



Thursday 12 July 2012

Rotary District of Tasmania shows heart with funding for statewide cardiac medication study

A statewide study to investigate cardiac medications and their impacts on Tasmanians has received initial \$12k funding from the Royal Hobart Hospital Research Foundation, made possible through a generous grant from the Rotary District of Tasmania.

This vital and timely statewide project will be led by Dr Leanne Chalmers (Lecturer in Clinical Pharmacy, UTAS and Honorary Clinical Pharmacist at the RHH) and is expected to deliver improved health management practices for a significant segment of the Tasmanian population. It was the potential for this evidence-based outcome that inspired the considerable support of Rotary Tasmania.

“This project aims to identify emerging trends and to highlight potential issues related to the use of anti-clotting agents among Tasmanian patients. Ultimately, the project aims to identify areas for action which may be addressed to optimise patient safety,” Dr Chalmers said.

The first of its kind in Tasmania, the two-year project will commence in July 2012, allowing for a rigorous analysis of data captured by the state’s three public hospitals. Specifically, the project will provide critical local data regarding the safety of antithrombotic (or ‘anti-clotting’) medications used in the treatment of one form of cardiovascular disease, atrial fibrillation.

“Until recently, there have only been two anti-clotting options for patients with atrial fibrillation. Two new medications have recently been released and others will follow soon, but international data has shown that it’s crucial that the right medication is chosen for every individual. The aim is to gather information to inform this decision for Tasmanians.

“Ultimately, it is anticipated that guidelines will be developed that become best practice,” said Dr Chalmers.

Immediate Past District Governor of Rotary Tasmania, Peter Murfett, observed that Rotary saw benefit in funding this project due to its statewide impact and significance of the results across the community.

“Tasmanians experience a high prevalence of cardiovascular disease and the RHRF’s Research Advisory Committee confirmed the merits of this project. It is for this reason and the opportunity to continue our work in supporting local communities that Rotary Tasmania resolved to support this project.

“This is the first time Rotary has assisted with funding of statewide health research through the RHH Research Foundation and we are proud to be able to serve our community in this way,” said Peter.



RHH Research Foundation CEO Heather Francis confirmed the significance and timeliness of this joint initiative by Rotary Tasmania, the Royal Hobart Hospital Research Foundation and the research team.

“Led by Dr Chalmers, the research team has developed a strong project which will yield valuable outcomes on a number of levels. We are confident that this study will not only assist in managing effective treatment of the many Tasmanians living with heart disease, it further builds our local research capacity too” she said.

The final project report containing key findings is due for completion in 2014.

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Media Event details

For more info: Heather Francis, RHHRF CEO - 0407 201 113

Media event: Heather Francis - RHHRF CEO
Dr Leanne Chalmers – Lecturer in Clinical Pharmacy, School of Pharmacy UTAS; Honorary Clinical Pharmacist at RHH
Dr Luke Bereznicki – Deputy Head of School, Senior Lecturer in Pharmacy Practice, School of Pharmacy, UTAS
Peter Murfett - Immediate Past District Governor of Rotary Tasmania and Rotary Club of Hobart member

1.40pm, Thursday 12 July
Restaurant Tasman, Hotel Grand Chancellor