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Contact Us
Neil Sachse Foundation
ABN 30624 423 759

Office Address:
141 Ifould St
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Phone: 08) 8227 1777
Fax: 08) 8232 4311

contact@nsf.org.au
www.nsf.org.au

15 YEARS

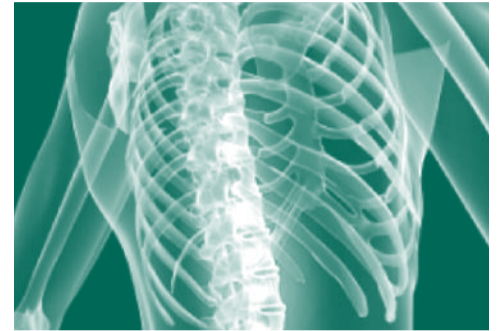
Neil Sachse Foundation has reached a 15th Year Milestone. Over this period the Foundation has had a number of major highlights. The first you may recall was a cell based treatment funded at Flinders University which proved that nerve fibres could be encouraged to regrow past the site of injury and return some function. The research results produced 3 publications in prestigious journals. Even though research was unable to reach clinical trial it added to the global knowledge on spinal cord injury, being available to scientists around the world.

People may wonder why we have changed our direction and now looking at an intervention drug that will limit the damage caused at the time of a spinal cord injury.

WHY

- Drug which is to be tested has been developed by Roche Pharmaceuticals under the direction of Prof Bob Vink.
- The cost to develop the drug, a derivative of an Nk1 Antagonist was in excess of \$40 million over 2 years.
- The only supply of the drug is here in South Australia at the University of Adelaide.
- It has been used in an animal model to test the effects in a traumatic brain injury.
- The drug would be delivered by injection.
- The therapeutic window for administering could be as long as two days. Earlier the better.
- The drug reduced the oedema (swelling caused by fluid) in the brain back to normal levels within 6.5 hours.
- If we can keep the spinal cord injury to less than 80% a person will retain full motor function.
- Venture Capital is being sought for clinical trial.

- It is known to be safe when injected into humans.
- Once approved Roche Pharmaceuticals has first option to market and distribute the drug.



The Foundation is confident the drug will reproduce the same results for spinal cord injury as it did for brain injury and thus keen to invest into the project. With the right amount of funding a critical mass of researchers will be created developing into a dedicated Spinal Cord Injury Research Centre.

We are funding a PhD student and now through the corporate sector a Research Fellow. Our next priority is to fund a Program Leader who will drive the centre through to fruition. Once the intervention drug is completed it can look to curing those who are confined to wheelchairs. We believe by limiting the damage caused at the time of injury, it will be easier to repair the damage when a cell based treatment becomes available.

One of the difficulties people with a new spinal cord injury face is the secondary damage that can last up to 4 months after the initial damage. This secondary damage causes further loss of nerve cells resulting in greater loss of function. This important drug when administered within the right timeframe can bring a damaged brain back to normal within 6.5 hours and as stated our expectations are that the same results will apply in a spinal cord injury.

DR JAMES GUEST LEADS OUR FIRST TRULY 'TRANSLATIONAL' PROJECT

During the course of 2009 Spinal Research has been fundraising specifically towards our Translational Initiative – aimed at bridging the gap between the treatments which have repaired spinal cord injury in the lab and ones that are safe to apply on humans.



2010 is starting with good news. One of the recently approved projects is the very definition of a truly 'Translational' project - The title of this study is: "Use of Schwann cells to repair the chronically damaged spinal tract" and it is led by Prof James Guest at the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis.

BACKGROUND TO THIS PROJECT

One reason for paralysis is believed to be loss of the specialised cells – called oligodendrocytes – that wrap the axons with the biological insulating material myelin. (see image below). Without myelin the nerve signals fail to propagate efficiently, communication is interrupted and function lost. Whilst many cells will be permanently damaged after injury, there is evidence that some of the de-myelinated tissue can be rescued and made to function again.

What is intriguing about the work in Miami is they are proposing to use a different type of cell to replace the myelin. Instead of oligodendrocytes,

Guest will take some tissue from a region of the peripheral nervous system that can spare it and isolate Schwann cells. These cells perform a similar function to oligodendrocytes but the advantages of their approach are numerous, including procedures that result in cells from the patient being used rather than that of donors which would require the use of immunosuppressants.

This approach will then be combined with intensive physiotherapy to maximise its potential, as it has now been proven that treatments including physical rehabilitation increase the effectiveness of the treatment itself.

WHY IS THIS A 'TRANSLATIONAL' PROJECT?

Prof James Guest and colleagues are preparing to test this cell-based therapy in a clinically relevant large animal model of chronic spinal cord injury in what is hoped will be a final (and critical) efficacy study before application to humans. Previous studies have shown that restoration of function can be achieved with Schwann cells; this project will take those findings further and prepare them for application in people who have been paralysed by spinal cord injury.

What is also crucial about this project is that, if successful, it will bring benefit to those people who have a chronic spinal injury – that's the majority of our supporters, who are patiently waiting for the treatment that will transform their life, or the life of someone they love.

Spinal Research is still the only research organisation with a specific focus on chronic injuries.

EDUCATING OUR YOUTH ON SPINAL CARE AND INJURY PREVENTION

stop!
prevent spine
injuries

pause.
seek help for
treatment

go!
look after
your spine

**back
to
basics**

The aim of this important new initiative is to educate our children in spinal care injury and prevention.

A resource kit of informative materials will be produced and distributed to all primary and secondary schools in South Australia. It will contain information that integrates with the educational curriculum.

The resource kit will assist staff, students and their families, to become aware of accidents and spinal cord injury, to know what to do with a suspected spinal cord injury, how to prevent such injuries occurring, and how to care for their backs.

The program is on track to be launched into schools during Term 11 in 2010.

BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS

Our second Breakfast of Champions was held on February 24th at the Sebel Playford. 120 guests enjoyed a fully cooked breakfast and were entertained by 6 well known champions in their individual sports; Steven Rowe, Wayne Phillips, Tony Vidmar and Jan Stirling, Yvie Eglinton and Emily Beaton. Barry Curtin MC'd the morning having lively chats with all our guests speakers.



Wayne Phillips, Steven Rowe and Tony Vidmar



Jan Stirling, Emily Beaton and Evie Eglinton

Special guests attending were our Neil Sachse Foundation Ambassadors, Rod Jameson and Yvie Eglinton, Professor Robert Rush and senior executives from Westpac Banking Corporation and 5AA and the Neil Sachse Foundation's Chairman of the Board, Rick Harley.

LUNCH WITH THE MINISTER

On March 4th, a luncheon was hosted by Hon Bob Sneath and Hon John Gazzola in the Speakers Dining Room of Parliament House. Minister Paul Caica and his wife Annabel met with supporters to discuss politics at close quarters.

Guests were able to discuss any current political concerns personally with the Minister. The guests enjoyed a three course lunch provided by the chefs of Parliament House. An enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

ANDERSONS
SOLICITORS

Major sponsors of our Pasta Night, and proud supporters of the Neil Sachse Foundation, with an office nearby.

185 Victoria Square, ADELAIDE, 8238 6666
110 Lipson St, Port Adelaide 8447 4911
11A Seventh St, Murray Bridge 8532 3141
2 Hill St, Victor Harbor 1800 653 655
Visiting Mount Gambier, Christies Beach
and Port Lincoln 1800 653 655

www.andersons.com.au

FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION



Giustino and Giuseppina Volpe

Friends of the Foundation, Giustino & Giuseppina Volpe held a party to celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary. In lieu of gifts they asked their guests to make a donation to the Foundation. Through this generous gesture they raised \$2150 for the Foundation.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Volpes and our congratulations on 50 years of marriage.

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS AND SUPPORT SPINAL CORD INJURY

Our recently established Business Directory is now in full swing with over 40 businesses supporting this important initiative. They have taken up the opportunity to advertise their business and in doing so enjoy the resulting benefits: A unique opportunity to promote their business on a high level search engine, in a nominated territory with a direct link to all relevant details of their business, including name, address, phone numbers, website and business logo and a description of services they can provide other members.

An awareness Radio campaign on 5AA has commenced highlighting the benefits of the Business Partnership Directory. All new businesses benefit from a 45 second live read on 5AA sports show with Cornsey and Rowie. They are also invited to (2) Networking lunches per year, featuring guest speakers, at no extra cost.

Visit our website to view the Business Directory. Your participation will take us a step closer to curing spinal cord injury.

Calendar of Events

NEIL SACHSE FOUNDATION RACE DAY

ALLAN SCOTT PARK,
MORPHETTVILLE

19TH JUNE 2010

Come and enjoy a delicious 3 course meal, trackside in the Tapestry Pavilion and experience an exciting day of racing with on site betting facilities.

NEIL SACHSE FOUNDATION GOLF DAY

THE VINES OF REYNELLA GOLF
CLUB, WOODCROFT

29th October 2010

Proudly supported by
Lions Clubs of Adelaide

Get your teams of 4 ready for an exciting day of golf. Prizes to be won. More information to follow in our next newsletter.



Active supporters, The Police Association of South Australia (PASA), continue to help the Foundation, and have nominated us as their charity of choice.

The PASA is a member organisation that represents the professional and industrial interests of over 4100 South Australia Police Officers and Police Community Constables.

The Foundation thanks them for their continued relationship and support.



Community way of life!



Our Website

Please visit the Foundation's revamped website www.nsf.org.au as it will give you an insight on the current progress of the Foundation.