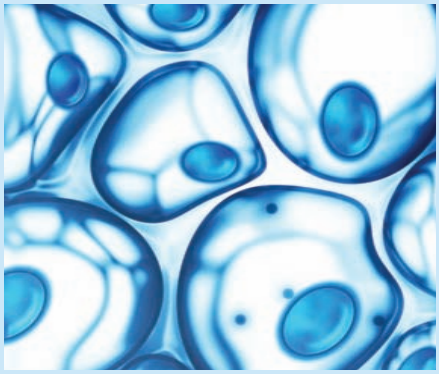
SNAPSHOT

MS RESEARCH AUSTRALIA

PROJECTS STARTED IN 2014 FUNDED BY MS RESEARCH AUSTRALIA

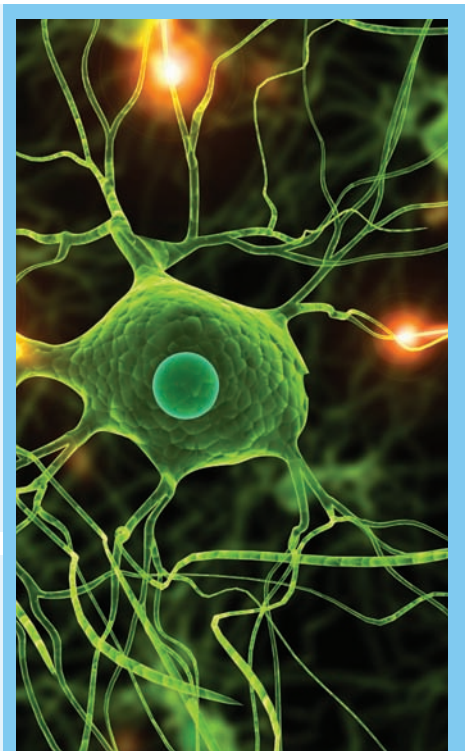
	IDENTIFYING THE TRIGGERS FOR MS	DEVELOPING BETTER TREATMENTS	A CURE FOR MS VIA REPAIR OR REGENERATION OF CELLS
GENETICS & EPIDEMIOLOGY	**The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, VIC** Professor Trevor Kilpatrick is investigating functional implications of genetic variation in a specific gene called MERTK and it's role in MS susceptibility. **Hunter Medical Research Institute, NSW** Dr Vicki Maltby is profiling molecules that control gene activity in the immune cells of people with MS, to identify factors contributing to disease onset and prognosis. **Bond University, QLD** Katherine Sanders is profiling molecules that control gene activity in tissue taken from MS lesions in the brain and body fluids to develop biomarkers for MS prognosis.		
NEUROBIOLOGY		**University of Sydney, NSW** Associate Professor Alexander Klistorner will use the MS Research Australia Ian Ballard Travel Award to visit the Hadassah Hebrew University Medical Center to participate in a joint project that will investigate demyelination in the visual system in MS. Dr Heidi Beadnall is exploring the use of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to measure brain tissue loss in people with MS in clinical practice.	**University of Melbourne, VIC** Dr Simon Murray is looking at novel ways to promote remyelination and repair in the MS damaged brain and spinal cord. Dr Stanislaw Mitew is investigating the normal turnover of myelin in the healthy and MS brain and investigating ways to improve remyelination for repair.
IMMUNOLOGY & VIROLOGY		**University of NSW** Associate Professor David Brown is investigating a specific molecule that can modulate the innate immune system and may provide a new treatment option for progressive MS.	
SOCIAL & APPLIED RESEARCH		**University of Queensland, QLD** Dr Anna Hatton is running a clinical trial to test whether wearing textured shoe insoles may increase sensory feedback to improve the gait of people with MS. **University of NSW** Dr Phu Hoang is running a clinical trial to test an interactive training system to reduce falls in people with MS. **Monash University, VIC** Louise Kurczycki has validated a screening tool to identify continence problems in people with MS and will now test whether treatment initiated by continence nurses will improve bladder and bowel problems in people with MS.	

KEY SCHOLARSHIP FELLOWSHIP PROJECT GRANT

SNAPSHOT

MS RESEARCH AUSTRALIA

ONGOING PROJECTS FUNDED BY MS RESEARCH AUSTRALIA

	IDENTIFYING THE TRIGGERS FOR MS	DEVELOPING BETTER TREATMENTS	A CURE FOR MS VIA REPAIR OR REGENERATION OF CELLS
GENETICS & EPIDEMIOLOGY	**Working across Australia and NZ** **ANZgene** is a major collaboration mapping the genetic make-up of people with MS to identify which genes influence MS susceptibility and why. **Westmead Millennium Institute, NSW** A/Professor David Booth is investigating how MS susceptibility genes affect the immune system. **Griffith University, QLD** Professor Simon Broadley is working on antibody detection and genetic screening in a rare variant of MS, neuromyelitis optica (NMO). **Deakin University, VIC** Dr Stuart Smith is profiling the gut bacteria of people with MS to identify new mechanisms underlying disease. **Hunter Medical Research Institute, NSW** Dr Rod Lea is providing bioinformatics support primarily to the MS Research Australia platforms, ANZgene and Proteomics, working across Australia and New Zealand.	**Working across Australia and NZ** **The PrevANZ Vitamin D Prevention Trial** is measuring whether vitamin D can prevent MS in people at high risk of developing the disease. **Murdoch University, WA** Professor Steve Wilton is developing therapeutic compounds that are capable of suppressing the activity of genes implicated in development of MS. **James Cook University, QLD** Dr Margaret Jordan (awarded a prestigious MSRA-NHMRC Betty Cuthbert Fellowship) is determining how genetic risk factors affect the function of immune cells in MS. **Menzies Research Institute Tasmania, TAS** Dr Steve Simpson Jr is creating an algorithm to predict disease activity and disease course for people with MS.	
NEUROBIOLOGY	**Working across Australia** The **MS Research Australia Brain Bank** based at the University of Sydney is securing valuable MS tissue from donors across Australia, for researchers to advance our understanding of the neuropathology of MS.	**Working across Australia** Professor Allan Kermode at the Sir Charles Gardiner Hospital, WA, works with Professor Jim Wiley and colleagues around Australia on the **Australian MS Haematopoietic Stem Cell Treatments Register**. They track the efficacy of haematopoietic stem cell treatments (bone marrow transplants) to treat MS. **Baker IDI, Heart & Diabetes Institute, VIC** Professor Karlheinz Peter is investigating the role of platelets in MS inflammation and the potential use of imaging platelets for the early diagnosis of MS.	**Working across Australia** Professor Shaun McColl at the University of Adelaide leads the **Proteomics research platform** in a national collaboration to identify the key proteins involved in MS. **St Vincent's Hospital, NSW** Professor Bruce Brew is optimising tryptophan metabolism in stem cells to promote MS repair. **University of Sydney, NSW** Dr Linda Ly is using new proteomics methods to identify the molecules involved in brain repair. **Monash Immunology and Stem Cell Laboratories, VIC** Jae Lee, under the supervision of Dr Steven Petratos, is blocking a molecule known to cause axonal damage in MS, as an option for repair.
IMMUNOLOGY & VIROLOGY	**Royal Melbourne Hospital, VIC** Dr Mark Stein is measuring the levels of blood hormones in people with MS to see whether they could be used to identify those most at risk of developing MS. **University of Sydney, NSW** Dr Scott Byrne is investigating the mechanisms behind UV suppression of the immune system, particularly the role of B regulatory cells. **University of Queensland, QLD** Professor Michael Pender continues his work on immune cells and the role of infection with Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV) in the development of MS.	**University of New South Wales, NSW** Dr Edwin Lim is interrogating a biological pathway known to regulate inflammation which may slow down MS progression. **Monash University, VIC** Jie-yu Chung, under the supervision of A/Professor Frank Alderuccio, is working on overriding the immune system to treat MS. **Baker IDI Heart & Diabetes Institute, VIC** Ashish Nair, with Professor Karlheinz Peter, is working on a new method to diagnose early stage MS. **University of Adelaide, SA** Dr Iain Comerford is studying the role of white blood cell signalling in MS with the aim of preventing neuroinflammation. **Garvan Institute of Medical Research, NSW** Dr Sue Liu is identifying ways to improve immune defence against infections in people with MS receiving B cell depleting therapies.	
SOCIAL & APPLIED RESEARCH	**Menzies Research Institute Tasmania, TAS** Dr Ingrid van der Mei manages the **MS Life Study**, which is tracking the issues of practical importance in the lives of people affected by MS including quality of life, economic impact and employment.	**Working across Australia** The **MS Research Australia Clinical Trials Network** coordinates information about MS trials for the MS community. **University of Sydney, NSW** Wendy Longley is investigating the clinical benefits of a neuropsychological assessment in MS.	

KEY

INCUBATOR GRANT
SCHOLARSHIP
FELLOWSHIP
PROJECT GRANT
MAJOR COLLABORATIONS / PLATFORMS