

MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGO: 8pm 01 November 2007 (MR 07 - 23)

Perpetual announces prestigious Ramaciotti Research Award recipients

Over \$2 million awarded in support of Australian biomedical research

Vital Australian research into curing major human diseases received a significant boost tonight as the Australian National University's John Curtin School of Medical Research was named recipient of the \$1 million Ramaciotti Research Award.

The Research Award, one of Australia's largest private research grants, along with the Ramaciotti Medal for Excellence in Biomedical Research and other research grants worth an additional \$1.3 million, was awarded at a special ceremony hosted by Perpetual Limited (Perpetual) in Melbourne's Central Hall tonight.

The Awards ceremony was attended by the cream of Australia's scientific and biomedical research community, and included the Italian Ambassador to Australia, His Excellency Mr Stefano Starace Janfolla, in honour of philanthropists Clive and Vera Ramaciotti.

The John Curtin School of Medical Research will devote the funding to establish the Ramaciotti Immunisation Genomics Laboratory, to be headed by Dr Anselm Enders. The Laboratory will research genetic issues associated with vaccines for diseases such as HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, tuberculosis and malaria, as well as cancer and auto-immune diseases.

Professor Christopher Goodnow, Head of Immunology and Genetics at the John Curtin School said he was delighted to accept the prestigious Ramaciotti Research Award on behalf of the facility.

"The Ramaciotti Laboratory will enable major landmark discoveries by providing an unprecedented Australian opportunity to uncover the genes, cells and biological mechanisms governing immunisation responses," said Professor Goodnow.

"Needless to say, the human impact of major diseases like HIV/AIDS, cancer and heart disease is immense. We aim to understand the underlying immunological principles which will help us develop vaccines for such illnesses, as well as auto-immune diseases. There was a time when smallpox and polio plagued the world. Biomedical research has practically eradicated both. Imagine a future when the same has been achieved for cancer," he said.

The Ramaciotti Research Award is granted bi-annually, with \$1 million given to an individual or group undertaking a single initiative in biomedical research within Australian universities, public hospitals, medical research institutes or other similar organisations.

Ramaciotti Medal

The recipient of the \$25,000 Ramaciotti Medal for Excellence in Biomedical Research was Dr Roger Reddel, Director of the Children's Medical Research Institute in Sydney. Dr Reddel is an international leader in researching immortalisation and other characteristics of cancer cells. The Medal recognises his extensive list of discoveries and published papers on cellular immortalisation and the groundwork it provides in finding new anticancer treatments.

"I feel very honoured to receive the Ramaciotti Medal and to have the research recognised by this national award. Cancer continues to be a major health concern and our goal is to understand how it operates at the most fundamental level. It is this kind of understanding that offers the greatest likelihood of developing improved treatments and cures," said Dr Reddel.

Mr David Deverall, Chief Executive Officer at Perpetual, the trustee for the Ramaciotti Foundations, said Australian researchers consistently punch above their weight, yet often struggle to obtain funding and recognition that allows them to continue their vital work.

"Private philanthropy represents a renewable source of funding, minus many of the constraints applied by other funding bodies," Mr Deverall said.

"Perpetual is pleased to have managed the Ramaciotti Foundations for over 35 years, and to see the Foundations distribute over \$45 million for hundreds of Australia's most gifted scientists. We congratulate all our award recipients and are honoured to be involved in such a vital cause."

For further information, please contact:

Tim Scott
Manager Corporate Affairs and Investor Relations
Perpetual Limited
Telephone: 02 9229 9491 or
0429 169 447

Bruce Madden
Director
BlueChip Communication Group
Telephone: 02 9018 8603 or
0412 372 543

Background

The Ramaciotti Foundations

The Ramaciotti Foundations were established in 1970 by Vera Ramaciotti, using the proceeds of the sale of Sydney's Theatre Royal and adjacent properties. Under the careful management of Perpetual, the initial investment of \$6.7 million has grown to \$69 million. Since 1970, over \$45 million has been distributed to biomedical research including projects in the areas of molecular biology, genetics and immunology, making the Foundations one of the largest private contributors to medical research in Australia.