



THE UNIVERSITY  
of ADELAIDE

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# Peter Couche Foundation Newsletter

## Message from Peter Couche

In what has been a busy few months, the good news to emerge is that we have been offered, and have accepted a position within the University of Adelaide, to join the Faculty of Health Sciences and in particular to benefit from the support of the prestigious Florey Medical Research Foundation. Since its inception in 1963, the Florey Foundation has worked to raise funds for medical research and continues to do so today in full collaboration with the University of Adelaide. The Peter Couche Foundation stands to gain, not only from the fundraising capabilities of the Florey Foundation but in the opportunity to access and benefit from outstanding medical expertise, advice and counsel. Furthermore, we will be given access to a wider pool of resources, and the chance to diversify our support. We will particularly and keenly seek the input of Professor Alastair Burt, Executive Dean of the Faculty and look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship in which his advice will be both gratefully welcomed and critical. We sincerely thank Professor Burt for the invitation to join him and the team.

We will of course retain our identity, and focus, which is to advance brain repair

following a stroke. All money raised will continue to be directed in its entirety to the University to be used solely for research into therapies for stroke.

Naturally, our relationship with Professor Simon Koblar and his team will remain intact. The focus of the work in Professor Koblar's laboratory continues to be the delivery of a clinical trial for the treatment of stroke, using stem cells isolated from the patient's own tooth. As previously outlined, the technical and regulatory hurdles that need to be overcome even to get to the starting line are formidable, particularly given recent significant cut-backs in research funding.

The Peter Couche Foundation continues to seek the advice of key individuals and organisations to facilitate each of the key milestones in this path towards a clinical trial. This includes advice on expansion of the dental stem cells to large numbers in a clinical manufacturing facility, an ethical protocol for the surgical implantation of the stem cells and approval by the Regulators, The Therapeutic Goods Administration, who oversee all clinical trials in Australia.

Despite these formidable challenges we

remain focused on achieving a stage where the translation process towards a novel treatment for this terrible condition can be significantly advanced.

As I complete this message, I ask you to consider the following. The problem of stroke is widespread in our community – and endemic to our affluent lifestyle. This disease can and does strike anyone, at any time, and completely without warning. Its effects may vary from mild headache, to complete disability, loss of speech, or worse. This entire area, in particular our area of interest, is poorly understood. Hence the urgency of our mission.

We are most keen to start well in our new home, and so we make a special plea for your support. I kindly ask you to consider making a donation to The Peter Couche Foundation. With the generous support of our donors, we can continue to support this incredibly important research and reach for a better outcome for victims of stroke. To all our donors, I sincerely thank you and look forward to an exciting year ahead.

**Peter Couche, Patron,  
Peter Couche Foundation**

# The Peter Couche Foundation has a new home!

**Welcome - by Professor Alastair Burt, Executive Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences**



I am very pleased to announce that the Peter Couche Foundation has a new home in the Faculty of Health Sciences. I am also pleased to report that the Florey Medical Research Foundation, which is also housed within the Faculty, will be providing fundraising and administrative support for the Peter Couche Foundation.

I am thrilled to welcome the Foundation and look forward to working with Peter Couche and the team as we work towards raising vital funds in

support of research into prevention and novel therapies for stroke at the University of Adelaide.

As the Foundation grows, we aim to diversify our support in providing funds for the purposes of furthering stroke research. I look forward to reinvigorating our fundraising efforts as we aim to reach the goals of the Foundation.

**Professor Alastair Burt,  
Executive Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences**

## Peter Couche Foundation Committee

- > **Peter Couche – Patron**
- > **Stephen Couche - Chair**
- > **Simona Couche**
- > **Andrew Ford**
- > **Alissa Nightingale**
- > **Dr Chris Juttner (new member)**
- > **Professor Robert Rush (new member)**
- > **Catriona Neil-Dwyer (new member)**
- > **Lisa Taplin**
- > **Colin Dunsford**
- > **Dom Cosentino**
- > **Mick Scammell**
- > **Stephen Officer**

## Welcome to our new committee member - Dr Chris Juttner



The Peter Couche Foundation Committee has benefited greatly from strategic counsel and specialist advice from Dr Chris Juttner since he agreed to join our committee in May last year.

Now recently retired, Chris has more than

40 years' experience in providing, analysing and developing advanced medical care and undergraduate and postgraduate teaching in haematology, oncology and general medicine.

He established the Bone Marrow Transplant program for South Australia at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and was inaugural Clinical Director of the Hanson Centre for Cancer Research.

Chris has had extensive and distinguished biotechnology experience across Australia, the United Kingdom, the United States and Europe with

a focus on stem cell research and was a director of Stem Cells Australia and Stem Cell Sciences Australia Limited and more recently a former board member of the National Stem Cell Foundation of Australia.

We are indebted to his ongoing advice and support and are honoured to have Chris on our committee.

It is intended that future newsletters will progressively introduce other Peter Couche Foundation committee members who continue to give freely and generously of their time.

## Supporter Spotlight



# Ahrens

Ahrens was established in 1906 in the Barossa Valley by Wilhelm Ahrens. Over the hundred-plus years that have followed, the business has remained in the Ahrens family and stayed true to its culture that focuses on family, integrity, leadership, efficiency and satisfaction.

Today Ahrens is a national full-service construction, engineering and mining services company, delivering a complete range of project services and cost-effective solutions. Ahrens is a one-stop shop that can deliver a complete project – from design, steel fabrication and procurement through to construction and project delivery – or any individual element required.

"We are strongly committed to having a positive and meaningful impact on the communities in which we operate. We always look to align ourselves with

meaningful causes that strive to make a difference to the lives of others and we recognise and admire that despite his own challenges since suffering a major stroke, Peter has made it his goal to raise funds for innovative stem cell research to provide hope and a brighter future for stroke victims. This is why we have been supporting the Peter Couche Foundation since 2010".



# Peter Couche Foundation Event



Dr Hans Christoph Diener

In early December, internationally renowned researcher, Hans Christoph Diener will visit Adelaide as a guest of the Faculty of Health Sciences. He is Professor of Neurology and Chairman of the Department of Neurology at the University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany.

The first acute stroke unit in Germany was established by Dr Diener in 1995 and he has been the principal investigator of major trials in the acute therapy and prevention of stroke. He is also

responsible for the multicentre German stroke data bank. We are delighted to announce that Dr Diener will deliver a presentation on behalf of the Peter Couche Foundation during which he will address his notable work.

**To register your interest in attending this special event please email [petercouchefoundation@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:petercouchefoundation@adelaide.edu.au) or call 08 8313 3995**

## Donor List

Sincere thanks to our major supporters for their generous donations.

**Donations of  
\$500 or more  
(October 2014–October 2015)**

- > Devron Booth
- > Armas Investments Pty Ltd
- > Brian France
- > David Day
- > Paul Masi
- > Ahrens Group
- > Adtrans Automotive Group Pty Ltd
- > Michael A Bennett

## Donation Form

### Personal Details

Name:.....

Address:.....

Telephone:.....

Email:.....

☐ Please tick this box if you would like your donation to remain confidential

### Donation

**Yes! I would like to make a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the University of Adelaide to support the Peter Couche Foundation.**

**I enclose:** ☐Cash ☐Cheque\* ☐Credit Card

\*Cheques to be made payable to the University of Adelaide

**Card number**

**Expiry Date**

**Name on card:**.....

**Signature:**.....

The Peter Couche Foundation is proud to be part of the University of Adelaide. All donations of \$2 or more may be tax deductible. The University funds all administration costs and doesn't deduct fees from the donation amount it receives.

In completing this form, I understand the use to be made of this gift will be entirely at the discretion of the University of Adelaide, and no right or benefit will accrue to me as a result of having made this gift.

To make a donation online please visit  
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## A lasting gift



A bequest, or gift by Will, no matter how large or small, is a way of providing a permanent and meaningful legacy for a cause close to your heart – a gift that generates something of everlasting significance and importance.

If you would like to consider leaving a bequest to the Peter Couche Foundation, please contact Mrs Sue Fox, Development Manager, Planned Giving on +61 8 8313 3234 or email: [susan.fox@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:susan.fox@adelaide.edu.au) for a confidential discussion.

If you have already planned a gift, we encourage you to let us know so that we can recognise your intentions during your lifetime.

*Thank You*



## For further enquiries

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