The School of Medicine Foundation

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A muscle cell from the heart of a rabbit appears in this image acquired using the new Zeiss Laser Scanning Microscope, the LSM 710. The image was produced by Isuru Dilshan, a PhD student with the Biophysics and Biophotonics Laboratory in the Department of Physiology.
I am delighted to be writing my first public report as Chair of The University of Auckland School of Medicine Foundation (SoMF) and to share it with all our generous supporters over the last few years. The report that follows outlines some of the highlights of the year.

Because the balance date was changed this report covers 1 April to 31 December 2008; in future years we will report on a calendar year basis. During this period the Trustees distributed $1.823 million for medical research and student scholarships and received $1.059 million of gifts.

The trustees reviewed our governance and administrative arrangements and made a series of positive changes, including to our Trustee appointment process (Trustees are now appointed by The University of Auckland Foundation), the sharing of administrative services with The University of Auckland Foundation, and registering with the NZ Charities Commission. With these changes, SoMF is now the premier destination for gifts to benefit health research and teaching in Auckland and every dollar you give is devoted to your charitable aims and applied very carefully to the charitable purpose you outline.

I would like to thank all my fellow Trustees for their commitment and hard work and I hope you can continue to support SoMF as you have in the past. We are proud of the doctors, nurses, pharmacists, researchers, and students that we support and with your help we are committed to finding tomorrow’s cures and educating tomorrow’s carers.

Peter Tong, Chair

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR 2008

GIFTS FROM ORGANISATIONS IN 2008
Centre for Clinical Research & Effective Practice
Chisholm Whitney Family Charitable Trust
Fraser Charitable Trust
Grand Lodge of New Zealand Freemasons
Maurice & Phyllis Paykel Trust
New Zealand Association of Clinical Research
North Island English Masonic District Charitable Trust
Oticon Foundation
Redoubt Trust
Roche Products (New Zealand) Ltd
Schering-Plough Pty Ltd
The Conference Company
The Stevenson Foundation

GIFTS FROM INDIVIDUALS IN 2008
Anonymous (1),
Duncan, Gwynn
Hadden, Bruce
Herring, Lloyd
Kennerley, Melanie
McBeath, Ngaiire
McGiven, David
Prince, Murorie
Salmon, Keith

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE FOUNDATION
GIFT TYPES 2008

Number of gifts - 34 | Number of Donors - 22

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE FOUNDATION
GIFT SOURCES 2008

FOUNDATIONS (38%)
ALUMNI & FRIENDS (51%)
OTHER (22%)

PROGRAMMES (18%)
OTHER (8%)
CHAIRS (7%)
SCHOLARSHIPS (13%)
RESEARCH (54%)
Distributions Made

Supporting scientific discovery, improving health outcomes for New Zealanders, and training the next generation of doctors, nurses and pharmacists is at the heart of the School of Medicine Foundation’s vision. In 2008 the School of Medicine Foundation supported a range of research projects and student scholarships, with total distributions of $1.823 million.

Biomedical imaging capability steps up

Funding of $475,000 from the Sydney Taylor bequest to the School of Medicine Foundation saw biomedical imaging in Auckland take a significant step forward with the installation of a new confocal microscope at The University of Auckland’s Biomedical Imaging Research Unit (BIRU).

The new Laser Scanning Microscope is the first of its type in the Southern Hemisphere and one of the first in the world. The Zeiss LSM 710 takes advantage of recent advances in spectral imaging to enable multi-channel imaging of several molecular labels simultaneously allowing investigation of complex interactions between cellular structures and processes, in 3D and over time.
Gifts Received

Concern for the health and well-being of New Zealanders both young and old drew generous support through gifts to the School of Medicine Foundation in 2008. The total value of gifts for the year was $1.059 million.

AGE-RELATED HEALTH RESEARCH BOOSTED

A gift of $352,000 from the Freemasons Roskill Foundation in 2008 continued support for the research programmes undertaken by Professors Martin Connolly and Richard Faull, which focus on such age-related health issues as chronic disability, frailty and neurodegenerative disease.

Freemasons New Zealand has given considerable assistance for medical research over the years including supporting The University of Auckland’s Chair in Gerontology since it was first proposed in 1983. With over a quarter of New Zealand’s population expected to be aged over 65 by 2050, compared with 12 percent at present, the health of older people is a major public health issue.

The present holder of the Chair, Professor Martin Connolly, heads a large multidisciplinary team examining how New Zealand organises the assessment, treatment and management of chronic medical conditions such as lung disease, heart disease and stroke, which are more common in older people and are major and long-term burdens for those affected.

With support from the Freemasons Roskill Foundation, The University of Auckland in collaboration with the Waitemata District Health Board is developing and researching methods to provide the best care possible for frail older people living in the community and in aged care facilities. The study is also looking at the dependency needs of older people in rest homes and private hospitals over the last twenty years. From this emerged the Residential Aged Care Integration Programme, an innovative system to integrate care for older people living in aged care facilities and to support residential aged care staff, including gerontology nurse specialists and wound care specialists.

Professor Faull’s research is focused primarily on understanding how neurodegenerative disorders such as Huntington’s, Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases arise, and subsequently applying this knowledge to develop new treatments.

BEQUEST SUPPORTS CHILD CANCER RESEARCH

At the request of Ngaire McBeath, her generous bequest of $156,667 will be applied to help fund research into the biology of child cancer.