Lions Rheumatism and Arthritis Medical Research Foundation 201 V1

A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

LIONS DISTRICT 201 V1
RHEUMATISM AND ARTHRITIS
MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

REPORT TO DISTRICT 201 V1 CONVENTION
FEBRUARY 28-29 AND MARCH 1, 1992

Your Foundation was formed in 1979 by a Resolution adopt at the District 201 V1 Convention in Melbourne.

By a Deed of Trust and Constitution, approved by Lions Clubs International, The Australian Taxation Office and various Victorian Statutory Bodies, the Foundation commenc activities in early 1981.

The Objects and Purposes of the Foundation are -

(a) To provide money, property or benefits to, or fo funds, authorities, or institutions engaged in, about to engage in, medical research into the control and possible elimination of rheumatic and arthritic diseases, and referred to in any of the sub-paragraphs of Section 78 (1) (a) of the Incom Tax Assessments Act 1936 as amended, or for the establishment of such funds, authorities or institutions. In any case where a sub-paragraph of Section 78 (1) (a) of the said Act refers to a specific purpose the Trustees shall provide the money, property or benefits to or for a fund, authority or institution referred to in that sub-paragraph only for the specific purpose.

(b) To undertake projects to carry out the said object and purposes which may be beyond the capacity of a individual Lions Club.

(c) To enlist the support of all Lions Clubs in the Sub-District to carry out the said objects and purposes.

(d) To do all such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objects and purposes of the Foundation and the exercises of the Foundation.

In the early years of the Foundation your Board of Trustees were severely restricted in Research Funding due to the need to build up its Capital Fund. With the generous support of Clubs and the Public we at long last are in a position to take tangible actions and could certainly extend this move with more funding.

THE RHEUMATISM AND ARTHRITIS ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA
INCORPORATED UNDER HOSPITALS & CHARITIES ACT

Patrons: His Excellency Rear-Admiral, Sir Brian Murray, K.C.M.G., A.O., K.St.J., Governor of Victoria, and Lady Murray.
The Honourable Sir Rupert Hamer K.C.M.G., E.D.

Action House, Yarra Boulevard, Kew, 3101
P.O. Box 195, Kew, 3101
Telephone: 862 2022 or 862 2555

6th December, 1985.

Mr. R. Newton
Lions
Rheumatism and Arthritis
Medical Research Foundation
P.O. Box 3,
ELWOOD, VIC. 3184.

Dear Rodger,

Thank you for your letter. We are delighted you are able to continue with your grant to Dr Buchanan and his important research project.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all officers of the Lions R.A.F. for their work to help people with arthritis. Our members are aware of your effort ...owing for them to feel that others care.

...our activities, please

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Antibodies found in the blood stream are one of the major components of the body's defences against foreign materials. They are usually produced in response to invasion of the body by bacteria or viruses and once produced, are important in preventing recurrence of the same infection at a later date. However, under certain circumstances, they have been incriminated in the development rather than prevention of disease. A number of examples of this have been described such as being responsible for some forms of kidney organ rejection following transplantation. Also, a number of different antibodies have been recognised, particularly in patients with certain types of arthritis, which are directed against normal body constituents. Within rheumatology these so-called auto-antibodies occur most frequently in the inflammatory forms of arthritis such as rheumatoid arthritis but also in some of the less common forms such as lupus erythematosus and scleroderma.

MONASH MEDICAL CENTRE

MONASH RHEUMATOLOGY UNIT
RESEARCH REPORT AUGUST 1994

Introduction

Research has been a prime objective of the Monash Rheumatology Unit since it was founded in 1980. In recent years, the research effort of the unit has increased exponentially. At the time of writing this report, 10 people are engaged wholly in research activities within the unit, under the overall direction of Professor Geoffrey Littlejohn. The research effort is in the unique position of being able to interface directly with the clinical activities of the unit. This is highlighted by the involvement of many clinical team members in ongoing research projects within the unit.

This report will briefly summarise recent progress in research at the Monash Rheumatology Unit, and describes the current activities of team members, and future goals.

Research Activities

- Arthritis. A number of aspects of inflammatory joint disease, or arthritis, are targets of research at the Monash Rheumatology Unit. These include:
  - i) The control of inflammation by the body's built in anti-inflammatory hormone system. In recent years it has become clear that the body possesses a system designed to inhibit inflammation. The concept that this system may fail, and thus lead to inflammatory disease such as arthritis, is under exploration. Studies are in progress both in human subjects with arthritis, and in animal models.
  - ii) Immune cell function in arthritis. The foot soldiers of the immune system are white blood cells. There are several types of white blood cells, and research in progress is defining the relative importance of these types of cells in the initiation of joint damage. Novel methods of preventing joint damage by these immune cells are under development, and initial results are promising. These may have the future potential for therapeutic use in man.
  - iii) Lipocortin-1. The unique anti-inflammatory molecule, lipocortin-1, has been discovered in the joints of both humans and animals with rheumatoid arthritis. Researchers at Monash are at the forefront of work to define the importance of this molecule, which also has great potential importance for the treatment and prevention of joint disease.