



**ASSOCIATE LECTURER
VICTORIA COGGER**
GRANT RECIPIENT

Ageing and Alzheimer's disease

VICTORIA COGGER

DR COGGER IS AN AGEING AND ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH FOUNDATION GRANT RECIPIENT. WORKING OUT OF THE ANZAC RESEARCH INSTITUTE AT CONCORD HOSPITAL, SHE IS INVESTIGATING AGE-RELATED CHANGES IN THE LIVER AND HOW THESE CHANGES MAKE US MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO DISEASES SUCH AS ATHEROSCLEROSIS.

REPORT BY PROFESSOR DAVID LE COUTEUR, DIRECTOR, AGEING & ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH FOUNDATION.

The Ageing and Alzheimer's Research Foundation, which became a division of the Medical Foundation in 2006, provides support for research, education and scholarship in the fields of geriatric medicine and gerontology through the Faculty of Medicine's Centre for Education & Research on Ageing (CERA).

CERA is Australia's most productive ageing and geriatric medicine organisation and has a strong record of achievement in publications, competitive grants and postgraduate students. In 2006, the Foundation provided funds totalling \$96,000.

Funds were used to support the Concord Health and Ageing in Men Project: the largest study of ageing men ever conducted in Australia and one of the largest in the world. Over 1500 men aged 70 years and over were recruited to the project by the end of 2006, with follow-up examinations to begin in 2007. Key areas of focus in the study are dementia, osteoporosis and urinary problems. One of its main goals is to investigate the role of testosterone in the aetiology of these conditions in older men. The Ageing and Alzheimer's Research Foundation funded

a large, high quality freezer to store serum collected from men involved in the project. This will allow for future testing for factors that might be associated with ageing. The Foundation also funded two part-time research assistants to assist with data collection.

Scholarship support was provided by the Foundation to two postgraduate students during the year. Raj Cheluvappa is studying protein expression in the livers of ageing rats, with the research forming an important part of the biogerontology research program conducted by Professor David Le Couteur's group. Meanwhile, Lisa Ng used her scholarship to study falls among people presenting to accident and emergency departments and the possible role of specialised falls clinics in accident prevention. The Foundation also supported a visit to Tromso in Norway by Dr Alessandra Warren, a recent CERA PhD graduate, who worked on immune function in the ageing liver.

One important contributor to the Foundation in 2006 was Graham Felton. Graham recorded an inspiring achievement by completing the Kokoda Track walk in order to raise funds for the Foundation.

The Ageing and Alzheimer's Research Foundation provided \$87,639 for research support in 2006.