

Spring 2024 HIGHLIGHTS Newsletter



ST VINCENT'S
CURRAN
FOUNDATION

40

YEARS SUPPORTING
ST VINCENT'S
HOSPITALS
1984 - 2024

Fundraising for St Vincent's Hospitals
and Facilities in New South Wales

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CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF LIFE-SAVING IMPACT

1984 in Australia was a year filled with milestones. Medicare was introduced, Advance Australia Fair was proclaimed as the National anthem, and green and gold became our national colours. In a landmark year, St Vincent's Hospital Sydney also commenced its heart transplant program with Dr Victor Chang AC performing the successful heart transplant on then 14 year old Fiona Coote AM, and opened Australia's first dedicated HIV/AIDS ward.

Charles Curran AC, then Chair of the St Vincent's Hospital board reflects, "In 1984, the hospital was ready to commence the heart transplant program. Staff were trained and ready, and there were patients on the waiting list who were sadly dying. Although we did not have the funds required to supplement government funding, thankfully we received an extraordinary gift from a grateful patient to move forward.

As Chairman of St Vincent's Hospital Board, I did not want my successors to be faced with this again. The Paul and Elizabeth Curran Foundation was established with a founding gift from my parents of \$500,000. Since then, the Foundation has gone on to support our hospitals in their growth, innovation and perhaps most importantly, to continue the mission of the Sisters of Charity to provide compassionate care for all."

In October 2024, St Vincent's Curran Foundation marks 40 years of supporting life-saving and life-changing healthcare thanks to our generous supporters.

Over the past four decades, the Foundation has supported St Vincent's hospitals in advancing medical breakthroughs, including Australian and world-first innovations. It has facilitated access to healthcare for those most in need, supported our doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, and research staff to continue to develop and excel. Generous donations have funded critical equipment upgrades and major capital projects.

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1990 Linear Accelerator - Fr Brian Lucas, Deborah Linwood, Charles Curran AC, The late Dr Derek Berg, Dr Ron Spencer, The late Sr Claire Nolan rsc, Leslie Anderson, The late Bill Paget, Trish Burns AM, Kevin Mudie and colleague.

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF LIFE-SAVING IMPACT



2009 Opening for the CT service (from left to right) Rodney O'Neil, Les Schirato AM, Annette Burges, Kevin Burges, Luisa Schirato, the late Eva Curran, Geoff O'Connor, Charles Curran AC

At the time, creating an Endowment Fund was an unconventional approach to fundraising in Australia. Charles recalls, "We were unsure if this approach would work or if others would support the fund's growth. The Sisters of Charity displayed remarkable foresight in endorsing this strategy." An invitation to others to contribute followed and generous individuals and businesses joined to provide their support.

Today, the Endowment Fund, supported by our loyal donors, now includes five named programs worth \$8 million with a total capital of over \$45 million. In 2023, Endowment grants of more than \$1.5 million to support patient care, research, and equipment needs were awarded. Endowment grants are the original 'start-up' grants, encouraging inspirational projects from clinicians at the frontline of patient care and clinical research.

The Endowment Fund proved crucial in 1990 by supporting the purchase of a linear accelerator, which was essential for continuing cancer services at St Vincent's Hospital. More recently, it supported the hospital's swift response to the COVID-19 pandemic by enabling the rapid set-up of community testing, telehealth services, and a virtual care clinic. A \$450,000 grant from the Endowment Fund facilitated these projects, directly benefiting patients.

While still providing crucial discretionary funding with grant funding for innovation and patient care, the early 2000s revealed a need for special project funding to support areas with little or no government funding. Many donors showed an interest in supporting these high-impact initiatives, and since then, our special project funding has grown to be a key focus of our fundraising efforts.

Many major projects, including the construction of the new Haematology and Bone Marrow Transplant Unit in 2018, have been enabled solely through the contributions of generous donors with philanthropic funding. Other landmark projects significantly supported by philanthropy in recent years include the redevelopment of St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney, which received \$43.7 million in donations, and the construction and ongoing development of St Vincent's Private Community Hospital Griffith, which has received \$7.5 million in donations to date. The support of world-first innovations such as the 'heart in a box' organ care system, the Advanced Cardiac Imaging Centre, state-of-the-art hybrid operating theatres, and robotic surgery units have all also been brought to life with your support.

Governed by St Vincent's Curran Trustees Ltd, there are now another two Foundations that sit alongside St Vincent's Curran Foundation. The JW & M Cunningham Foundation established in 2019, supports professional development for clinical staff, as well as equipment and priority hospital projects. Earlier this year, the Alan and Lynne Rydge Foundation was established with a gift of \$10 million to support innovation and technology.

We would like to thank so many people whose contributions have been extraordinary. Charles Curran AC reflects, "None of us could have envisaged the growth of the Foundation and the incredible developments across the St Vincent's precinct over the past 40 years. Similarly, none of us can imagine the outcome of innovation and promise of cures and treatments that will be realised in the next 40 years. Thank you to our donors for your incredible support."

MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of St Vincent's Curran Foundation in October, I'd like to share our achievements this year and honour the life-changing impact you've helped make over the past four decades.

I would like to firstly extend our heartfelt gratitude on behalf of all of us at St Vincent's for your generous contributions of \$43.4 million in the last financial year, which have enabled us to progress with a number of priority projects.

Thank you also to everyone who has supported the St Vincent's Curran Endowment Fund over the last 40 years. Since 2023, new donations and new named programs of the Endowment have helped us grow the capital value of the Foundation to more than \$45 million. We are very grateful to Steve and Linda Harker for their contribution to establish the Harker Lungs for the Future Program this year.

The Endowment Fund is crucial to our Foundation's history and future, ensuring a discretionary source of income supporting the mission of St Vincent's Hospitals for years to come, just as our founders Paul and Elizabeth Curran, envisioned. We acknowledge the role of our Chairman of Trustees Charles Curran AC, and Chairman of the Board, Richard Haddock AO, for their leadership and stewardship of this vision over the years.

The structure of St Vincent's Curran Trustee Ltd is also proving to be visionary as it enables us to take on additional trusteeships. As always, we are grateful to John Cunningham AM and Margaret Cunningham AM, for establishing the JW & M Cunningham Foundation, in 2019.

In the last year, the JW & M Cunningham Foundation has distributed more than \$7 million in grants to support the Cunningham Fellowship program and other priority hospital capital projects across the Public and Private hospitals.

We are also very grateful to Alan Rydge AM and Lynne Rydge for their generosity and foresight in establishing the Alan and Lynne Rydge Foundation, with a founding \$10 million gift to support our world-leading innovation and technology. Together, our Foundations will ensure an ongoing source of funds to support our world-class, not-for-profit St Vincent's Hospitals.



Shanthini Naidoo, Chief Executive Officer,
St Vincent's Curran Foundation

Special gratitude goes to the Sutton family for their visionary contributions to the hospital's interventional cardiology suites, and to Les Schirato AM and Luisa Schirato for their continued support of the Minimally Invasive Valve Clinical Trials program. I'd also like to acknowledge the Politis Family, Peter Brennan AM, Michael Lynch, and the late Christopher Pratten for helping us towards our goal of establishing the Prof Ron Penny AO Program.

This year has provided several opportunities for us to meet in person. It was fantastic to see the impact and growth of our Evolution Giving Circle at a special dinner hosted by co-chairs Jeremy Byrne and Andrew Muston, at Coco Republic. We are also very grateful to Delta Goodrem AM, who launched the Delta Goodrem Foundation's Angels and Heroes Nurse Recognition Program at a stunning dinner, paying tribute to all our amazing nurses and raising more than \$1 million for St Vincent's Nursing Excellence and Cellular Therapies Program.

We are deeply grateful for all your support of the Foundation and I look forward to continuing to mark this momentous year in the months ahead.

Shanthini Naidoo
CEO, St Vincent's Curran Foundation



Craig Sutton, Charles Curran AC, Lauren Sutton, Ryan Sutton

EVOLVING CANCER CARE AT ST VINCENT'S

At St Vincent's, our holistic cancer care is delivered across the campus and centred around The Kinghorn Cancer Centre, a world-class research facility providing innovative cancer treatment and care.

Philanthropy is central to St Vincent's Cancer Services, exemplified by our long-term partnership with the NELUNE Foundation, established by Nelune Rajapakse AM and Anna Guillan AM. Since 2008, they have supported major initiatives including the establishment of the St Vincent's NELUNE Men's Health Centre – a first-in-state facility for comprehensive prostate cancer treatment and care, officially opened in November 2024.

In the past two years, the PAYCE Foundation has funded the replacement of our Optia Apheresis machines, which are crucial for blood cancer treatment. These cellular therapy machines perform up to 400 treatments a year, including 300 plasma exchanges, and collect stem cells for bone marrow transplants used at St Vincent's and other hospitals worldwide.

The Myeloma Clinical Trials program led by Dr Georgia McCaughan in partnership with the Garvan Institute, has been facilitated by significant donations from David Beak and Tour de Cure. International links have been established with the esteemed Dana-Faber Cancer Institute in Boston, through the visionary support of James and Amelia Symond.

The success of one of these donor-facilitated clinical trials – the repurposing of osteoporosis drug Romosozumab to



Dr Betty Gration, ZAMASA Fellow

combat the brittle bones symptoms of myeloma, has recently led to a \$1.1 million international grant, allowing it to grow and benefit more patients.

This trial will be overseen by the recently appointed ZAMASA Myeloma Research Fellow, Dr Betty Gration. ZAMASA is a research foundation established by myeloma patient the late Greg Arandt, whose vision was to accelerate research into novel therapies in the treatment of multiple myeloma, particularly emerging immunotherapies. Support from the ZAMASA Foundation continues to push forward this life-changing research fellowship, which began in 2020.

We thank our supporters for helping St Vincent's continually advance cancer treatments, benefitting patients worldwide.

VISIONARY PHILANTHROPY

St Vincent's Curran Foundation started with the establishment of an Endowment Fund in 1984 and has inspired many generous individuals to join together in support of St Vincent's.

The JW & M Cunningham Foundation established by John and Margaret Cunningham in 2019 has grown from the initial donation of \$10 million to a value of more than \$73 million. This perpetual support for St Vincent's Hospitals in NSW aligns with hospital priorities and allows the Foundation to make a significant impact on critical projects.

"St Vincent's is only as good as the people who work here ... and I am proud to know them." – John Cunningham AM.

The Cunningham Fellows Program is a particular area of interest for John and Margaret who understand the life-long impact of providing professional development opportunities and mentoring support to empower early-career clinicians to reach their full potential and achieve greater patient outcomes. This year, the Cunningham Foundation established four more Fellowships over three years, in addition to 11 continuing Fellowships, as part of the Cunningham Fellows Program.



Dr Rachel Dear (centred) with Dr Elizabeth Driscoll and Dr Catrina Bines, Cunningham Fellows

INTENSIVE FOCUS ON INTENSIVE CARE

St Vincent's Hospital Sydney established one of Australia's first Intensive Care Units (ICU) in the 1960s to aid recovery from major surgery, accidents, and life-threatening diseases.

Over the years, the Foundation's support has grown to include vital equipment, training, research, and capital. Our generous donors have consistently supported the ICU, supplementing funding from the NSW government. As St Vincent's Hospitals embark on projects to build six new single intensive care rooms or 'pods' with state-of-the-art infection control and ventilation systems, and to redevelop the St Vincent's Private Hospital Intensive Care Unit, the Foundation is stepping up to support the fundraising needs.

The ICU is a tertiary referral centre for state, national and international transfers related to heart and lung transplantation, artificial heart technology and extra-corporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO). The unit also provides state services for bone marrow transplantation, acute respiratory and neurological disorders, and adult trauma cases.

Optimal patient care relies on securing capital funding for ICU expansion, upgrading equipment, ongoing staff training, and continuous research. The Jarry Program for Intensive Care Nursing has been a key pillar in supporting the development of specialist intensive care nurses for over 20 years, thanks to the vision of Barbara Jarry and the late Kevin Jarry.

A/Prof Hergen Buscher, Director of ICU, says, "In the ICU, timing and being quick to respond and diagnose the patient at their bedside without moving them or waiting for results is critical. ICU beds are now like computers on wheels."

From 2016 to 2019, a fundraising campaign raised \$3.2 million to replace all equipment, purchase 20 new critical care beds, advanced ventilators, bedside monitors, and other essentials, making St Vincent's ICU one of the best-equipped hospitals in Australia. This was crucial during the COVID-19, pandemic in 2020. We extend our gratitude to Mr John Parthenis, the Late Enny Shaw, and a generous anonymous donor whose support enabled this redevelopment.

During the pandemic, critically ill patients were sent to St Vincent's ICU from across the state. This period highlighted the need for single units to protect our patients and control infectious diseases. We thank our generous donors who this year, have supported the development of six new ICU pods, increasing our capacity by 30 percent.



Cathy Henderson, ICU Nurse Unit Manager, and A/Prof Hergen Buscher, Director of ICU

VISIONARY PHILANTHROPY

In 2023-24, the JW & M Cunningham Foundation distributed \$7 million in investment earnings to expand the Cunningham Fellows Program and to support hospital priority projects, research and equipment.

This year, Alan and Lynne Rydge now join in their support of St Vincent's Hospitals, establishing the Alan and Lynne Rydge Foundation, with a visionary \$10 million founding gift, under the stewardship of St Vincent's Curran Trustee Ltd.

This Private Ancillary Fund will support innovation and technology at St Vincent's Hospitals in NSW, ensuring their continued leadership in this field.

The Rydges have distinguished themselves through their extensive philanthropy and community involvement in healthcare, the arts, animal welfare, reef research, and surf education and training.

Long-term donors to St Vincent's for over ten years, their generous support has included long-standing support of the SIRENS emergency department fundraising and medical imaging in St Vincent's Hospital. We thank the Rydges for this transformative gift of philanthropy that will impact generations to come.



Alan Rydge AM and Lynne Rydge

NAN KEARINS' LEGACY: CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE EDUCATION OF NURSES IN THE PRIVATE HOSPITAL

The Nan Kearins Named Program continues to make a significant impact on nursing education at St Vincent's Private Hospital, thanks to the generous gift from Anne Elizabeth (Nan) Kearins (1918-2019). A dedicated nurse and educator, Nan's bequest in December 2020 of \$6.5 million supports nursing education for nurses at St Vincent's Private Hospital, Sydney.

Funds from this bequest were used to establish a Named Program in Nan's name. Each year, a grant from the Nans Kearins Program is allocated to St Vincent's Private Hospital to support nursing education, which will continue in perpetuity. This support not only enhances professional development but also fosters a sense of belonging and appreciation among the hospital's nursing staff.

For the 2023-2024 financial year, the program has funded seven postgraduate nursing scholarships for courses in specialty areas, including management, clinical nursing, cardiology, ICU, and perioperative nursing. Additionally, it has provided 13 opportunities for nurses to attend conferences and short courses, focussing on critical care, mental health, falls prevention, infection control, and more.

This annual grant not only boosts nursing education but also aids in attracting and retaining skilled nursing staff.

By equipping nurses with the latest knowledge and training, the program ensures that patients receive optimal care.

Celine O'Malley, Nurse Unit Manager Theatres, reflects on the impact of the nursing scholarship she received: "It provided me with the opportunity to attend a conference I might not have been able to participate in otherwise. I gained valuable knowledge from the experience, felt valued by the organisation, and am very grateful for it."

Nan's legacy lives on through this initiative, creating a lasting impact on nursing education and training at St Vincent's Private Hospital. Her commitment to nursing education continues to inspire excellence in healthcare.



Peter Jones, Nursing Workforce Learning and Development Manager St Vincent's Private Hospital

LEADING THE WAY WITH COMPASSIONATE, COMMUNITY FOCUSED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The acquisition and development of the Green Park Hotel into the St Vincent's Urban Health Hub at Green Park will offer innovative, integrated healthcare pathways for those seeking mental health and broader support.

Envisioned as a welcoming, friendly, non-clinical space, the health hub will provide holistic health navigation with referrals to St Vincent's and external partners. It will serve as a supportive resource for information and education on prevention, recovery and wellness for some of our most vulnerable patients. They can choose from face-to-face support, digital engagement, and virtual health programs state-wide, delivered via a dedicated webinar studio.



Green Park Hotel will be developed into the welcoming St Vincent's Urban Health Hub

St Vincent's Curran Foundation is seeking \$15 million in philanthropic support for capital works, developing a unique model of care for our most vulnerable patients and community outreach programs. We extend our gratitude to Peter and Rae Fletcher, Steve Burcher, Kim Auswild, Suellen Enestrom, Charles Curran AC, Brian Boyd and the Boyd Family, the PAYCE Foundation, Paynter Dixon, and many others who have helped us to progress this complex project. With their support, we have secured \$3 million towards our overall target.

Safe Haven Café

A key initiative is the Safe Haven café, offering a safe place for people experiencing emotional or suicidal distress to receive support and social connection. Currently operating as a pilot program from our O'Brien Centre, the café will continue to serve until the Urban Health Hub is complete.

Since starting in 2022, over 135 guests have used the Safe Haven Café service. Staff along with peer support workers, who have their own lived experience with suicidal distress, will listen and offer support to those in need.

We are very grateful to the NSW Ministry of Health for their \$400,000 grant supporting Urban Health Hub capital works. A huge thank you to Boffa Robertson Architects, Proceed Group, PAYCE Foundation, Paynter Dixon, the Schirato family, and Vittoria Coffee for their generous contributions, which continue to advance this life-saving community project.

HEART TRANSPLANTATION AT ST VINCENT'S – 40 YEARS OF IMPACT

In April 1984, 14-year-old Fiona Coote made history when she became the youngest recipient of a heart transplant in an operation performed by Dr Victor Chang AC at St Vincent's Hospital Sydney. This landmark procedure made global headlines and established St Vincent's Heart and Lung program as the hospital's flagship service.

This April, St Vincent's Curran Foundation celebrated 40 years of the Heart Transplant program at the annual Heart Lung Innovation Dinner. We were honoured to have Fiona Coote AM join us with Prime Minister the Hon Anthony Albanese paying tribute to her legacy and the many lives saved since her procedure. We welcomed NSW Minister for Health and Medical Research, the Hon Ryan Park MP, along with several Sisters of Charity, St Vincent's clinicians, and many generous supporters. Australian music legend Jimmy Barnes AO also shared his recent life-saving heart surgery experience at St Vincent's in a moving Q&A with Dr Paul Jansz, Director of Cardiothoracic Surgery.

We were delighted to announce major donations to support the redevelopment of the hospital's Interventional Cardiology Suites, including visionary contributions from the Sutton Family and the JW & M Cunningham Foundation. We thank both families for their extraordinary support.



Jimmy Barnes AO and Mahalia Barnes

Petre Foundation towards the St Vincent's Mechanical Circulatory Support Research Program, led by Prof Chris Hayward, as a part of the national Artificial Heart Frontiers Program.

Guests enjoyed award-winning wines from Levantine Hill, owned by the Jreissati family. Since 2017, they have generously supported our Foundation's events and we are grateful for their ongoing support.

As we mark the 40th anniversary of St Vincent's Heart Lung Innovation, it is vital that we continue investing in the best facilities and technology to keep more hearts beating into the future. The medical advancements achieved since 1984 have helped St Vincent's undertake more than 1,250 heart transplants, 1000 lung transplants and 100 combined heart and lung transplants.

This year's end of financial year appeal raised over \$304,000 for the Heart Lung clinic's redevelopment, offering personalised care for chronic heart conditions and transplant patients, including monitoring, medication, and social work support.

A key purchase will be a new-generation cardiac monitoring system, which allows clinicians to closely monitor heart rhythms and blood pressure, enabling immediate response in emergencies.

Ilana Paull, a grateful St Vincent's patient, wanted to express her thanks to all donors: "St Vincent's helped save my life. Without the support of the clinic, I may not be alive today."



Fiona Coote AM with Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese

Les Schirato AM and Luisa Schirato continue to support the Minimally Invasive Valve Clinical Trials program led by Prof David Muller, marking over 15 years of generous contributions. We were also thrilled to announce a major commitment from Daniel and Carolyn Petre and the



Fiona Coote AM, Prof David Muller, Les Schirato AM, Susan Rattray-Wood and Luisa Schirato

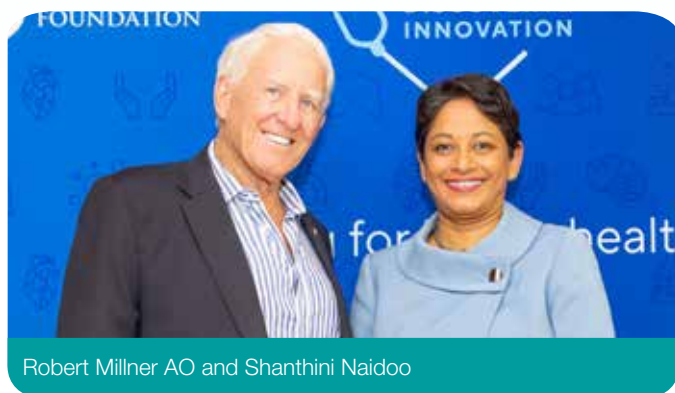
STATE-OF-THE-ART ORTHOPAEDIC SURGICAL TABLE FOR ST VINCENT'S PRIVATE

A key priority for maintaining excellence at St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney is ensuring that it remains at the forefront of medical innovation and continues to deliver the highest standards of patient care and treatment. Funds raised through the 'Equipping Your Hospital of the Future' campaign contribute to funding the latest medical equipment and technology, which enables our doctors and nurses to deliver the most advanced patient diagnosis and treatment options.

A visionary donation by Mr Robert Millner AO and Mrs Janine Millner was directed towards the Hana Operating Table. This surgical table is a specialist orthopaedic system designed to support, position and provide traction for a variety of lower extremity and joint procedures. Hana is well established as a leading technology for patient positioning in hip replacement and fracture repair procedures.



Surgical nurses with the Hana Orthopaedic Surgical table



Robert Millner AO and Shanthini Naidoo

One of St Vincent's dedicated orthopaedic surgeons who has been using this cutting-edge equipment for hip replacement operations, explains how this benefits patients:

"Arthroscopic hip surgery with the Hana Orthopaedic Surgical Table aims to preserve the joint by reshaping the hip anatomy and repairing the labrum. It's rewarding to see young patients, once disabled by pain, return to sports and a full life. This success, made possible by your generous donations, allows us to offer advanced joint-preserving procedures and provide essential care for both senior patients needing joint replacements and younger patients with pre-arthritis pain."

COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS THANK YOU

In July 2024, Matthew Morris took on the gruelling challenge of a 105km trail run through the mountains of Mt Coot-tha in Brisbane's West. This course is not only a physical challenge but also a mental one, with over 4,500 metres of elevation.

After being diagnosed with hereditary cerebellar degeneration (ataxia), a non-life-threatening condition that gradually affects speech, balance and coordination, Matt turned to research for guidance. While there is currently no cure, scientific evidence suggests that staying as fit and healthy as possible can help slow the onset of symptoms and degeneration. Matt and his father, Gary, have been under the care of the St Vincent's Clinical Genomics team, headed up by A/Prof Kathy Wu.

Launched in 2016, the St Vincent's Clinical Genomics service enables genetic diagnosis, tailored treatments and risk management of relatives. The Clinical Genomics unit is the first of its kind in the southern hemisphere and Matt knew taking on this challenge would not only help his condition, it could also benefit A/Prof Kathy Wu and her neurological research at the unit. Matt raised over \$15,000 and completed the race in 22 hours and 19 minutes. Thank you, Matt, for this phenomenal effort and thanks to the South Sydney Rabbitohs for their matched donation support.



A/Prof Kathy Wu, Director of St Vincent's Clinical Genomics Unit, with Gary and Matthew Morris, and Clinical Genomics team

This year's City2Surf team included six members walking and running to raise funds for The Kinghorn Cancer Centre Wellness Centre. The funds raised will provide services for oncology patients who are experiencing hardship, to receive treatments such as exercise physiology and lymphatic drainage supporting their cancer treatment. Raising over \$13,800, the funds raised will provide patients with a more holistic journey, and we are very grateful to the team who gave up their time to support this service.

STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION WITH AAA

In May, St Vincent's Hospital neurologist, Dr Joel Maamary, was named the inaugural recipient of the JW & M Cunningham Foundation Clinical Exchange in Movement Disorders through the newly established St Vincent's Hospital Sydney-American Australian Association International Exchange Program.

As an international exchange scholarship recipient, Dr Maamary received a grant of USD\$40,000 to support his travel to the US for a six month research project at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City.

In a further effort to strengthen international collaborative relationships between these centres, Dr Maamary will commence work on a multi-national, multi-centre collaboration that aims to characterise differences in young-onset monogenic Parkinson's disease. By learning skills in sensing modalities, Dr Maamary will also return with expertise and specialised knowledge to be implemented amongst a local Australian population at St Vincent's Hospital, further strengthening St Vincent's as an international leader in neuromodulation.

Established in 2023 through the Foundation, the St Vincent's Hospital Sydney-American Australian Association International Exchange Program is a bi-directional (AUS-USA, USA-AUS) clinical exchange program supporting one graduate level clinician per year from St Vincent's Hospital Sydney (doctor, nurse or translational research fellow), and one graduate level clinician per year from the US. Participants will travel to each other's country to engage in immersive research in specialty clinical areas.

Funded through the generous philanthropy of the JW & M Cunningham Foundation, the Delta Goodrem Foundation, the late Valerie McKenzie, and Nick Politis AM and the Politis Family, the program began in January this year. It includes three exchanges in the areas of movement disorders and neurosciences, nursing in cellular therapies and stem cell transplant, and pain management. In 2025, an additional two exchanges will be added to the program in theranostics and structural heart and cardiac research.

If you would like to know more about the exchange program, please email the Foundation at supportstvincents@svha.org.au



Dr Joel Maamary, St Vincent's Hospital Neurologist, the inaugural recipient of the JW & M Cunningham Foundation Clinical Exchange in Movement Disorders

PUTT FOR PREVENTION – CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF HEART LUNG INNOVATION

Magenta Shores Golf & Country Club hosted our fourth Putt for Prevention event as we celebrated 40 years of Heart Lung Innovation at St Vincent's Hospital with our valued corporate partners and supporters.

After a competitive day on the golf course, our cardiothoracic clinicians spoke about the incredible innovations at St Vincent's over the past 40 years, including Prof Peter MacDonald's AM 'heart in a box' organ care system, and Prof Chris Hayward's development and research into the new artificial heart to be trialled in a patient later this year.

We extend our gratitude to our clinicians for donating their time and expertise: Dr Paul Jansz, A/Prof Andrew Roy, Dr David Roy, Prof Peter Macdonald AM, and to Prof Chris Hayward who joined us for dinner after working in theatre all day. We were delighted to welcome back Imagination Graphics and GSA as presenting partners and together with our Silent Auction, we raised almost \$70,000 to support the redevelopment of our interventional cardiology suites.

Thank you to everyone for supporting St Vincent's in advancing heart and lung innovation. This fantastic result was made possible by our wonderful partners: Magenta Shores Golf & Country Club, Pullman Magenta Shores Resort, and Levantine

Hill for the evening's wines. We also thank our auction event supporters Levantine Hill, qualia Resort, Coolmore Australia, Accor and Novotel Sydney Olympic Park, Michael Cassell AM, Pullman Hyde Park, Karen Lindley AM, and The Australian Golf Club. The Elusive Miss Lou and Jack de Roo also provided their iconic optical eyewear as prizes for our winning teams.

We also thank Magenta Shores' members for their warm hospitality, and a special mention to Sam Mecham and Alicia Crouch for ensuring such a smooth day of golfing competition. For further information on our Corporate Partnership program, please contact Julia Owens: julia.owens@svha.org.au



The team from Imagination Graphics

DISCOVERING THE IMPACT OF INNOVATION AT ST VINCENT'S HOSPITALS

In May, over 130 supporters attended the fourth annual dinner for the Evolution Giving Circle at Coco Republic. The event provided a fantastic opportunity for our next generation of supporters to hear firsthand from our clinicians about the ground-breaking innovations and medical research advancements happening at the hospital.

Jeremy Byrne and Andrew Muston, Co-Chairs of the Evolution Advisory Committee hosted the evening. They lead the Evolution Advisory Committee, which helps develop the Evolution Giving Circle and continues to evolve the



Supporters Diana Liu and Maggie Liu at the annual dinner for the Evolution Giving Circle at Coco Republic

Endowment Fund established 40 years ago. The insightful panel discussion was facilitated by Anthony Liveris, an Evolution supporter, Evolution Advisory Committee member, and the Chair of the Discovery and Innovation Campaign. The panel featured Dr Jennifer Massey and patient Amber Adair, highlighting the fundamental importance and impact of innovation, research and discovery.

Dr Jennifer Massey, a trailblazer neurologist and the clinical research lead on our cellular therapy program, outlined the latest in stem cell transplantation, which helps combat multiple sclerosis and complex neuroimmunological disorders. Amber Adair, one of our inspiring patients, shared how her life has transformed for the better, thanks to the cellular therapy program and the stem cell transplant clinical trial.

Linda Patat, COO of St Vincent's Health Network Sydney, spoke about the impact of innovation and how philanthropy has enabled many initiatives across the St Vincent's Health Precinct. The room was filled with inspiration, passion, and a desire to continue innovating and improving healthcare for future generations, underscoring the important role that Evolution Giving Circle supporters play in maintaining excellence in clinician research and patient care. Their generous support provides an enduring and self-sustaining source of discretionary funding through the Endowment.

CREATING A LEGACY OF CARE AND SUPPORT AT ST VINCENT'S

St Vincent's is built on the legacy of the Sisters of Charity who served the community by providing compassionate health care to those in need, especially the poor and vulnerable. We are grateful that many of our donor community choose to keep this legacy of care and support alive.

Victor Archibald 'Vic' Perrin was a self-made man who grew up in Paddington and bought a home in Rose Bay in 1969, where he lived for the rest of his adult life. He was affectionately known as the 'Master of Rose Bay,' a local presence who checked in with everyone and was always ready to lend a hand or offer advice. When Vic sadly passed away in 2023, the Foundation was notified that he had left a gift in his Will in appreciation of the excellent care he and his beloved wife, Carole, received at St Vincent's Hospitals. Having been described as a humble man with chivalric morals, Vic only asked that his gift would support the highest priorities across St Vincent's Hospitals.

We have been able to use this generous gift to support our Healing, Hope and Humanity Fund, which supports Homeless Health, Mental Health and St Vincent's mission-based projects and programs.

St Vincent's Community Outreach Medical Emergency Team (COMET), is a specialised homeless health service for vulnerable people who are either homeless or at risk of homelessness. The team visits individuals sleeping rough or in crisis accommodation, offering health assessments, treatment, referrals, and care coordination to those lacking access to healthcare services.

Vic Perrin's legacy gift profoundly impacts at-risk individuals, granting them access to high-quality care and support that would otherwise be out of reach. This legacy will benefit many for years to come. As a professional truck driver, Vic was passionate about big trucks and, coincidentally, the name of his truck was COMET. He would be proud to know that his gift is supporting the COMET service.

If you are considering leaving a bequest and would like to learn more about the impact of your legacy gift, contact our bequest team on 1800 800 595 or email SVHNS.Bequests@svha.org.au. All discussions are in strict confidence.



Victor Perrin and his truck 'COMET'

THE PROFESSOR RON PENNY AO PROGRAM FOR IMMUNOLOGY

St Vincent's Hospital's Prof Ron Penny AO, who passed away in 2019, is regarded as 'the father of clinical immunology in Australia.' In 1969, he founded the Department of Immunology at St Vincent's Hospital, the first in NSW and only the second in Australia. This led to the creation of the St Vincent's Centre for Immunology, in 1989. Prof Penny was instrumental in establishing immunology as a key area of focus at St Vincent's, including diagnosing Australia's first case of HIV.

To honour the man who put St Vincent's on the world map in immunology, the Foundation aims to establish an Endowed Named Program to support clinical, diagnostic, and translational research in immunology, with a focus on autoimmunity, at St Vincent's Hospital.

The Prof Ron Penny AO Program for Immunology will support future generations of immunologists, ensuring existing skills are passed on to the next generation. As it grows, the program will also support PhD students to generate new knowledge across autoimmunity, primary immunodeficiency and allergy. Our goal is to secure



Father of clinical immunology, Prof Ron Penny AO, St Vincent's Hospital

\$1 million to establish this program and we are very grateful for those who have contributed already with significant gifts – including the Politis Family, Peter Brennan AM, Michael Lynch, and the late Christopher Pratten.

We aim to launch this program later in the year. If you would like to find out more about supporting this investment in the future of immunology, please contact Chris Lewis: Christopher.m.lewis@svha.org.au

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF GIVING TO ST VINCENT'S

Some of the key milestones along this remarkable 40-year journey

1984: St Vincent's Hospital Heart Transplant Program started with a generous gift from a grateful patient. The youngest successful heart transplant performed on Fiona Coote AM by surgeon Dr Victor Chang AC.

1984: The Paul and Elizabeth Curran Foundation was established.

1984: Ward 17 South opened, the first dedicated HIV /AIDS ward in Australia.

1988: Then Premier of NSW, the Hon. Nick Greiner MP, hosted the Foundation's first fundraising dinner in the Strangers Dining Room at Parliament House.

1989: Centre for Immunology opened.

1990: Linear Accelerator was purchased with funds from the corpus of the Endowment Fund to enable the continuation of cancer services at St Vincent's. This remains the only time the corpus has been drawn upon.

2001: Redeveloped Curran Foundation ICU opened with support from our donors.

2002: The new Xavier Building at St Vincent's Hospital opened supported by donations from generous donors.

2005: Jarry Program is established as the first named Endowment program to support ICU further education and training.

2012: The Kinghorn Cancer Centre opened. A dedicated integrated cancer service established by Garvan Institute of Medical Research and St Vincent's Hospital.

2013: The Curran Foundation merges with St Vincent's fundraising and is responsible for all fundraising across St Vincent's Hospitals in NSW. The name is changed to **St Vincent's Curran Foundation**.

2014: Creation of Heart and Lung Innovation Fund established to continue St Vincent's commitment to excellence in cardiothoracic care.

2014: World's first 'Heart in a Box' organ care system transplant takes place at St Vincent's Hospital Sydney. Developed by Prof Peter Macdonald AM whose research was funded St Vincent's Curran Foundation supporters.

2015: HIV Future Fund established with funds raised supporting HIV positive individuals to achieve quality of life through ongoing research and clinical care.

2017: New redeveloped Haematology Blood and Marrow Transplant Unit opens supported solely by philanthropic funds.

2017: Fundraising goal of \$3.2 million reached for the Intensive Care Unit to deliver the best possible care to patients through purchase of state-of-the-art equipment.

2018: Opening of St Vincent's Private Community Hospital Griffith enabled with community support.

2019: The JW & M Cunningham Foundation established, governed by St Vincent's Curran Trustee Ltd.

2019: Redeveloped St Vincent's Private Hospital opens with \$43.7 in philanthropic support.

2022: Opening of St Vincent's Ernst Heine Family Foundation, Triguboff Family Emergency Trauma Operating Theatre and Sutton Family Emergency Operating Theatre Control Room.

2024: Discovery and Innovation campaign launches with a generous gift from the Liveris family to support The Paula Liveris Innovation Hub and the Pitch For Health Grants.

2024: New Alan and Lynne Rydge Foundation established, governed by St Vincents Curran Trustee Ltd.

CELEBRATING DELTA'S ANGELS AT A NIGHT TO REMEMBER



Delta Goodrem AM presenting a cheque to Anna McFadgen, CEO, St Vincent's Health Network Sydney

In May this year, we were honoured to have Delta Goodrem AM join us for our annual International Nurses Day Celebrations and Awards Ceremony. She also launched the new Delta Goodrem Foundation's Angels and Heroes Nurse Recognition Program to honour, recognise, and thank our nurses for their outstanding contributions.

The program will also support nurses to undertake post-graduate studies in specialty nursing areas, with Delta generously announcing a commitment of \$300,000 over three years to provide scholarship funding to St Vincent's nurses.

During her visit, Delta met with nurses on the wards, handing out Delta Goodrem Foundation Angels and Heroes Gift Packs, and announced the recipients of the inaugural Delta's Angels and Heroes Nursing Excellence Award. Awarded to nurses who have demonstrated exemplary care, kindness, leadership and innovation, we congratulate this year's recipients:

Suzie Flynn, Clinical Nurse Consultant – Cancer, and Emma Barnett, Clinical Nurse Specialist – Homeless Outreach Team.

We were also delighted to partner with the Delta Goodrem Foundation for its inaugural fundraising gala dinner in support of Nursing Excellence and Cellular Therapies at St Vincent's Hospital.

Under a sea of purple lights and butterflies, with MC Richard Wilkins AM guiding the proceedings, the evening was filled with performances by Silvia Colloca, David Campbell, St Vincent's Nurses Choir, and host, Delta Goodrem. Completing the magic of the night, guests enjoyed a bespoke 2.5 metre long marshmallow pavlova dessert created by celebrity chef, Anna Polyviou.

Through the generous support of the guests, \$1.175 million was raised for St Vincent's Hospital programs supported by the Delta Goodrem Foundation. In particular, we extend our thanks to Sid Catlin and the Bourne Foundation, Les Schirato AM and Luisa Schirato, Andy Price, and Paul and Jodi Hines and the Hines Foundation, and Heloise Pratt and the Pratt Foundation.

We are so grateful to Delta Goodrem AM and the Delta Goodrem Foundation for their ongoing support of St Vincent's Hospitals.



Amazing performance by Delta Goodrem AM and Silvia Colloca.

OUR EVENTS

Friends of St Vincent's Private Hospital Sydney Annual Supporter Reception



Ros and John Sample



Stephen Turner, Simone Turner, Prof David Muller and Phi Phi Turner



Roslyn Packer AC and Richard Ryan, CEO, St Vincent's Private Hospitals NSW

Annual Dinner for the Evolution Giving Circle at Coco Republic



Alex Dahdah and Matt Duncan



Alistair Champion, Scott and Amy Wenkart