

MENZIES FOUNDATION

2009
ANNUAL REVIEW

To promote excellence in health research, education and post graduate scholarship by Australians



Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce, AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, with Ms Elizabeth Klinge, the Menzies Centenary Prize winner

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Menzies Foundation was established in 1979 as a non-political, not-for-profit organisation to honour the memory of Sir Robert Menzies, Australia's longest-serving Prime Minister. The Foundation supports a prestigious program of scholarships in law, engineering, allied health and medical research, with the flexibility to develop other activities of potential national importance. The Foundation has also nurtured excellence in health research through the Menzies School of Health Research in Darwin, the Menzies Research Institute in Hobart, and the Menzies Centre for Health Policy in Sydney and Canberra. Through our strategic investment in helping to establish those Darwin and Hobart centres in the 1980s and our modest continuing investment, the Foundation has achieved substantial leverage, made an important contribution to the national research endeavour and achieved continuing recognition for the Menzies name.

The 30th anniversary of the Foundation was celebrated at a dinner in November 2009 with our Patron, Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor-General as guest of honour. The function was greatly enjoyed by past and present Menzies Scholars, directors of the three Menzies health research centres, Board members and members of the Menzies family. The collegial evening evoked a warm appreciation of all the Foundation's achievements, culminating a highly successful year.

The anniversary dinner also provided a welcome opportunity for the Chairman, Sir Guy Green, to thank Ms Sandra Mackenzie for her 30 years of dedicated service to the Foundation, most recently as a highly effective General Manager. His tribute was supported by spontaneous applause from all attendees, including the many who count Sandra as a personal friend.

Professor John Coghlan retired in March 2009, after 10 years of strong and successful leadership as Executive

Director of the Foundation. During John's era the Foundation established the Menzies Centre for Health Policy, supported new initiatives in Allied Health and obtained additional funding for health research from the Australian Government. We wish John well in his new role as Professorial Fellow and self described "stirrer" at the University of Melbourne.

The Foundation has further developed its support for Allied Health, which will be of increasing importance in meeting the future challenges of chronic disease in an ageing Australian population. Menzies Scholarships in Allied Health have already been highly successful. For example, Professor Paul Hodges, a Scholar in 1994, is a recent winner of a prestigious NHMRC Program Grant for his internationally recognised research in pain control.

A new Handbook for Allied Health Researchers, published by the Foundation, was launched by Ms Virginia Trioli in December 2009. A special Menzies workshop, also in December, brought Australian experts together to consider options for an Australian Centre for Allied Health Research. The Workshop report will help to set the future agenda for Allied Health in Australia.

The Foundation has recovered well from the impact of the global financial crisis on its investments. Accumulated funds at the end of 2009 were \$18.107 million compared with \$15.377 million for 2008. The surplus from ordinary activities in 2009 was \$2.730 million compared with a deficit of \$6.502 million in the previous year. Total operating expenses for 2009 were \$1.629 million compared with \$1.572 million in 2008. The operating expenses included \$462,000 for the three Menzies research centres, \$467,000 for Scholarships and Fellowships, and \$122,000 for other memorial activities.

Menzies Scholarships to the UK, in Law and Engineering, are supported jointly by the Foundation and the Menzies Trust in London. However, because of the impact of the financial crisis on the Trust investments and the withdrawal of co-funding by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, fewer UK scholarships can now be funded through the Trust. Accordingly, the Foundation is seeking alternative funding to maintain the scholarship program.

Professor John Mathews, Executive Director since April, 2009, is working closely with the Chairman, Secretariat and Board to secure and consolidate the scholarship program, to build upon past Foundation achievements in allied health and to provide leadership in indigenous education in partnership with other organisations and experts.

We sincerely thank our staff, honorary Directors, members of expert committees and other supporters for their contributions during 2009. More details about the Foundation are appended in this Annual Review, and at menziesfoundation.org.au; interested persons can contact the Foundation through the Executive Director or the General Manager on 03-9419-5699 or at menzies@vicnet.net.au.



The Hon Sir Guy Green,
AC, KBE, CVO
Chairman



Professor John Mathews, AM
Executive Director



Menzies, established in Darwin in 1985, has become a national leader of research in Indigenous and tropical health.

2009 was again a year of significant growth in staff, publications and research grants, with more than \$8 million in grants awarded by the NHMRC. Professor Jonathan Carapetis, the Director, said "2009 has been a very successful year, and I am particularly pleased by the very favourable report from the external scientific review¹ of the School carried out this year".

A \$34.2 million grant from the Commonwealth's Health and Hospital Fund, together with funds from NT and Commonwealth Governments and the Charles Darwin University, will support a new building program to accommodate the growth in research activity, to attract a new generation into research, and to further develop scientific infrastructure in northern Australia.

Important initiatives to address the pressing health and social problems of Indigenous Australians include:

- new activities in child education and child protection
- a National Centre for Quality Improvement in Indigenous Primary Health Care

Through scientific excellence, education and research the team at Menzies is discovering ways to reduce the impact of disease and improve the health and well being of people living in Australia and beyond.

- partnerships in Indigenous health research
- a new position for an Associate Director, Aboriginal Programs
- funding of the Coordination Unit for the National Rheumatic Fever Strategy
- a new project on 'gambling worries' in remote communities.

Other successes include:

- selection of the malaria team's research as one of the "ten of the best" NHMRC-funded projects in 2008-09
- winning Life Education Australia's prestigious 'Gold Harold Award for Education' for the Early Childhood Development research program
- commencement of the AusAID-funded Knowledge Hub in Women and Children's Health
- funding from *beyondblue* for a project on depression in partnership with the NT Government
- active engagement with policy makers to translate research into policy and practice, eg in tobacco control.

¹An external review is required every five years.
Website: www.menzies.edu.au/





A real highlight for 2009 was the new building in Hobart (Medical Science 1, pictured). The move from seven separate locations into this new Lyons-designed building, in December 2009, is already providing a great boost to the morale and the collaborative ethos of the Institute. Likewise, as an architectural inspiration, the building has changed the face of Hobart significantly.

The first official function in the new building, appropriately, was a Symposium to celebrate the 21st anniversary



of the Menzies Institute. Representatives of the Menzies Foundation, the University of Tasmania, and many others who helped to launch the Institute joined the celebration.

In a second stage building program, a grant of \$44.7 million from the Health and Hospitals fund will be matched by University, State and Atlantic Philanthropies to build a \$90 million building.

Professor Simon Foote, the Director, said that these new and expanded facilities will enable the Menzies Institute to continue to deliver research of international standard, to attract talented young people into science and research through the University, and to support a more science-based economy in Tasmania into the 21st century.

In 2009 the Institute continued its success in attracting competitive research grants, with a 28% success rate for NHMRC grants, compared with the national average of 23%. Total research funding, from NHMRC and other sources, was \$12.5 million in 2009.

The Menzies Research Institute published many important papers in high profile journals in 2009. One (see Box) identified new genetic markers for multiple sclerosis (MS), a chronic degenerative and unpredictable condition caused by random "autoimmune" attacks on the central nervous system. MS is the most common neurological disease affecting young Australians today, and is particularly frequent in Tasmania.

Details of the many other research projects, grants and publications can be found at www.menzies.utas.edu.au.

The MS project began nearly 14 years ago as a collaboration between the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute and the Menzies Research Institute.

MS researcher and neurologist, Associate Professor Bruce Taylor, collected information from hundreds of MS patients in Tasmania and New Zealand. Samples from these and other patients were studied using modern methods to measure the many thousands of genetic (DNA) differences between individuals.

Dr Jim Stankovich, at the Menzies Research Institute, analysed the data and uncovered several new genetic differences which were more common in MS patients than in unaffected persons. One was in a gene affecting vitamin D usage; this clue could prove to be of fundamental importance, as vitamin D deficiency, linked to lesser sunlight exposure, can explain why MS is more frequent in Tasmania and other populations at high latitudes. Vitamin D deficiency is also known to affect some of the immune processes that damage the nervous system in MS.

This exciting result shows the benefits of long-term collaborative planning, of interdisciplinary research involving different environments, different populations, and of laboratory-based studies of genetic difference using state-of-the-art technology.

Menzies Centre of Health Policy



2009 was a very active year for Australian health policy. Through public meetings organised by the Menzies Centre for Health Policy² in Sydney and in Canberra, and through regular media commentaries, Centre staff contributed to public discussion of the landmark reports of the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission and the Preventative Health Taskforce.

In 2009, staff of the Centre also contributed:

- 37 peer reviewed papers, book chapters, or books
- 36 articles published in print media
- 53 articles published online
- 18 commissioned and non-commissioned reports
- 51 conference presentations.

Furthermore the Centre reported:

- 11 public seminars/events
- 49 occasions when staff were interviewed or quoted in the media.

The Menzies Centre is also actively engaged in education through the Master of Health Policy at the University of Sydney and the Master of Public Health at the Australian National University.

The principal research project for the Menzies Centre is its NHMRC-funded program of inquiry into the needs and attitudes of patients with chronic illness.

Its findings will soon be translated into improved chronic care programs.

Other new grants received in 2009 include:

- an NHMRC Capacity Building Grant to strengthen ties between economics, evidence, policy and practice
- an NHMRC Partnership Grant to develop service policies for Australians with dual sensory impairment
- a University of Sydney Biosecurity Grant
- a National Seniors Australia Grant to improve health literacy in seniors
- a University of Sydney International Program Development Fund (IPDF) Grant to reduce cardiovascular mortality in the Pacific Rim.

The principal challenge for the Menzies Centre is to obtain secure funding for a greater proportion of its staff, to avoid the churn and staff-turnover that comes from a dependence on short-term grants. The Centre now has an expanded Board, which will drive its new strategic agenda of research, education and community service, and work to secure a more substantial base for longer-term funding.

²The Centre has two nodes, with staff located either at the University of Sydney, or at the Australian National University in Canberra.

See: menzieshealthpolicy.edu.au/index.php



30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MENZIES FOUNDATION

At the 30th Anniversary dinner, Ms Bryce said, "The Foundation is indeed a catalyst for achievement in our country, and I feel privileged as your Patron to share this significant birthday – one that acknowledges the promise of your youth and the wisdom of your experience."



Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce, AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

HANDBOOK FOR ALLIED HEALTH RESEARCHERS



Cara Bowerman Photography



Book launch:
Above Professor Meg Morris, Sandra Mackenzie, Professor Alison Perry and Dr Sue Cotton.
Left Virginia Trioli

The Foundation welcomed radio and television presenter, Ms Virginia Trioli to launch its Handbook for Allied Health Researchers on 9 December.

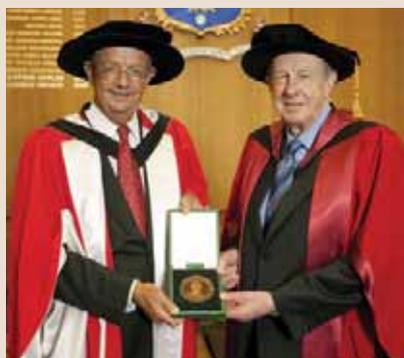
The handbook, edited by Professor Alison Perry, Professor Meg Morris and Dr Sue Cotton, will support research in clinical practice. Previous Menzies Scholars (Assoc/Professor Sandy Brauer, Dr Fiona Dobson, Professor Paul Hodges and Dr Deborah Walsh) also contributed.

The handbook provides research advice in a clear and user friendly format. Copies can be ordered at menziesfoundation.org.au.

THE MENZIES ORATION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Professor Richard Larkins, AO, delivered the 2009 Sir Robert Menzies Oration in Melba Hall at the University of Melbourne on 27 October.

A former Vice-Chancellor of Monash University, Professor Larkins emphasised the importance of the university sector to Australia's future. He called for a higher education sector "where our best



The Foundation's Chairman, Sir Guy Green (right) and Professor Richard Larkins holding the Menzies Medallion presented to him by Mr Alec Menzies.

universities are able to compete for the best students in a deregulated funding environment that allows them to deliver the quality of education and research that the students deserve and our country needs".

Professor Larkins concluded that "our universities must be enabled to deliver excellence and diversity as well as to provide access for talented and committed students regardless of their financial status."

The full oration text "Universities: the Foundation of Civil and Successful Societies" is at menziesfoundation.org.au.

The annual Menzies Oration recognises the many prime ministerial contributions of Sir Robert Menzies to higher education and his role as Chancellor of the University of Melbourne from 1967 to 1972.

WORKSHOP TOWARDS AN AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR RESEARCH & EVIDENCE IN ALLIED HEALTH

As part of its continuing commitment to allied health, the Foundation convened a Workshop in December 2009, bringing together a group of national experts and representatives of NHMRC and government. It was agreed that allied health practitioners would play an increasingly important role in the future health system, not least because of the increasing prevalence of chronic disease in our ageing population.

The workshop discussed how research in allied health might be improved, how new knowledge might be better translated into practice, and how allied health might be better integrated into the national health care system.

The workshop report has recommended that the Foundation establish and support a Steering Committee to consider detailed objectives and governance arrangements for a future Centre. The Steering Committee will also work with the Foundation to develop a business plan to secure funding.



At the workshop: Professor Paul Hodges left (Director, NHMRC Centre for Clinical Research Excellence in Spinal Pain, Injury and Health) and Professor John Mathews (Executive Director, Menzies Foundation)

MENZIES SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Allied Health Sciences

The Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Scholarship in the Allied Health Sciences is at postgraduate level and tenable in Australia. Scholars for 2009 were:

Ms Leanne Hall, B Physiotherapy with First Class Honours (2006) from the University of Queensland. Leanne's PhD project is to examine the contribution of dopamine to movement control; it will be carried out at the University of Queensland.

Ms Jane McCormack, B Health Sc (Speech Pathology) with First Class Honours from Charles Sturt University (2002). Jane's PhD project will examine childhood speech impairment; it will be carried out at Charles Sturt University.

Engineering and Law

The Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Scholarships to the United Kingdom commenced in 1982 and are awarded by the Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Trust, London, with the financial support of the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and of the Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Foundation in Australia. The scholarships are awarded for one, two or three academic years.

Menzies Meszaros Medallion presentation:

Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce with Menzies Scholars, Sebastian Hartford Davis, Sally Monaghan (AHS, 2007), Elizabeth Klinge (Menzies Centenary Prize winner) and Leanne Hall following presentation of their scholarship medallions at Clarendon Terrace on 12 November, 2009.

Menzies Scholarship in Engineering:

Ms Alisa Selimovic, B Biomedical Eng with First Class Honours and the University Medal (2008) and B Science (2007) from Flinders University. Alisa commenced her DPhil at Oxford University for three years in October 2009.

Menzies Scholarship in Law:

Mr Sebastian Hartford Davis, LLB with First Class Honours and the University Medal (2009) and BA (2009) from Macquarie University. Sebastian was placed 1:196 in his graduating class and will commence the BCL/MPhil for two years at Oxford in October 2010.

Medicine

The CJ Martin/RG Menzies Fellowship awarded in association with the NHMRC is available for postgraduate medical study at approved overseas institutions with tenure for up to four years. In 2009 the award was made to:

Dr Misty Jenkins, B Science (Hons) (2001) and PhD, University of Melbourne.

Her study, "Investigating how killer T cells deliver their lethal hit" will be undertaken at the Cambridge Institute for Medical Research, UK.

Harvard

The Menzies Foundation, the Harvard Club of Australia and the Australian National University jointly sponsor the Robert Gordon Menzies Scholarship. In 2009 awards were made to:

Ms Ricky Campbell-Allen, Bachelor of Visual Arts (Hons) from the University of Sydney and a Graduate Diploma of Education from the University of Canberra. Ricky will undertake a Masters of Education specialising in Education Policy and Management in the Graduate School of Education, Harvard.

Dr Stephanie Ward, FRACP, Bachelor of Medicine from the University of Newcastle and Fellow in Geriatric Medicine at Southern Health, Victoria. Stephanie will undertake a Masters of Public Health specialising in Healthcare Management and Policy in the Harvard School of Public Health.



MENZIES CENTENARY PRIZE

This Prize, initiated in 1994 to mark the centenary of Sir Robert's birth in Jeparit, is awarded annually to a Year 12 student from Dimboola Memorial Secondary College. The award of \$10,000 towards



the cost of tertiary study is jointly funded by the Foundation, the Menzies Memorial Scholars Association and through the generous support of Sir Robert Menzies' daughter, Mrs Heather Henderson (pictured).

The 2009 Prize was awarded to Ms Elizabeth Klinge. Elizabeth (pictured on the cover) achieved an ENTER score of 94.15, was School Captain and Dux of the College in 2008 and received the School Contribution Award in 2007 and 2008. She also won the prestigious Pierre de Coubertin Award in 2007 "in recognition of sporting achievements and demonstration of those endeavours which are consistent with the aims of the Olympic movement".

Elizabeth commenced a Bachelor of Education (Physical Education) degree at the University of Ballarat in 2009.

MENZIES ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES GRANTS

Since 2007, the Foundation has introduced \$25,000 bridging grants for Menzies Scholars in Allied Health to support their research within five years of completing their PhD.

Awards in 2009 were made to Dr Andy Chien and Dr Leanne Hassett, Menzies Scholars in 2005.

Andy's grant will allow him to investigate pain mechanisms in osteoarthritis.

Leanne's grant will allow her to test the value of fitness and training following head injuries.



Dr Andy Chien

MMSA

MENZIES MEMORIAL SCHOLARS ASSOCIATION

The Association's Annual General Meeting was held at Clarendon Terrace on 12 November 2009. Dr Deborah Walsh, the retiring President, was thanked on behalf of all scholars, and the incoming President, Dr Marie Estcourt (Medicine 2002) and Secretary/Treasurer, Dr Liisa Laakso (AHS 1991) were congratulated on their election.



MMSA President,
Dr Marie Estcourt



Menzies Scholars: Stefanie Wilkins, A/Prof Chester Brown, Dr Leanne Hassett and Dr Rosie Dawkins

Several Menzies Scholars gave entertaining and informative presentations about their experiences as Scholars and their subsequent careers.

Stefanie Wilkins took up her law scholarship in 2008 at Oxford where she was awarded a first in the BCL and jointly awarded the prize for Civil Procedure.

Chester Brown (2000) spoke of his Bachelor of Civil Law at Oxford, his PhD in Public International Law at Cambridge, and of his subsequent professional life. Chester is currently Associate Professor at the University of Sydney Faculty of Law.

Allied Health Sciences Scholar, Dr Leanne Hassett (2005) spoke about her work on Traumatic Brain Injury. Leanne's

research showed the value of exercise in helping patients to regain physical fitness after injury.

Dr Rosie Dawkins (2007 Menzies Harvard Scholar) studied International Health at the Harvard School of Public Health. Her research compared health services in native American and Australian indigenous communities; she challenged her MMSA audience to advocate for improved funding and delivery of medical services for the disadvantaged. Rosie is continuing her ophthalmology training in Australia.

Reflecting on the meeting, scholars commented on "how special it is to be part of such an intellectually challenging and welcoming association".

PATRON

Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce, AC
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of
Australia

DIRECTORS as at 31 December 2009

The Hon Sir Guy Green, AC, KBE, CVO Chairman
Mr B J Doyle, Deputy Chairman & Secretary
Mr B Jamieson, Treasurer
Professor J D Mathews, AM Executive Director
Mr N B Callinan
Dr M J Estcourt
Mr R A Illingworth
Mr C P H Kiefel, OAM
Dr E L Laakso (since November)
Professor S Maddocks
Ms D L Menzies
Professor R E O'Hehir
Profiles available at menziesfoundation.org.au

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr B G Atkinson, AM
Professor M I Bullock, AM
Mr M H Codd, AC
Professor J P Coghlan, AO
The Rt Hon Sir Zelman Cowen, AK, GCMG, GCVO
The Hon Sir Daryl Dawson, AC, KBE, CB
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Ms B G Gibson
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Professor S R Leeder, AO
Professor J D Mathews, AM
Ms E C Menzies
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Professor R Porter, AC
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The Rt Hon Sir Ninian Stephen, KG, AK,
GCMG, GCVO, KBE
Mrs J M Trethewey, OAM
Sir William Vines, AC, CMG
Professor P L Waller, AO
Mr R J White, AO

KEY FINANCIAL RESULTS

The audited 2009 financial reports are published separately and are available at www.menziesfoundation.org.au or by contacting the Menzies Foundation.

Income Statement	2009	2008
For the year ended 31 December 2009	\$	\$
(Deficit) Revenue from continuing activities	4,354,527	(4,930,049)
Expenses from continuing activities		
Menzies Health Research Centres	(462,254)	(430,000)
Scholarships and fellowships	(467,121)	(443,224)
Other Memorial Activities	(122,382)	(117,449)
Salaries and salary on-costs	(369,886)	(347,611)
Other expenses from ordinary activities	(203,220)	(233,624)
(Deficit)/surplus from ordinary activities	2,729,664	(6,501,957)
Net (deficit)/surplus	2,729,664	(6,501,957)
Total comprehensive income for the year	2,729,664	(6,501,957)
Balance Sheet	2009	2008
For the year ended 31 December 2009	\$	\$
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	234,753	3,724,820
Receivables	67,648	77,879
Investments	17,963,367	11,717,555
Other	13,921	15,659
Total current assets	<u>18,279,689</u>	<u>15,535,913</u>
Total assets	18,279,689	15,535,913
Current liabilities		
Payables	8,370	1,692
Provisions	163,656	150,274
Total current liabilities	<u>172,026</u>	<u>151,966</u>
Non-current liabilities		
Provisions	383	6,331
Total non-current liabilities	<u>383</u>	<u>6,331</u>
Total liabilities	172,409	158,297
Net assets	18,107,280	15,377,616
Accumulated Funds	18,107,280	15,377,616

DONATION FORM

I would like to make the following contribution to the work of the Menzies Foundation.

DONATIONS TO THE MENZIES FOUNDATION ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

A tax receipt will be posted to the address supplied.

Name:

Address:

.....

..... Postcode:

Telephone (optional):

I would like to make a donation of: \$

Enclosed is my cheque payable to *The Menzies Foundation*

Internet deposit: Account details at menziesfoundation.org.au

Please debit my credit card Visa Mastercard

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Expiry date: ____ / ____

Name on card:

Authorising Signature:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION

I am interested in finding out more about becoming a regular donor

Please forward information on how to make a bequest to the Menzies Foundation in my Will.

To enquire with the Executive Director or General Manager please call 03 9419 5699.

Please cut



THE MENZIES FOUNDATION

ABN 43 008 543 897



The Rt Hon Sir Robert Menzies,
KT, AK, CH, FRS, QC
Prime Minister of Australia
1939-1941 and 1949-1966

The Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Trust was formed in 1978 and its public appeal raised \$6.2 million. The funds were invested and a non-political, not-for-profit organisation called the Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Foundation was established in 1979.

The Menzies Foundation aims to perpetuate and honour the memory of Sir Robert Menzies by promoting excellence in medical and health research, education and post graduate scholarship by Australians.

THE SECRETARIAT

Executive Director (Part time):

Professor John D Mathews, AM, BSc, MBBS, MD, PhD, DSc Hon

General Manager (Full time):

Ms Sandra Mackenzie, OAM, BA, BLitt (Hons)

Web Site/Administration (Part time):

Ms Pam Shearman

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