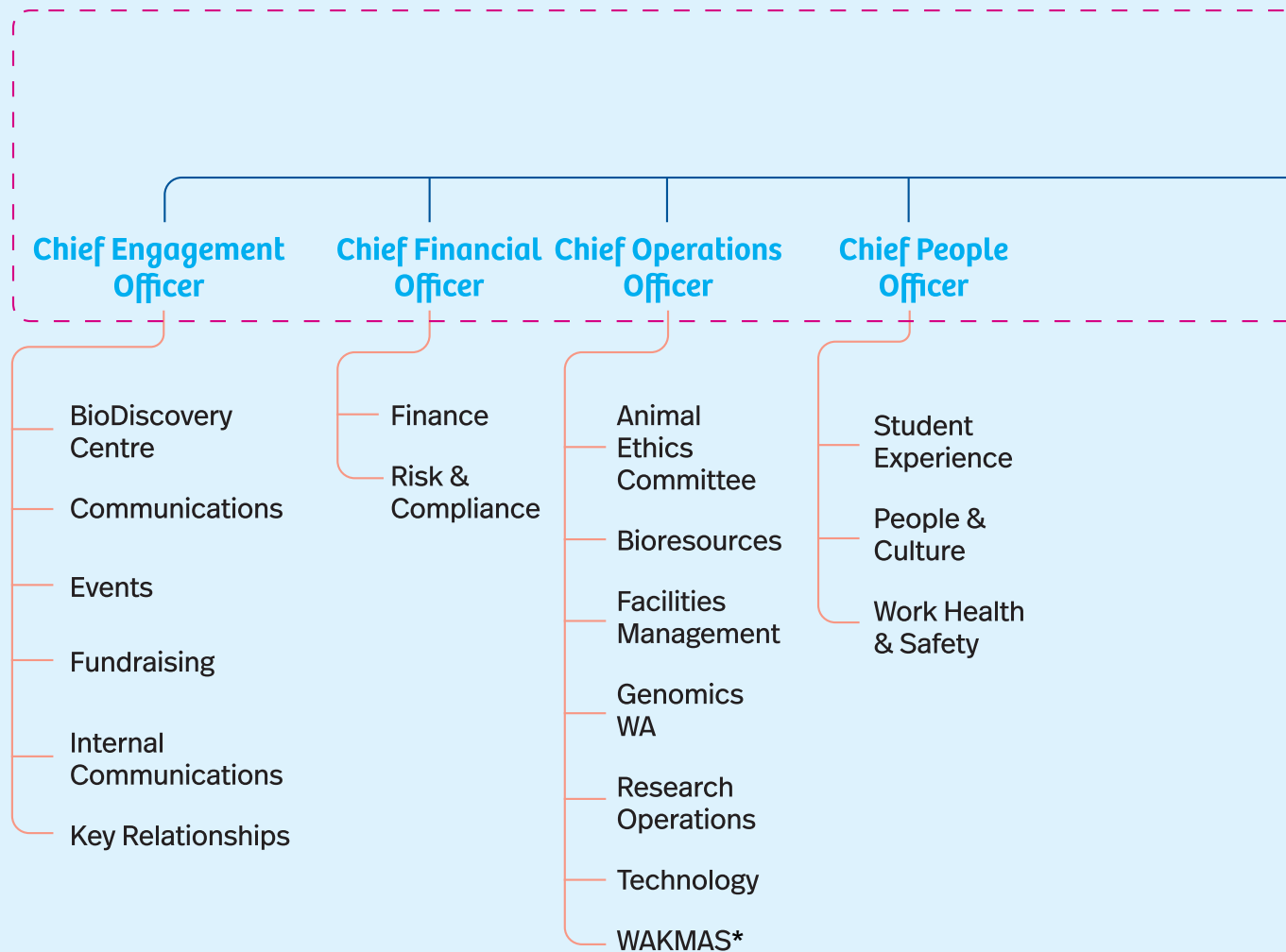
Of course, this year also brought sadness. We lost Professor Peter Thompson AM, a brilliant cardiologist, researcher and long-serving Deputy Director of the Perkins. His contributions to cardiovascular research and to the Perkins were immense, and his legacy continues in the generations of clinicians and scientists he mentored.

I am grateful for our enduring partnership with The University of Western Australia, whose ongoing support helps enable the world-class research that takes place at the Perkins.

As we head into 2025, we do so with a sense of purpose, momentum and optimism. I'd like to extend my most sincere thanks to our staff, the Executive, the Board, our researchers, supporters, sponsors and community for their commitment and passion for what we do. Thank you for helping people live longer, healthier lives.

Professor Peter Leedman AO

# Organisational Structure

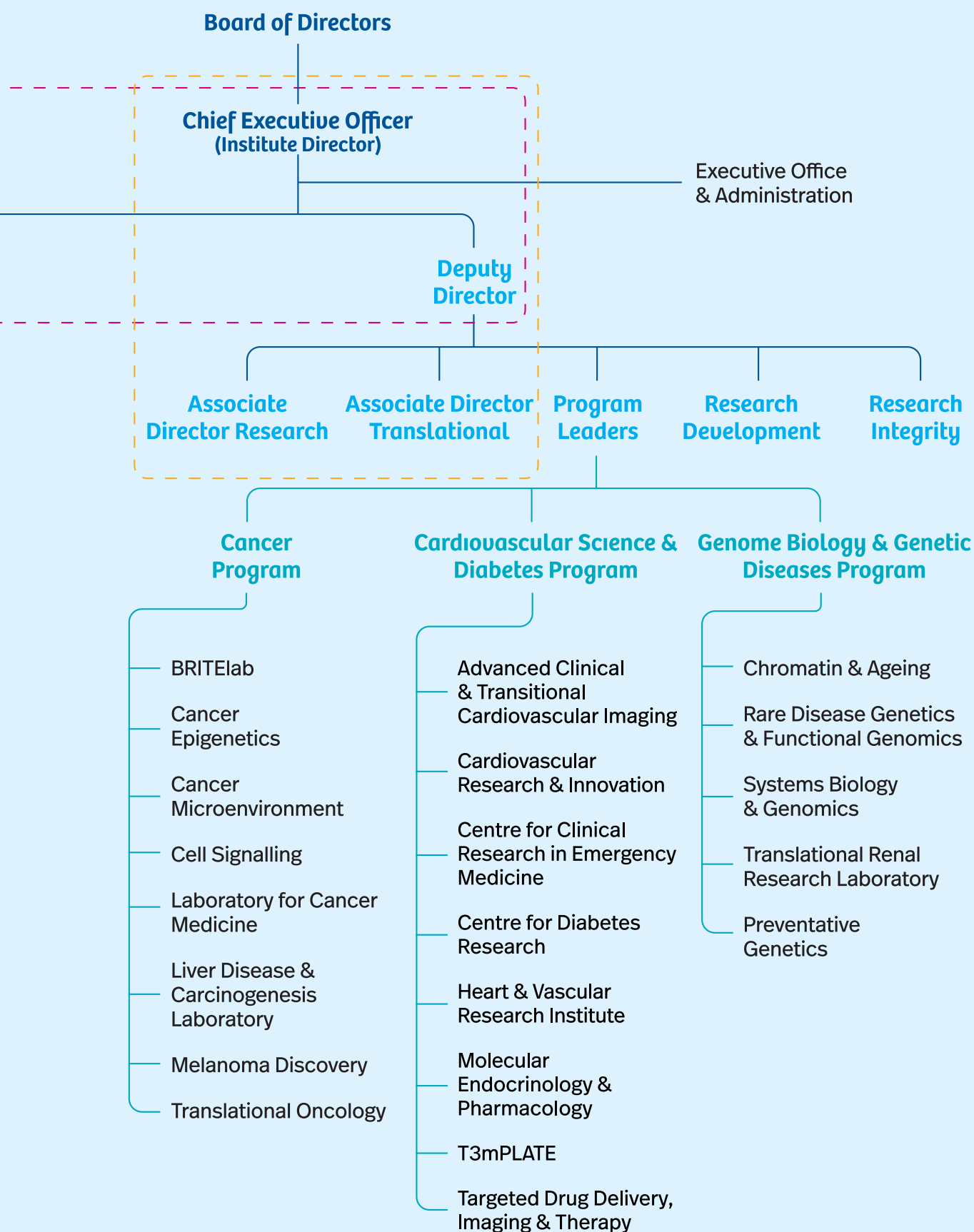


--- Executive

--- Research Executive

\*WA Kirkbride Melanoma Advisory Service





## Our Board

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**Mr John Barrington AM**  
30/05/2019 – Present



**Professor Peter Leedman AO**  
11/03/2014 – Present



**Professor Tim Colmer**  
22/02/2022 – Present



**Ms Lorraine Driscoll**  
09/05/2024 – Present



**Ms Jennifer Lawrence**  
20/06/2022 – Present



**Hon Ben Morton**  
08/02/2024 – Present



**Mrs Val Raubenheimer**  
22/01/2020 – Present



**Mr Yannick Spencer**  
30/08/2022 – Present



## Thank you

We'd like to thank outgoing Board Members for donating their time, skills and insights to the Perkins over many years.



**Mr Roger Port**

29/04/2015 – 24/06/2024



**Mrs Jan Stewart PSM**

17/02/2015 – 24/06/2024

## Our Patrons

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**His Excellency The Honourable  
Christopher John Dawson AC APM**

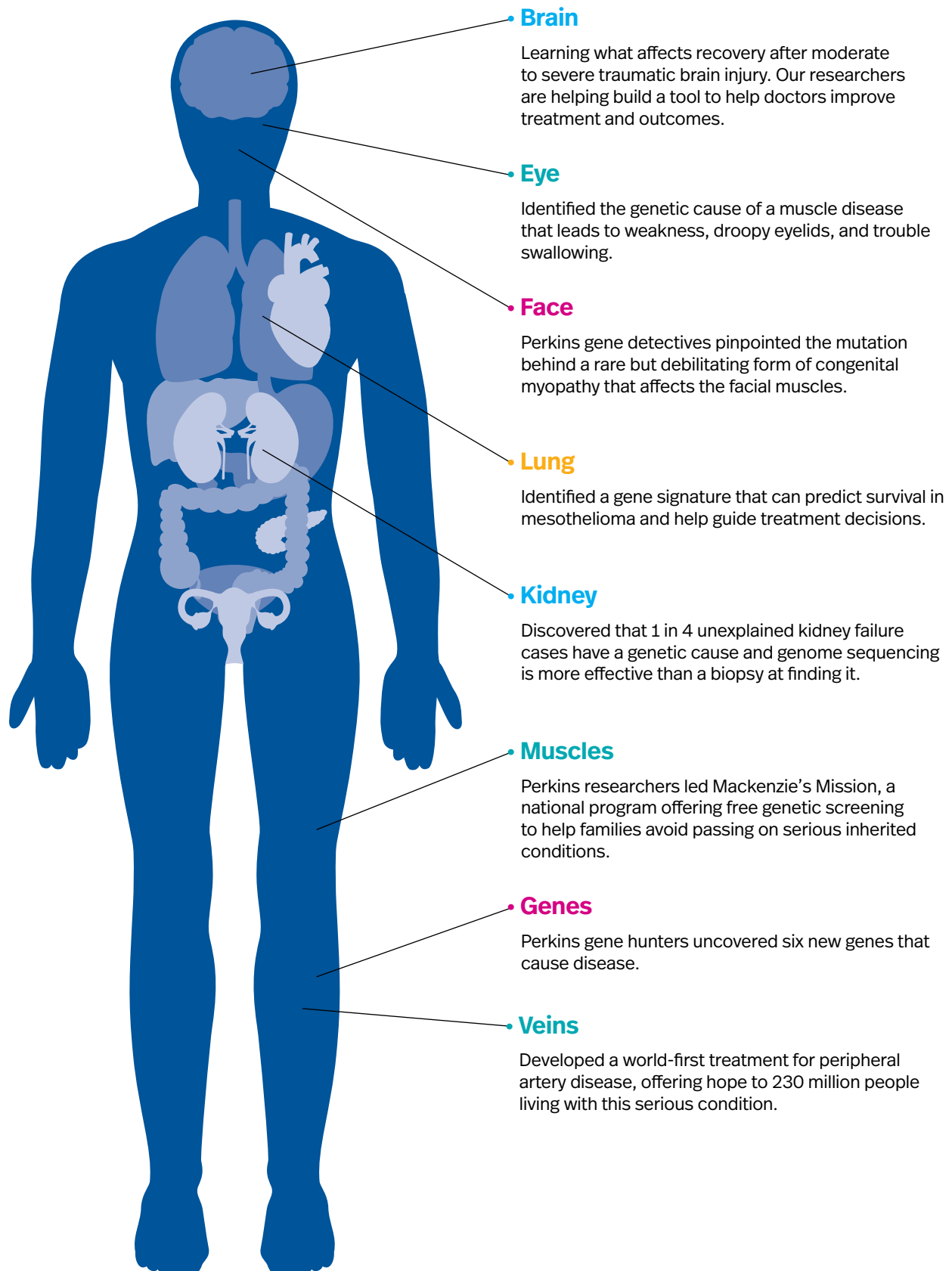
Governor of Western Australia



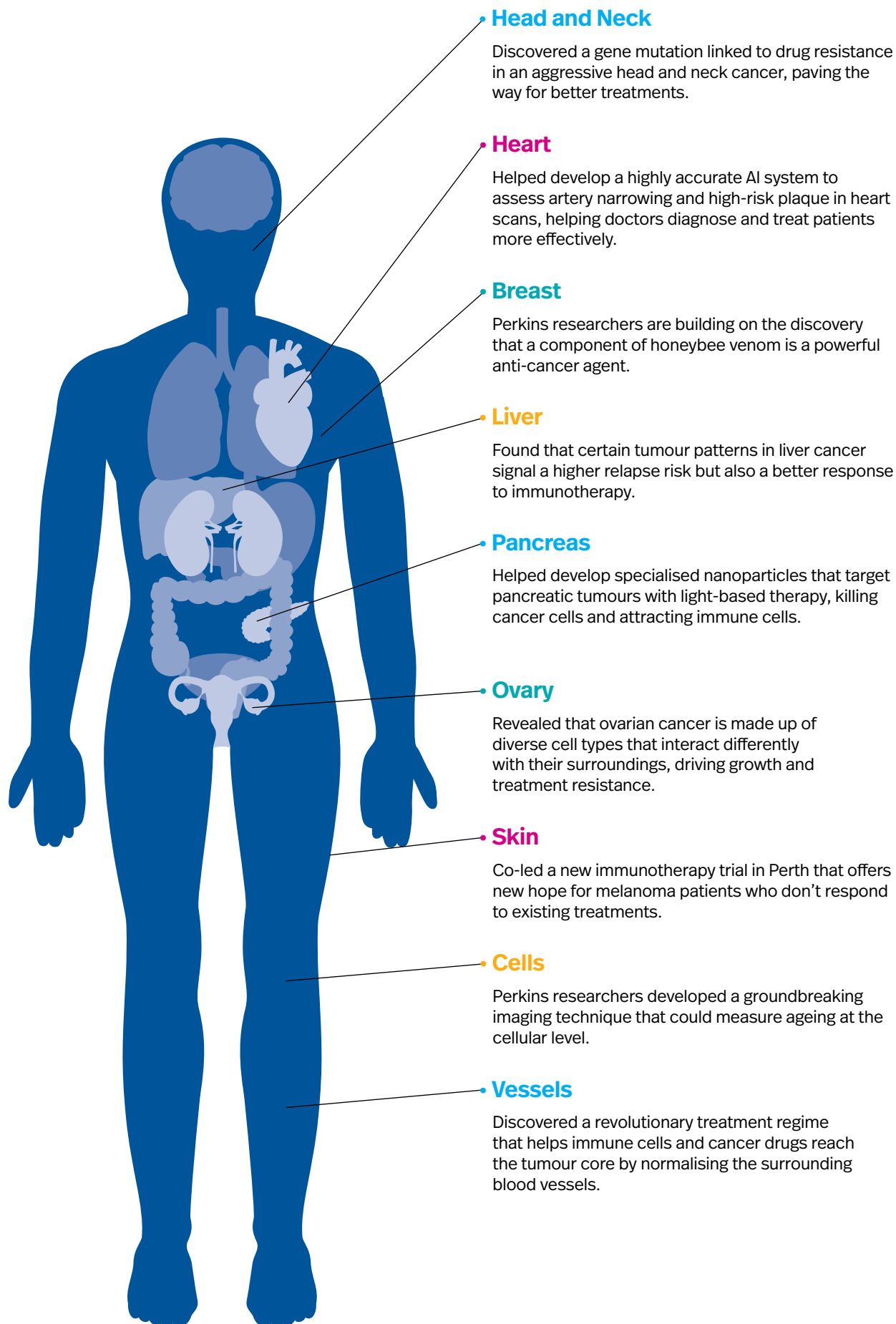
**Mrs Darrilyn Dawson**

Patron

# Perkins Research Achievements in 2024







### • Head and Neck

Discovered a gene mutation linked to drug resistance in an aggressive head and neck cancer, paving the way for better treatments.

### • Heart

Helped develop a highly accurate AI system to assess artery narrowing and high-risk plaque in heart scans, helping doctors diagnose and treat patients more effectively.

### • Breast

Perkins researchers are building on the discovery that a component of honeybee venom is a powerful anti-cancer agent.

### • Liver

Found that certain tumour patterns in liver cancer signal a higher relapse risk but also a better response to immunotherapy.

### • Pancreas

Helped develop specialised nanoparticles that target pancreatic tumours with light-based therapy, killing cancer cells and attracting immune cells.

### • Ovary

Revealed that ovarian cancer is made up of diverse cell types that interact differently with their surroundings, driving growth and treatment resistance.

### • Skin

Co-led a new immunotherapy trial in Perth that offers new hope for melanoma patients who don't respond to existing treatments.

### • Cells

Perkins researchers developed a groundbreaking imaging technique that could measure ageing at the cellular level.

### • Vessels

Discovered a revolutionary treatment regime that helps immune cells and cancer drugs reach the tumour core by normalising the surrounding blood vessels.

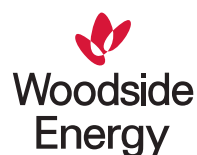
# Thanks to our Partners

## Powering Perth's pioneering research

Breakthroughs do not happen in isolation. At the Perkins, it is the strength of our partnerships with the WA community and corporate sector that helps turn discoveries into real world impact. Whether it is funding, equipment, facilities or time, our partners provide the critical support that allows our researchers to focus on what they do best. Every contribution brings us closer to our shared goal of helping people live longer, healthier lives.

## Major Partners

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## Research Partners

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Australian Cancer  
Research Foundation  
Cancer Council WA

Cancer Research Trust  
Cystic Fibrosis Australia  
HBF

Perpetual  
Telethon 7 Foundation

## Collaborators

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Curtin University  
Edith Cowan University  
Fiona Stanley Hospital

Murdoch University  
Royal Perth Hospital  
Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital

The University of  
Western Australia  
WA Department of Health



CEO Institute WA  
Complete Home Filtration

GenesisCare  
Mars Recruitment



## Event Title Sponsors

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New Town Toyota



## Founding Members



Access Hire Australia

HBF

The Westin Perth

AutoMasters

IGA

Three Pound Group

Blue Diamond

Instant Products Group

Venues Live

Brooks Equipment

Masseuse Massage Chairs

West Side Auto

Budget Car Rental

Merkanooka Haulage

Westside Auto Wholesale

Coates

OTR Tyres

DFR Commercial

Reeces Event Hire

Europcar

RPM Hire

## Event Partners

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DFR Commercial

Theiss

DFR Commercial

ETT.com

Ultimo

HBF

KAIS Hire

WesTrac

Masseuse Massage Chairs

MAVA

Westside Auto Wholesale

Royal Life Saving WA

Northern Star Resources

Woodside

Westin Hotel Perth

## 2024 Supporter Highlights

### Australia's most advanced early-phase clinical trials centre

Linear Clinical Research is the Perkins wholly owned and purpose built, state-of-the-art clinical trials facility. Linear operates a 24-bed facility at the QEII Medical Centre and a 24-bed facility at Joondalup Hospital Campus.

### Impact Stats

**20**

healthy  
volunteer trials

**627**

healthy volunteers  
received first dose  
of a new medicine

**110**

active oncology and  
haematology trials

**118**

new patients  
received first dose  
of new cancer drug

**Diseases investigated include:**

**Various cancers, Haematology,  
Hypertension, Elevated Lipoprotein(a),  
Osteoporosis, Ulcerative Colitis, SARS-  
CoV-2, Autoimmune diseases, RSV  
Vaccine, Prevention of thromboembolic  
events, Gout, AML**



Linear Clinical Research has facilities at Joondalup Health Campus and the QEIIIMC Campus.



## 2024 Supporter Highlights

The MACA Cancer 200 Ride for Research is Australia's biggest fundraising charity ride. It's a fully supported 200km two-day cycling challenge event that raises vital funds for cancer research at the Perkins.

### Impact stats

**2000**

riders

**65,000**

items packed

**354,950**

kilometres on  
Ride weekend

Raised

**\$10.33m**

for WA research

**374**

volunteers gave

**2377**

hours

**800**

camp tents made,  
slept in and  
pulled down



Craig Lewington completes his 13th MACA Cancer 200 Ride for the Perkins.





## 2024 Supporter Highlights

The New Town Toyota Walk for Women's Cancer is a 35km or 42km walk around our beautiful city, raising funds for women's cancer research at the Perkins.

### Impact stats

**1100**

walkers

**39,000**

items packed into  
support bags

**\$1.44m**

raised for WA  
research into  
women's cancers

**236**

volunteers gave

**950**

hours

**30,466km**

walked total



Olivia Fellows walked in the New Town Walk for Women's Cancer in support of her Mum who was going through treatment at the time.





## 2024 Supporter Highlights

The inaugural Perkins Plunge powered by MinRes made a splash in November, uniting swimmers for a 12-hour overnight relay to fund life-changing research at the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research. Participants rallied their teams to push through the night at Perth High Performance Centre (HBF Challenge Stadium), raising critical funds to support WA researchers tackling cancer, heart disease, diabetes and rare genetic diseases. The event showcased the power of community and endurance, with every lap helping researchers in the labs.

### Impact stats

**\$237,796**  
raised

**150**  
Plunge participants  
swimming

**31**  
Sharks (Plungers who  
raised over \$2000)

**17**  
teams taking on the  
challenge

**386km**  
swum

**1023**  
laps during the hour  
of power

Swimming for our lives—a participant in the inaugural Perkins Plunge powered by MinRes.



## 2024 Supporter Highlights

### Inspiring tomorrow's medical researchers

The Lotterywest BioDiscovery Centre at the Perkins provides authentic laboratory experiences that connect Western Australian high school students with cutting-edge medical research. Through hands-on activities, the centre gives students a deeper understanding of STEM education while showcasing the pioneering research conducted here in WA. The BioDiscovery laboratory is available for school groups, individual students, teacher professional development, business team-building exercises and visits from the community.

### Impact stats

**2,346**  
students across WA

**11**  
outreach roadshows  
to connect with rural  
communities

### 7 distinct programs:

**Next-Gen, Perkins Profs, School Holiday Adventures, Immersion Program, Teacher Professional Development, Mini Industry Roadshows and Exploring Medical Research workshops**



High school students experience  
PC2 lab conditions in the  
Lotterywest BioDiscovery Centre.



## 2024 Supporter Highlights

**None of this happens without you!**

The Perkins serves the people of Western Australia and it's all thanks to the incredible kindness and generosity of our supporters that we're advancing every day in the fight against disease. Our Nedlands headquarters welcomes visitors on tours, providing a firsthand glimpse at the groundbreaking work of Perth's brightest minds leveraging cutting-edge technology to drive medical progress. These advancements are not just for today but for the future, ensuring better health outcomes for our community.

### Impact stats

**50+**

**supporters  
welcomed for tours  
and a tea with a  
researcher**

**54**

**supporters and  
guests attended  
special meet and greet  
researcher events**

**1,100**

**supporters  
personally thanked  
with a phone call**

**10**

**people confirmed a  
gift included in their  
Will to the Perkins**

**82,249**

**donations from wonderful supporters covered  
the cost of 68% of all research at the Perkins.  
Thank you! ♥**



Safe Harbour Fellowship recipients  
Dr Rhonda Taylor, Dr Olivier  
Clement and Dr Chuck Herring.

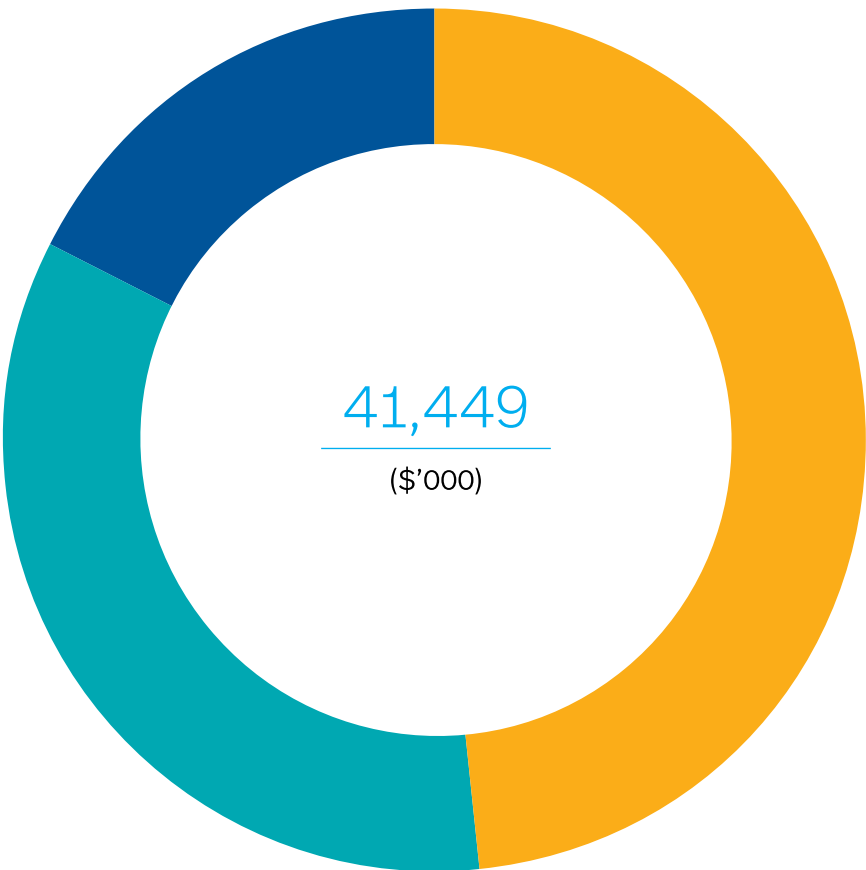




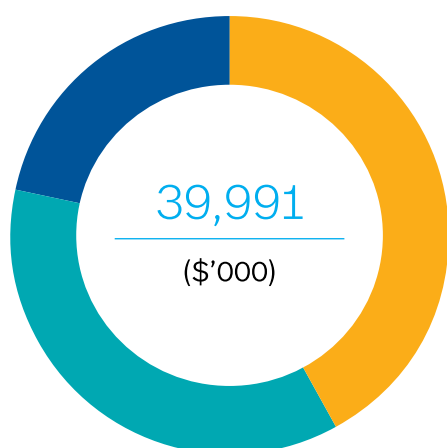
# Financial Statements

As at 31 December 2024

For a copy of our audited financial statements, please contact [info@perkins.org.au](mailto:info@perkins.org.au)



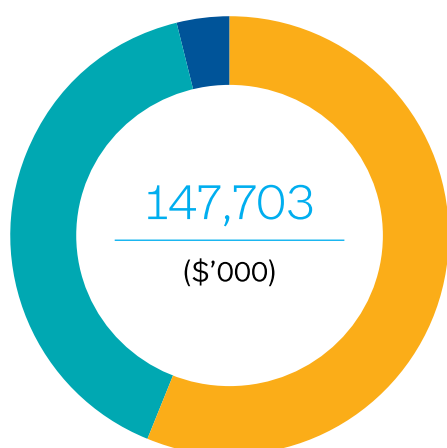
What we earned	(\$'000)
● Event and fundraising income	20,132
● Facilities and other income	14,104
● Operating grants and subsidies	7,213
Total	41,449



### What we spent

(\$'000)

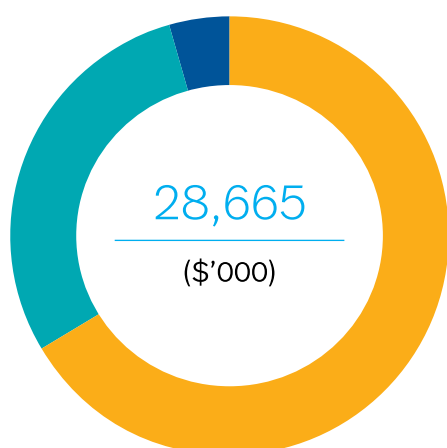
● Operational and administrative expenses	16,791
● Research infrastructure and laboratory costs	14,552
● Facilities, maintenance and utilities	8,648
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,991</b>



### What we own

(\$'000)

● Property, plant and equipment	83,287
● Cash and investment holdings	59,003
● Receivables, prepayments and inventories	5,413
<b>Total</b>	<b>147,703</b>



### What we owe

(\$'000)

● Grants held in trust	19,046
● Trades and other payables	8,417
● Employee benefit obligations	1,202
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,665</b>

# Thank you for your support in 2024.

You are giving yourself and those you love the opportunity to live longer, healthier and better lives by helping WA's best medical researchers beat the world's toughest diseases.

## **Acknowledgement of Country**

The Harry Perkins recognises Australia's first healers and scientists, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We acknowledge the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation, the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live and work and pay respects to their elders past and present.

## **Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research**

### **Perkins North**

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E [info@perkins.org.au](mailto:info@perkins.org.au)

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**HARRY PERKINS INSTITUTE  
OF MEDICAL RESEARCH**