



WE KNOW NEURO

Media Release

Tuesday, 26 November 2019

UNCOVERING A LINK BETWEEN GUT HEALTH AND NEUROLOGICAL DISEASES

MSWA will fund four significant research projects over the next three years at the Perron Institute, with one study investigating a link between gut bacteria and neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's.

The four projects each hope to make findings which will one day impact people living with neurological diseases such as stroke, acquired brain injury, motor neurone disease and multiple sclerosis (MS).

Dr Ryan Anderton, head of neurodegenerative disease research at the Perron Institute said the research aims to reveal how gut bacteria could be resulting in toxic neurological effects and impacting the progression of Parkinson's disease.

"One theory is that particular gut bacteria could be disrupting the balance between the gastrointestinal system and the brain, the two-way communication system known as the gut-brain axis."

"It is thought this imbalance could result in toxic neurological effects leading to the loss or dysfunction of particular groups of neurons. This could be influencing the physiological mechanisms that may develop into symptoms of neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's."

In collaboration with Western Australian researcher Dr Luke Whiley at the Australian National Phenome Centre at Murdoch University, this research will build on ongoing work with Dr Alfred Tay at the Marshall Centre, named after Professor Barry J. Marshall, who was jointly awarded a 2005 Nobel Prize with J Robin Warren. The study will use several motor and neurological assessments to estimate cognitive and motor functioning of participants living with Parkinson's.

Perron Institute CEO Steve Arnott said the institute was grateful to MSWA for the funding, allowing the important research to be conducted.

"The continued funding from MSWA is of prime importance in enabling the Perron Institute to deliver outcomes in our research streams," said Mr Arnott.

"The financial support provides our researchers with the opportunity to continue with their specific areas of investigation, all of which are in areas of significant unmet need."



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MSWA CEO Marcus Stafford AM said the organisation was dedicated to caring for people living with all neurological conditions and highlighted a commitment to fund local research.

“We are delighted to join forces with the Perron Institute for the fifth year in a row. Our work together uncovers important findings for people living with all neurological conditions with much of the research taking place right here in Western Australia.”

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About MSWA

MSWA provides vital support and services to people living with neurological conditions in Western Australia, including multiple sclerosis, stroke, Parkinson’s Disease, Huntington’s Disease, Motor Neurone Disease Brain and acquired brain injury.

MSWA has a team of more than 800 staff who work passionately to provide the best possible care to people across the Perth metro area and broader regional centres of Western Australia.

MSWA plays a vital role in educating the broader community, liaising with government and other relevant bodies on related issues, and advocating for the rights of people with neurological conditions and disability in general.

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