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\$1.6 million to fund cancer research

MIMR, in collaboration with its Monash Health Translation Precinct partners, has received \$1.6 million from the Australian Cancer Research Foundation (ACRF) to establish the ACRF Centre for Cancer Genomic Medicine.

The new Centre will allow researchers to expand their genetic profiling of specific cancers; information critical to the development and application of anti-cancer drugs tailored to individual patients. The grant, one of only three awarded in Australia, will be used to purchase the latest in DNA sequencing technologies, which will enable researchers and clinicians to introduce molecular-based patient tumour profiles for everyday cancer patient management.

Professor Bryan Williams said the landmark funding announcement heralded a

new era in cancer research and treatment. "Analysing genes in this way will not only be essential in providing a better understanding of the molecular changes underlying cancer development and progression, but also in identification of new therapeutics targeting specific cancers. This is a crucial step towards a more rapid identification of effective cancer drugs.

"The establishment of the ACRF Centre for Cancer Genomic Medicine (ACCGM) will give us a much greater insight into the nature of the genes involved in cancer. This will be invaluable

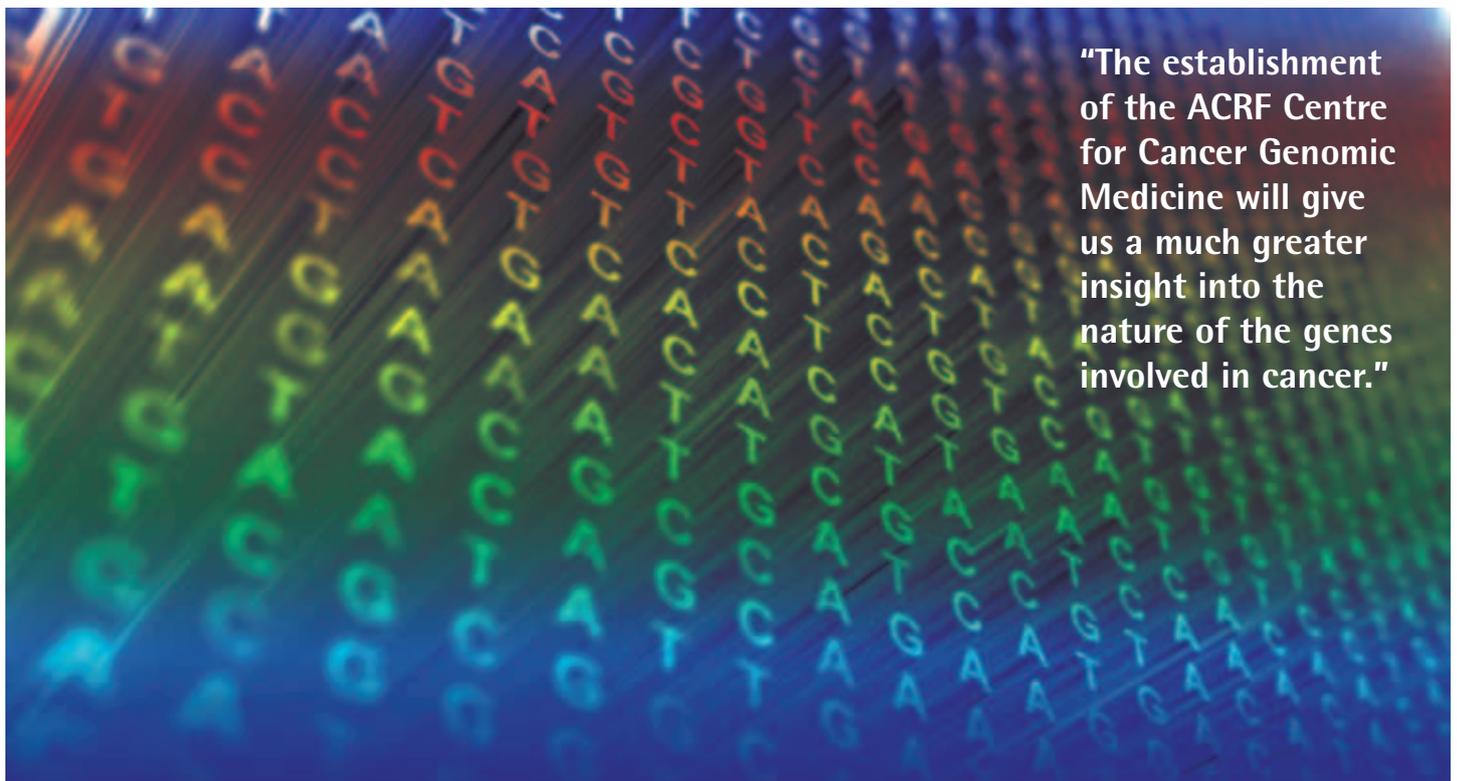
not only for cancer prognosis, but also for identifying patients that may or may not respond to new therapies."

The ACCGM will service researchers and clinicians at the Monash Health Translation Precinct, a partnership between MIMR, Monash University, Southern Health and Prince Henry's Institute. The new Centre will facilitate and increase the speed of translating laboratory findings into outcomes for cancer patients.

"Without the generous support of the ACRF, our cancer researchers and clinicians

would have to rely on outdated technologies that can only have a limited impact on cancer patient management," Professor Williams said. "The ACRF is addressing an unmet funding need that is critical for cancer researchers to not only advance the discovery process, but to also fast-track research and provide new outcomes for cancer patients."

Australian
Cancer Research
Foundation



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