



## MEDIA RELEASE

### OFFICIAL OPENING OF A WORLD-CLASS IMAGING RESEARCH CENTRE AT THE LUDWIG INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH

14 May 2013

Today a new, world-class cancer imaging facility will open at the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, Melbourne, thanks to a multi-million dollar grant from the Australian Cancer Research Foundation (ACRF).

Ms Georgie Crozier, MLC, Victorian Parliamentary Secretary for Health will officially open the **ACRF Centre for Translational Cancer Therapeutics and Imaging** which will bring the Ludwig Institute, the University of Melbourne, Austin Health, and the Melbourne Brain Centre together in a multi-disciplinary approach.

As the first cancer research facility in the southern hemisphere to house state-of-the-art PET/MRI and SPECT/CT molecular imaging equipment, the ACRF Centre will enable internationally competitive translational research aimed at developing new insights into cancer biology, techniques for early diagnosis of cancer, and new therapies for the disease.

Director of the ACRF Centre and Ludwig Institute Member, Professor Andrew Scott has said "The ACRF Centre promises to be at the cutting edge of translational cancer research, ultimately aiding trials of novel therapies to be conducted in Australia and enhancing the prospects for cancer patients not only in Australia, but worldwide".

"It's always a priority for the Australian Cancer Research Foundation to fund research that fast-tracks the transition of new therapies from the laboratory to cancer patients around Australia and globally," said the Australian Cancer Research Foundation Chairman, Mr Tom Dery.

"Dramatic advances in research technologies over the last few years have allowed us to envisage a future that gives patients and their families more sophisticated treatment options with fewer side-effects.

"These are exciting times for cancer research and we're thrilled to have helped Ludwig lay the groundwork for major breakthroughs via the ACRF Centre for Translational Cancer Therapeutics and Imaging."

The **ACRF Centre for Translational Cancer Therapeutics and Imaging** will be a centre of world-class research, a platform to promote collaboration between clinical and pre-clinical researchers, a resource for research training in cancer molecular imaging and an attraction for high-calibre researchers worldwide.

In conjunction with the newly constructed laboratory space in the new Olivia Newton-John Cancer and Wellness Centre (ONJCWC), the **ACRF Centre for Translational Cancer Therapeutics and Imaging** will further boost the Austin Health site as a vibrant world-class cancer research hub.

The Ludwig Institute is also a founding partner of the ONJCWC at Austin Health, which has a focus on the development of innovative cancer therapies, and providing quality of life to patients with cancer.

In the 29 years since its formation, the ACRF has awarded more than \$86.0 million in cancer research grants. Almost \$60.0 million of that has been given in the last seven years. These very substantial grants support leading-edge Australian initiatives, ensuring our scientists remain at the forefront of global cancer research.

**For more information contact Fiona Scott, on +61 3 9496 3335, or [Fiona.scott@ludwig.edu.au](mailto:Fiona.scott@ludwig.edu.au).**

**For interviews or further information from the Australian Cancer Research Foundation, please contact Rebecca Hines on +61 431 068 089 or [rhines@acr.com.au](mailto:rhines@acr.com.au).**