Inaugural Dinner to Thank Supporters

Guests at the Cerebral Palsy Foundation’s Inaugural Dinner were thrilled by the announcement of a number of partnerships. The dinner, supported by Trust, was held at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney on the eve of the 3rd International Cerebral Palsy Conference.

**Announcements included:**
- NSW Government funding to establish a new home for the Cerebral Palsy Institute within St Vincent’s research precinct at the University of Notre Dame. From here they will lead and direct national and international research projects.
- A key partnership with Avant, Australia’s leading provider of medical indemnity insurance; $2 million is being provided to further research projects.
- The Macquarie Group Foundation’s funding to establish the Macquarie Group Foundation Chair of Cerebral Palsy.

**“Avant’s donation is one of the largest donations to Australian medical research in recent times.”**

Key researchers and corporate and individual supporters attended the dinner. Sally Loane, member of the Cerebral Palsy Foundation’s Council of Governors, was Master of Ceremonies and introduced guests to the high profile Ambassadors who will promote the Foundation’s mission to find the prevention and cure for cerebral palsy. Nine former Miss Australia title-holders were also announced as Goodwill Ambassadors. (see page 10 for details).

The Hon. Bill Shorten MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children’s Services, spoke of the Government’s on-going commitment to assist people with a disability, and encouraged guests to continue their support of the Foundation.

“It was truly an amazing evening,” said Mr Rob White, CEO of the Cerebral Palsy Foundation and The Spastic Centre. “We are excited about the future and encouraged by the level of commitment shown to date. Donors are realising there is a real chance of a major breakthrough which will have an impact around the world.”

“We know the answers will not be found overnight. Money raised will be invested and the interest used to fund projects to ensure research continues until the answers are found.”

Since its launch in 2005, the Cerebral Palsy Foundation has injected more than $1.7 million into 20 significant research projects in Australia and overseas. Some targeted research activities funded by the Foundation are undertaken through the Cerebral Palsy Institute.

The Foundation would like to thank other outstanding supporters including Tudor Foundation, Grevillea Group Inc, The Gallagher Foundation, Sundell Foundation, Henry H Roth Charitable Foundation and Trust.

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**Breaking News**

The Balnaves Foundation has agreed to establish the Balnaves Curative Cerebral Palsy Research Program.

This project aims to identify cerebral palsy early in life via new early diagnostic clinics to be established nationally. Newly diagnosed Australian children will also have the opportunity to join a series of world-first research trials aimed at lessening the degree of brain injury and optimising brain repair in the early years.
Welcome to the first edition of *Breakthrough* – the Cerebral Palsy Foundation's newsletter.

Who would have thought that in four years so much would be achieved in our quest to find the prevention and cure for cerebral palsy. However, there is still much work to be done before the answers are found and this will not occur overnight.

Our journey started with the generous donation of a single individual. Elsie Thompson's bequest to The Spastic Centre led to the establishment of the Foundation. After 60 years of providing services to people with cerebral palsy, The Spastic Centre took on the challenge of finding answers to the prevention and cure of cerebral palsy for the world. Since then we have established important partnerships to help us achieve our goal. These include partnerships with the National Health and Medical Research Council which matches some grants, the Australian and NSW Governments, Macquarie Group Foundation and Avant.

We are committed to continuing our search until the answers are found. We are confident that with a sustainable approach, the prevention and cure for cerebral palsy will be achieved. We ask for your continued support to ensure we make a difference for future generations.

Yours sincerely

Bill Bartlett
Chairman
Cerebral Palsy Foundation

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**Our VISION**
A future without cerebral palsy

**Our MISSION**
To find the prevention and cure for cerebral palsy

**Our AIM**
To raise a sustainable research funding pool of $50 million – ensuring research continues until the answers are found.

An early priority for the Foundation is to extend cerebral palsy research capacity, through providing annual grants to research projects of excellence. These grants target both emerging and renowned researchers and are instrumental in shaping careers dedicated to cerebral palsy research.

**Our KEY PRIORITIES**
- Build research capacity through doctoral and post-doctoral scholarships
- Fund high calibre researchers already working on prevention strategies, to accelerate outcomes
- Bring together the best minds on cerebral palsy research from around the world to find the answers to the big research questions
- Advance the Australian Cerebral Palsy Register
- Share critical information internationally and create enduring and active affiliations with other organisations such as United Cerebral Palsy America
- Establish the Chair of Cerebral Palsy for strategic leadership in the field of cerebral palsy research worldwide.

**Cerebral palsy – THE FACTS**
- Cerebral palsy (CP) is the most common, physical disability in childhood.
- It is a permanent disability that affects movement.
- It results from damage to the developing brain, usually before birth.
- In Australia, 1 in 400 babies is diagnosed with CP.
- There is no known cure, and for most, the cause is unknown.
- People with CP may also have seizures, and sensory and intellectual impairments.
- It is estimated there are 34,000 Australians who have cerebral palsy.
A highlight of the Cerebral Palsy Foundation’s calendar for 2009 was the 3rd International Cerebral Palsy Conference, held in Sydney. Hosted by our Cerebral Palsy Institute and supported by the Cerebral Palsy Foundation, the conference attracted 1,340 delegates including 390 international visitors and 114 parents of children and adults with cerebral palsy. Other major sponsors of the conference were Allergan, the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care, and FMS/AMP Foundation. The conference was officially opened by the NSW Premier, The Hon. Nathan Rees MP.

The keynote address was delivered by Professor Fiona Stanley AC, former Australian of the Year, who has spent her career researching the causes of major childhood conditions such as birth defects. The conference program drew together international leaders in cerebral palsy research to share information on causes, prevention and treatment.

Pathways to Cerebral Palsy
Most causes of cerebral palsy occur before birth and most infants with cerebral palsy are born from uncomplicated deliveries. Speakers at the conference identified major risk factors for cerebral palsy including:
- prematurity
- intrauterine infection
- intrauterine growth restriction.
Researchers now also look at factors which may predispose a mother to being susceptible to what would otherwise be non-harmful triggers. Speakers identified factors which may contribute to increasing the risk of cerebral palsy, including:
- thyroid disorders (most women who have thyroid problems during pregnancy go undiagnosed)
- a lengthy maternal menstrual interval often associated with polycystic ovaries
- lupus
- migraine
- congenital defects, e.g. heart defects (20% of infants with a heart defect will also have cerebral palsy)
- viruses (viruses can cross the placenta and some are capable of causing brain damage, e.g. cytomegalovirus)
- certain genes
- infection during pregnancy
- maternal reaction to inflammation
- blood clotting disorders which may lead to stroke in the foetus
- dysfunction in the lining of blood vessels.

The Cerebral Palsy Foundation is aware that the facts and the theories that emerged from this scientific conference can have an emotional impact on individuals and families.

Forming Alliances – The Cerebral Palsy Registers
For the first time in history, 270 representatives from 24 cerebral palsy registers around the world met in a spirit of collaboration. A key outcome was to assemble a group of principal investigators to define the research protocols that can be used for different registers internationally. The Cerebral Palsy Institute already supports this on a national basis through the work of the Australian Cerebral Palsy Register. Expanding this to a global initiative will allow more standardised data collection.

For more detailed information about speakers and presentations at the 3rd International Cerebral Palsy Conference, go to www.cp2009.com.au
Innovative Research Grant
WA. Telethon Institute
(over 2 years)
Associate Professor Eve Blair
Trust Innovative Research Grant
SA. University of Adelaide
Dr Catherine Gibson
Emerging Researcher Grant
QLD. Royal Children’s Hospital
Megan Thorley
Innovative Research Grant
VIC. Murdoch Childrens Research Institute
Professor Lex Doyle
Doctoral Research Scholarship
SA. University of South Australia
Carol Maher

Doctoral Research Scholarship
NHMRC Co funded
VIC. Murdoch Childrens Research Institute
Co-awarded to: Christine Imms

Doctoral Research Scholarship
NHMRC Co funded
VIC. Murdoch Childrens Research Institute
Co-awarded to: Adrienne Harvey

Allergan Doctoral Research Scholarship
NSW. Children’s Hospital at Westmead
(over 3 years)
Margaret Wallen

Innovative Research Grant
WA. Princess Margaret Hospital
Sarah Love
About 10 per cent of babies around the world are born prematurely, and these babies have a higher than average chance of having cerebral palsy. Why? That is not known, but one thing is clear – the mothers of some of these babies will have had bacterial infections in their uterus. Professor George Mendz and his team will examine the bacteria found in 60 mothers and babies. They hope to discover which bacteria are associated with premature births and possibly, which ones are associated with cerebral palsy. They hope this will lead, down the track, to the prevention of some premature births, and the prevention of cerebral palsy for some babies.

A microbiologist by training, Professor Mendz’s work aims to understand the bacteria that live in the gut. Outside the laboratory, he works to broaden the education of university students and to awaken their social responsibilities. He has worked in Puerto Rico and Spain as well as Australia.

Different children with cerebral palsy have different brain injuries. Associate Professor Dinah Reddihough AO and colleagues will carry out MRIs, which are a sophisticated form of brain scan, on 800 children with cerebral palsy. This will help them understand which brain injuries cause which problems. This information will be useful for many researchers and clinicians around the world in their efforts to prevent and treat cerebral palsy. Dinah Reddihough AO is a paediatrician and director of developmental medicine at the Royal Children’s Hospital in Melbourne. She has worked for more than 15 years to improve the care of children with disabilities, including cerebral palsy. Her research has looked at many aspects of disability, including causes, treatments and outcomes of care. She became an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2005.

Much medical research depends on understanding how the body works. One way of approaching this is to study animals and then apply that knowledge to humans. Dr Jacques-Olivier Coq and colleagues plan to create conditions very similar to cerebral palsy in laboratory animals. If they do this, it will greatly help them, and other researchers around the world, in many aspects of cerebral palsy. It would help with understanding causes, with providing treatment and, ultimately, with prevention of cerebral palsy.

Dr Jacques-Olivier Coq is associate researcher at the National Centre for Scientific Research in Marseille, France. He works mainly with animals, studying the effects of neurological conditions such as stroke and cerebral palsy.

Professor George Mendz
The University of Notre Dame - NSW
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Associate Professor Dinah Reddihough AO
Royal Children’s Hospital - Victoria

Dr Jacques-Olivier Coq
Universite de Provence France & Philadelphia, USA

Professor George Mendz
The University of Notre Dame - NSW

2007
Innovative Research Grant
SA. University of Adelaide
(over 2 years)
Professor Alastair MacLennan

Henry H. Roth Charitable Foundation Scholarship
NHMRC Co funded
NSW. Doctoral Research Scholarship.
University of Sydney
Liora Ballin

Sundell Foundation Research Grant
NHMRC Co funded
VIC. University of Melbourne
Abbey Eeles

Innovative Research Grant
NSW. Centre for Health Informatic
University of NSW
Professor Enrico Coiera

2008
Innovative Research Grant
VIC. Monash University
Dr Suzanne Miller

Innovative Research Grant
NSW. University of Notre Dame
Professor George Mendz

Innovative Research Grant
VIC. Murdoch Childrens
Research Institute
(over 3 years)
Associate Professor
Dinah Reddihough AO

NSW Cerebral Palsy Register
NSW Cerebral Palsy Institute

International 2008 Innovative Research Grant
Universite de Provence, France & Philadelphia, USA
Dr Jacques-Olivier Coq

2009
Innovative Research Grant
VIC. Monash University
Dr Suzanne Miller

Grevillea Career Development Award
Post Doctoral Research Scholarship

The Bulls & Bears Researcher
Post Doctoral Research Scholarship
VIC. Murdoch Childrens
Research Institute
Dr Alicia Spittle

The Gallagher Foundation
Post Doctoral Research Scholarship

Paint a Rainbow Foundation
Post Doctoral Research Scholarship
SA. University of Adelaide
Dr Catherine Gibson
Who said golf isn’t serious business? Thanks to the hard yards done on the golf course, coupled with the generosity of guests, the Cerebral Palsy Foundation has been able to fund a new researcher. Additional money raised will be used to fund more research projects in the future.

**SAVe tHe DAte NOW.**
Next year’s Bulls & Bears event will be held on Thursday 18 March 2010 at The Lakes Golf Club Mascot. Contact Marissa on 9907 0000 for details.

The Grevillea Group Inc are long-term supporters of The Spastic Centre and now also of the Cerebral Palsy Foundation. The Group have sponsored the Grevillea Career Development Award.

Pictured left to right – Mr Bruce Sherlock, Mr Robert Parsonage, Mrs Kaye Sherlock, Mrs Anne Smith, Mr Ray Smith, Mrs Sandy Parsonage AM.

Thank you to all those who gave so generously to our recent Appeal. Natasha was amazed at the response and touched by your many messages of support and encouragement.

**Vietnam Trek**
Take a trip of a lifetime - for a worthy cause
Planning your holidays for next year? Why not challenge yourself and take the trek of a lifetime through beautiful Vietnam, and at the same time raise money for the Cerebral Palsy Foundation. The two-week trip in October 2010 will include a five-day trek and a priceless opportunity to spend two days volunteering at a disability charity in Vietnam. You will help children and adults with disabilities and also teach English to staff and volunteers. You will need to pay a small registration fee and fundraise a minimum amount to participate. The trek is a challenging one, so start training now.

Limited spots are available - register now!
Contact Inspired Adventures on 1800 046 462 or email belinda@inspiredadventures.com.au.

**Our Appeals**
- Thank you!

Avant CEO David Nathan helps Natasha Garrity read her messages of support from donors.

The Cerebral Palsy Foundation will be holding a series of Research Briefings, the inaugural one featuring Professor Alastair MacLennan from South Australia. For more information on this briefing at Notre Dame University Sydney, or future Research Briefings, contact Erin Casey on 02 9479 7231.

**Grevillea Group Inc**

**The Bulls & Bears**
Charity Trophy Golf Day
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**Cerebral Palsy**
Research Briefing

**News**

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Cerebral Palsy Foundation

Council of Governors

Mr William (Bill) Bartlett - Chairman
Bill is a Director of Suncorp Metway, RGA Inc and Peptech. Bill has extensive experience in the actuarial, insurance and financial sectors and holds positions on a number of Boards.

Ms Monique Cronin
Monique currently heads up Distribution for St Andrew's Australia and Whittaker Macnaught dealer groups nationally.

Mr Graham Huxley AM
Graham Huxley AM founded Huxley Homes in 1969 with his brother Brian. Graham has been a long-term supporter of The Spastic Centre.

Ms Anne Keating
Anne is on a number of Boards and is also a member of the Advisory Council RBS Group (Australia) and a Director of the Garvan Institute.

Mr James Hodgkinson
James is an Executive Director of Macquarie Group Limited and is on the Board of the Macquarie Group Foundation. James’ nephew Alex has cerebral palsy.

Ms Sally Loane
Sally is the Director of Media and Public Affairs for Coca-Cola Amatil. Sally is also a Director of SCEGGS Darlinghurst, and Director of the NSW Rugby Union.

Mr Paul Masi
Paul Masi is Country Head and Chief Executive Officer of Merrill Lynch in Australia. Paul’s six year old daughter Grace has cerebral palsy.

Mr Nick Moraitis AM
Nick Moraitis AM is CEO and Chairman of Moraitis Group of Companies, one of Australia’s leading fresh produce suppliers. Nick is a long-term supporter of The Spastic Centre.

Ms Cathy O’Connor
Cathy O’Connor is Chief Executive Officer of DMG Radio Australia and oversees the national Nova radio network. Cathy won Telstra’s NSW Business Women’s Award in 1996.

Mr Pat Sergi OAM
Pat Sergi OAM is a Managing Director of Startan Pty. Ltd and Chairman of the Italian Affair Committee that has raised funds for The Spastic Centre for 19 years.

Mr John Sintras
John Sintras is Chief Executive Officer of Starcom MediaVest Group Worldwide (Australia). John’s daughter, 11 year old Lia, has cerebral palsy.
Australian Wallaby and Captain of the HSBC Waratahs Phil Waugh with fellow Ambassador for the Cerebral Palsy Foundation, Natasha Garrity.
The Cerebral Palsy Foundation thanks the following high profile Australians who have come on-board as Ambassadors. They will help promote the Foundation’s mission to find the prevention and cure for cerebral palsy.

### Our Ambassadors

- **Samantha Armytage**  
  Television presenter, Seven Network

- **Peter FitzSimons**  
  Author, journalist and media personality

- **Phil Waugh**  
  Australian Wallaby and Captain of the HSBC Waratahs

- **Elly-May Barnes**  
  Singer who has cerebral palsy, and daughter of Jimmy Barnes

- **Natasha Garrity**  
  10 year old budding researcher who has cerebral palsy

- **Tim Webster**  
  Television and radio personality

- **Jimmy Barnes**  
  Rock Legend

- **Simon Katich**  
  Australian cricketer and Captain of the NSW Blues

- **Glenn Wheeler**  
  Television presenter, Seven Network

- **General Peter Cosgrove AC, MC**  
  Former Chief of the Australian Defence Force

- **Thomas Keneally AO**  
  One of our most successful modern authors

- **Julia Wilson**  
  Australian Olympic Rower

### Our Goodwill Ambassadors

The iconic Miss Australia Awards were successfully conducted from the 1950’s, raising millions of dollars to provide services and equipment for people with cerebral palsy.

The following former Miss Australias have agreed to continue their work by becoming official Goodwill Ambassadors for the Cerebral Palsy Foundation.

- **Miss Australia 1969**  
  Suzanne Maple-Brown (nee McClelland)

- **Miss Australia 1975**  
  Kerry Harfield (nee Doyle)

- **Miss Australia 1980**  
  Eleanor Morton-Duff (nee Morton)

- **Miss Australia 1982**  
  Jennifer Martin (nee Coupland)

- **Miss Australia 1984**  
  Marianne Lewis (nee Koznjak)

- **Miss Australia 1988**  
  Caroline Lumley

- **Miss Australia 1989**  
  Lea Wilson (nee Dickson)

- **Miss Australia 1995**  
  Margaret Dowling (nee Tierney)

- **Miss Australia 2000**  
  Sheree Primmer-Dell (nee Primmer)

Donation Hotline 1300 551 137
We can’t do it without you
We wish to thank our supporters

“It is only with the support of government, business, individuals and the community that we can achieve our vision – a future without cerebral palsy.”

Bill Bartlett – Chairman, Cerebral Palsy Foundation

MAJOR Supporters

Supporters

Majors
• The Bulls & Bears Charity Trophy Golf Day
• Sundell Foundation
• Tudor Foundation
• Grevillea Group Inc
• Henry H Roth Charitable Foundation
• Henry J Cowan Foundation
• The Gallagher Foundation
• The Greatorex Foundation

MEDIA Supporters

Contact us

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PO Box 184 Brookvale NSW 2100

T: 1300 551 137 F: 61 2 9479 7290
E: cpfadmin@tscnsw.org.au
W: www,cpfoundation.com.au

ABN 82 582 833 857