



Media release

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HEIDELBERG RESEARCHER ATTRACTS \$185,000 IN HEART FOUNDATION FUNDING FOR 2005

A Heidelberg researcher involved in world-leading cardiovascular research has been awarded \$185,000 by the Research Program of the National Heart Foundation of Australia for 2005.

These awards are part of a record \$7.6M allocated to new and ongoing Australian cardiovascular research projects by the Heart Foundation and its funding partners this year.

Each year, the Heart Foundation offers successful researchers funding via Grants, Fellowships and Scholarships. Researchers must apply to the Heart Foundation and present their research proposal to an independent panel of experts for consideration.

The outcome of many of these studies will make a direct contribution to our understanding of the cause, prevention, treatment and diagnosis of cardiovascular disease.

As Australia's leading national heart health charity, the Heart Foundation is funded almost entirely from public donations and gifts in wills. The funding of these and other research projects would not be possible without the generosity of the many supporters of the Heart Foundation.

Heart Foundation Vic Division Robyn Charlwood said "It is wonderful for the Heart Foundation to be able to bring together the generosity of Australians and the genius of these Victorians researchers to improve Australia's heart health".

Successful Heidelberg based research projects for 2005 include:

Dr Julie Bernhardt, National Stroke Research Institute

A Grant-in-aid will assist Dr Bernhardt with the world's first large, multicentre trial of very early rehabilitation (compared with standard care regimes) as a simple intervention that might reduce deaths and disability and improve quality of life for stroke patients.

Stroke is a major global challenge with 5.5 million people dying from stroke each year and many more living with chronic disability. As the population ages, these figures are set to increase, and this research will be vital for stemming the increasing burden of stroke.

For further information about the Heart Foundation Research Program, or to arrange an interview with Robyn Charlwood or Dr Bernhardt, please contact:

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