Ten years ago there was no medication available for pulmonary hypertension, but treatment has come a long way in the last decade, and now a new piece of equipment could help extend the lives of people with this challenging condition.

Pulmonary hypertension is a severe type of high blood pressure with serious health and survival outcomes for patients. The disease affects the blood flow from the heart to the lungs become narrowed, making it difficult for blood flow through the vessels. As a result, the blood pressure in these arteries – called pulmonary arteries – rises far above normal levels.

The heart has to work much harder, forcing to the blood through the lungs. If the pressure is high enough, eventually the heart can’t keep up, less blood circulates through the lungs and heart failure is the end result.

It affects mainly adults, and is more common in women, particularly younger women. The average age of diagnosis is around 50 years. Dr Fiona Horrigan, a specialist in Pulmonary Hypertension Clinic in the Cardiology Department at the Austin Health.

Symptoms include severe and debilitating breathlessness — meaning patients can barely walk, eat, rest, are estimated and patients often rest much. The condition is one of the most devastating outcomes of pulmonary hypertension.

Olive Nelms was diagnosed with pulmonary hypertension in 2012. An energetic and independent lady, Olive began to experience unusual breathlessness – from dancing (which she loved) to going to the shops. Doctor recommend Olive to the Austin Health. Olive learned about the seriousness of the condition:

“Unfortunately there is no cure, but treatment is all about management of symptoms and prolonging life by using medications,” says Dr Horrigan. Patients currently undergoing a diagnostic test in the Cardiology Department to measure pressures in the heart.

In upcoming years, on the basis of this test, doctors then formulate an effective drug therapy program for the patient.

There is a diagnostic tool – called the Metabolic Cart – which can give far more detailed information about the heart and function of each patient, leading to a greater understanding of the usefulness of a patient’s current drug therapy program.

The Cardiology Department currently does not have this piece of equipment.

“The Metabolic Cart would give us far more detailed information about the heart and function of each patient, and especially under the added stress of exercise conditions,” says Dr Horrigan. “This has enormous implications for the patient’s drug therapy program as more specific diagnosis allows us to tailor and adjust medication much more effectively. In some cases therapy can prolong life significantly.”

We are currently raising funds for the Cardiology Department to purchase a Metabolic Cart at the cost of $50,000. If you would like to help the Cardiology Department at Austin Health to purchase the Metabolic Cart please complete the gift coupon and send it to the Fundraising & Development Department’s address listed on the coupon.

With the Metabolic Cart we can go much further in understanding the patient’s drug therapy program. Based on results from this test, doctors then formulate an effective drug therapy program for the patient.

“Hopefully it will let us know why someone’s not responding to their treatment, and why we need to change the medication,” says Dr Horrigan.

“I heard the life expectancy for untreated pulmonary hypertension was two years and eight months.”

The generosity and kindness of every one of our supporters is inspirational. So before anything else, we want to say “Thank You!”

You make a world of difference

Here are just a few of you that we would like to highlight this month:

• Justin’s Girls’ Grammar School $3,000 for the Acute Care Unit. Thank you to students for their generosity in raising money to purchase this equipment in the Cardiac Clinic. The Metabolic Cart can please complete the gift coupon and send it to the Fundraising & Development Department’s address listed on the coupon.

• General Philanthropy: $18,277 for Atheneum Jewish Genetic Screening – An Education Program.

• Slater and Gordon Health Projects and Research Fund: $25,000 for The Hand That Changes Dead to The Respiratory High Dependency Unit.

• Ivanhoe Girls’ Grammar School: $3,000 for the Acute Spinal Unit. Thanks to students for their outstanding effort in raising funds at their annual Year 9 Walkathon. Funds raised will go towards purchasing items – such as iPads – to help improve patient experience during lengthy hospital stays.

For further details on how you can help the Olivia Newton-John Cancer and Wellness Centre contact the Fundraising Department on 9442 1555, email fundraising@austinhealth.org.au or visit our website at www.austinhealth.org.au.

You can make a difference. Thank you.
43 amazing supporters receive thanks from Denis Walter OAM

Loyal supporters of Austin Health joined for a morning of appreciation and friendship at the annual recognition event on November 12.

Guests enjoyed a scrumptious morning tea of savories and scones, political talks, and coffee, while learning about how their ongoing support has truly made a difference.

Denis Walter OAM, Media Personality and Austin Bequest Patron, was proud to present 43 long-term supporters of Austin Health, with certificates of recognition. He especially honoured the presentation of Ray & Lyn Blackbourn with an invite for their 30th anniversary – an almost five-fold increase since a decade ago.

Special guests baby Charlie and his mum Verena along with the Transplant Surgeon Graham Starkey – who you may remember reading about from a recent feature story – were also on hand to thank the recipients for their support. Verena shared her moving story of a single mother who had lost her baby to cancer and now has found comfort and support through Austin Health Transplant Surgeon. She is looking forward to having her son live longer.

Graham explained how important state-of-the-art equipment is in improving the outcomes for patients who need organ transplants. He wanted to thank everyone for their support and commitment to Austin Health, which has helped to purchase and improve the outcomes for patients who need organ transplants.

This year we continue to strive toward our goal of raising $25 million from medical research. This will be to improve the quality of life and outcome for patients. The next seven years will be even more important. ディケーションは、サポートできるものであることを示しています。これらの資金は、研究の進歩を促進し、患者の治療の改善に寄与するでしょう。
Unlocking the mysteries of the mind

A world-first trial into a rare genetic form of early onset of Alzheimer’s disease is set to open in Melbourne this week.

Australia’s first and only Alzheimer’s trial for people with the early onset form of the disease opened on November 9 at the Austin Health University, in Melbourne. The first patient to participate in the study is a 43-year-old woman from Melbourne.

The study, supported by the National Health and Medical Research Council and the National Alzheimer’s Project Foundation, is unique because it is among the first to attempt PET imaging in people with the early onset form of Alzheimer’s disease.

PET scanning is integral to the OAN trial study. Using small amounts of radioactive material, the scanning aids the detection of build-up in the brain—a substance that is thought to kink into plaques in the brain of people with Alzheimer’s. Antibody medication can then target these plaques and help people with early Alzheimer’s to live longer.

As broken down in the OAN’s trial statement, the equipment is in place for improving the outcomes for patients and their families. And it is enabled by the commitment to Austin Health, which has helped to purchase key pieces of equipment across the hospital. These generally have and will continue to change lives.

Recruiters are now looking for participants to enroll in this trial. For more information, please visit OAN’s website.

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Guests enjoyed a scrumptious morning tea of an assortment of cakes, pastries, fruits, and tea and coffee, while learning about how their ongoing support has impacted Austin Health. A total of 43 individuals were presented with certificates of recognition. The new event format was well received, with attendees praising the event as a great way to show off the talent and recognize Austin Health’s loyal supporters.

Denis Walter OAM, Media Personality and Austin Health’s long-standing supporter is proud to present 43 long-time supporters of Austin Health, with certificates of recognition. He was especially honoured to present Ray & Lyn Blackwood and received 43 certificates for 43 years of ongoing support.

Special guests include Charlie and Herrn Vonja, along with the late Transplant Surgeon Graham Stavely—who you may remember reading about from a recent past event. They also wanted to thank the recipients for their support. Vonja shared her story about her sister, who had a kidney transplant, and how her mother would not have been able to help without the support of Austin Health. The late Transplant Surgeon Graham Stavely was also presented with a certificate of recognition.

David Woodrooffe said, “This enables the Austin Health Transplant Service to have a record 50 transplants in 2015—an almost five-fold increase from 2014. In addition to taking part in the exchange, our Renal Transplant Unit carried out a record 50 transplants and is unique because it is among the first to attempt PET imaging in people with the early onset form of Alzheimer’s disease.”

Professor Michael Woodward OAM

It will effectively treat a breakthrough in Alzheimer’s disease

Professor Michael Woodward OAM believes that his Alzheimer’s trial could change the course of the disease for people with this condition. He said, “This is a great thing to see patients going into getting it in the first place. If this works, it will have a beneficial effect for all Alzheimer’s patients more broadly” said Professor Woodward. The trial results should be known in two years.

If this works, we’ll have an effective treatment for Alzheimer’s disease not only for people with this rare young-onset form but also for Alzheimer’s disease patients more broadly.

The Medical and Cognitive Research Unit at Austin Health is the largest dementia clinical trial site in southern hemisphere. Currently we are conducting 27 trials with patients with various stages of Alzheimer’s disease.

To find out more about these trials visit: www.austin.org.au/cognitiveexch

Record breaking year for the Renal Transplant Unit

Austin Health’s involvement in an Australian-first series of kidney transplants capped a record-breaking year for our renal transplant program.

Hundreds of staff across Austin Health, Monash Medical Centre, the Royal Melbourne and St Andrew’s Westmead, Prince of Wales and John Hunter hospitals were involved in the exchange which has given more patients access to a new wave of life.

On November 19, 14 simultaneous operations were carried out across the seven hospitals to remove the kidneys from donors before the precious organs were either cooled across four hours or transported in boxes of dry ice before being transplanted into recipient.

Austin Health had one transplant donor past Westmead, then Victoria’s liver donor, a kidney was then transferred to the University of Melbourne.

Veronica was suffering from end-stage renal disease.

“I am so grateful. If the transplant didn’t happen I wouldn’t probably be on dialysis by now. I used to have total freedom in my body, I always felt healthy and free. All of the symptoms have totally gone now which is great,” she said.

Austin Health Renal Transplant Unit Director Associate Professor Kim Yeo said the uremic support required before a transplant is a key to heart health. And it’s free.

“The great thing to see patients having the opportunity to have a renal transplant when they otherwise would be on a transplant list for on average more than two years.”

The Australian Paired Kidney Exchange organises the process when a person in urgent need of a kidney has a loved one willing to donate their kidney, on the condition that they have no suitable recipients. The Austin Paired Kidney Exchange is always on the lookout for those who are willing to donate their kidney to a suitable recipient.

A PET image in the study of the new Alzheimer’s trial

Austin Health’s Professor Chris Rowe is one of the world’s leading researchers on Alzheimer’s disease. His work is highly regarded and respected and he has been a driving force in the field of Alzheimer’s research in Australia.

STOP PRESS: Michael Woodrooffe receives Australia Day Honour.

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Unlocking the mysteries of the mind

A world-first trial into a rare genetic form of early-onset Alzheimer’s has opened for an effective treatment for Alzheimer’s disease.

Approximately 200 Australians suffer from the rare autosomal dominant form of Alzheimer’s Disease (ADAD).

Austin Health, alongside the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, is one of the world’s leading dementia research centres.

PET scanning is integral to the ADAD T1 study. Using small amounts of radioactive material, the scanning process can help to build up a picture of how the brain is functioning.

New South Wales Transplant Surgeon Graham Starkey, and the Transplant Surgeon Austin Health’s Dr Justine Ierino said. “It’s a great thing to see patients having the opportunity to receive the treatment for Alzheimer’s disease that really could change people’s lives.”

The Medical and Cognitive Research Unit at Austin Health is the largest dementia clinical trials site in southern hemisphere. Currently we are conducting 7 trials with patients with various stages of Alzheimer’s disease.

To find out more about these trials visit: www.austin.org.au/cognitiveresearch

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Associate Professor Michael Woodward has been appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for his significant service to dementia research, education and the development of the Cognitive and Mental Health Research Unit of Austin Health.

The Award recognizes the valuable work undertaken by Austin Health's Cognitive and Mental Health Research Unit, which he helped establish.

Michael has previously been awarded an Australian Research Council Future Fellowship and was recently awarded the Paul and Edna Stojanovic Prize for Research Excellence.

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Helping people breathe easy

Ten years ago there was no medication available for pulmonary hypertension, but treatment has come a long way in the last decade, and now a new piece of equipment could help extend the lives of people with this challenging condition.

Pulmonary hypertension is a seven type of high blood pressure with serious health and survival outcomes for patients. The arteries that carry blood from the heart to the lungs become narrowed, making it difficult to blood to flow through vessels. As a result, the blood pressure in these arteries - called pulmonary arteries - rise to above normal levels.

The heart has to work much harder, striving to force the blood through the lungs. If the pressure is high enough, eventually the heart can't keep up, less blood circulates through the lungs to pick up oxygen and heart failure is the end result.

It affects mainly adults, and is more common in women, particularly younger women. The average age at diagnosis is 30 years. Liz Baker was in her early 40s when she was diagnosed in 2005.

Symptoms include severe and debilitating breathlessness - meaning patients can barely walk, eat, or are sometimes hospitalized and kept in bed. For untreated pulmonary hypertension, life expectancy is only 2-5 years.

Symptoms include severe and debilitating breathlessness - meaning patients can barely walk, eat, or are sometimes hospitalized and kept in bed. For untreated pulmonary hypertension, life expectancy is only 2-5 years.

Olive noted that other people are not so fortunate. "Olive was 56 years old when she was diagnosed with pulmonary hypertension. At the time, the condition was not treatable. However, in recent years, there have been significant advances in the management and treatment of pulmonary hypertension, leading to improved survival rates for patients. In addition, newer medications have been developed that can help improve symptoms and slow disease progression," said Dr Horrigan.

"Olive's diagnosis was life-changing. She was able to control her symptoms with medication and learned to manage her disease effectively. However, despite advances in treatment, there is still much work to be done to improve outcomes and quality of life for people with pulmonary hypertension," said Dr Horrigan.

"I hear the life expectancy for untreated pulmonary hypertension was two years and eight months," says Olive. "According to that statistic, I could have been dead by now. But Olive is doing well with the support and treatment of an expert team of doctors, led by Dr Mark Horrigan, Head of the Cardiology Department at Austin Health. The Cardiology Department at Austin Health is a centre of excellence for the management and treatment of this debilitating condition.

"Unfortunately there is no cure, but treatment is all about management of symptoms and prolonging life by using medications," says Dr Horrigan. "Patients currently undergo a diagnostic test in the Cardiology Catheterisation Laboratory to measure pressure in the heart's arteries.

The Cardiology Department currently does not have this piece of equipment.

"The Metabolic Cart would give us a far more detailed analysis of the patient's condition, especially underneath the eldest and exercise conditions," says Dr Horrigan. "It has enormous potential to enhance the quality of care we can provide to our patients. By measuring metabolic rates during exercise, we can more specifically diagnose the disease in a tailor and efficient manner, which will mean that medicine is much more effective. In some cases therapy can prolong life significantly."

We are currently raising funds for the Cardiology Department to purchase a Metabolic Cart at the cost of $50,000. If you would like to help the Cardiology Department at Austin Health purchase the Metabolic Cart please complete the gift coupon on page 6. All donations go directly to the Fundraising & Development Department's address on page 6.

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A special thank you to our committed monthly givers who help us plan for the future, and to those who make the visionary choice to leave a bequest to Austin Health in their will.

And thank you to those in the corporate world who give support to community health and medical research.

Here are just a few of you that we would like to highlight this month:

• Ivanhoe Girls Grammar School $3,000 for the Acute Care Unit. Thank you to students for their support through the fundraising works. This funds will go towards purchasing items - such as iPads - to improve patient experience during lengthy hospital stays.

• Gandel Philanthropy: $18,277 for Athelican Visual Genetics Screening - An Education Program.

• William Angliss Charitable Fund: $2,000 for The Respiratory High Dependency Unit Equipment.

• If I Fund: $39,387 for enhancing the patient environment at Austin Health Physiotherapy through early mobilisation and rehabilitation equipment.

• Slater and Gordon Health Projects and Research Fund: $25,000 for The Hand That Changes The Brain That Changes how People live, project for Occupational Therapy.

• The estates of Gloriana Collier, John Joseph O’Hara, Myrtle Marjorie Joyce Webb, Jean Gauley Clarke, Lena Catharina Weysenfeld and Wilma Nair.

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Liz Baker Scholarship 2016 winner Sonia (pictured by being more healthy and active.”)

We need to empower them to learn to be proactive, change their habits and improve their lifestyle. The majority of our renal patients suffer from Type 2 diabetes, diagnosed with diabetes and the doctors treating them, Professor George, Director of the Diabetes Centre for Excellence at Austin Health says “With the increase in incidence of diabetes in the community the doctors need extra help to educate our patients. Our diabetes educators play a critical role in teaching patients about diabetes and how to manage it.”

Each year an Austin Health nurse is awarded the Liz Baker Memorial Diabetes Education Certificate Scholarship to study and develop her skills in diabetes education. Liz Baker was a diabetes educator who worked at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital for seven years. Sadly, Liz died unexpectedly at the age of 42, and the scholarship was created in her honour.

The scholarship awarded in 2015 (for study commencing in 2016) was made possible thanks to the generous support from:

• Abbott Australia Pty Ltd
• Eli Lilly Australia Pty Ltd
• Sanofi Aventis Australia Pty Ltd

The scholarship has been awarded annually since 2007, and this year’s scholarship of $35,000 was awarded to a nurse with 10 years experience who is passionate about working with people with diabetes and who has studied diabetes education in New Zealand. “The majority of our renal patients suffer from Type 2 Diabetes which is reversible,” says Sonia. “I am passionate about delivering the key messages to patients that it is never too late to take action to improve their lifestyle. We need to inspire them to learn to monitor their medication much more effectively. In some cases therapy can prolong life significantly.”

“Unfortunately there is no cure, but treatment is all about management of symptoms and prolonging life by using medications,” says Dr Horrigan. “Patients currently undergo a diagnostic test in the Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory to measure pressure in the heart. The Cardiology Department currently does not have this piece of equipment. The Metabolic Cart would give us a far more detailed assessment of the patient and especially under the added stress of exercise conditions,” says Dr Horrigan. “This has enormous implications for the patient’s drug therapy program – as more specific diagnosis allows us to tailor and monitor medication much more effectively. In some cases therapy can prolong life significantly.”

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• The estates of Doris Diserens, John Joseph O’Hanlon, Myrtle Marjorie Joyce Webb, T H Pamphilon Fund: $99,587 for enhancing the patient environment at Austin Health
• William Angliss Charitable Fund: $20,000 for IntelliVue Patient Monitors for Respiratory Medicine and a Baristol Walking Frame for Orthopaedics.

We are currently raising funds for the Cardiology Department to purchase a Metabolic Cart at the cost of $35,000. If you would like to help the Cardiology Department to purchase the Metabolic Cart please complete the gift coupon listed on the coupon.

"The Metabolic Cart would give us a far more detailed assessment of the patient and especially under the added stress of exercise conditions,” says Dr Horrigan. “This has enormous implications for the patient’s drug therapy program – as more specific diagnosis allows us to tailor and monitor medication much more effectively. In some cases therapy can prolong life significantly.”

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Ten years ago there was no medication available for pulmonary hypertension, but treatment has come a long way in the last decade, and now a new piece of equipment could help extend the lives of people with this challenging condition.

Pulmonary hypertension is a severe type of high blood pressure with serious health and survival outcomes for patients. This means that blood flow from the heart to the lungs becomes narrowed, making it difficult for blood to flow through veins. As a result, the blood pressure in these arteries – called pulmonary arteries – rises far above normal levels.

The heart has to work much harder, forcing the blood through the lungs. If the pressure is high enough, eventually the heart can’t keep up, less blood circulates through the lungs to pick up oxygen and heart failure is the end result.

It affects mainly adults, and is more common in women, particularly younger women. The average age of onset is 35 years. Pulmonary Hypertension Clinics exist at the Cardiology Department in the Cardiology Clinic at the Cardiology Department at the Austin Health.

Symptoms include severe and debilitating breathlessness — meaning patients can barely walk, even climbing up a flight of stairs are impossible and patients often need an oxygen cylinder 24/7. Shortness of breath is one of the most devastating outcomes of pulmonary hypertension.

Olivia Holmes was diagnosed with pulmonary hypertension in 2012. An energetic and independent lady, Olivia began to experience unusual breathlessness – from dancing which she loved and the many social events she attended. NCW were no longer possible and Olivia started learning about the seriousness of the condition.

“I heard the life expectancy for untreated pulmonary hypertension was two to eight months,” said Olivia. “According to that statistic, I could have been dead by now.”

But Olivia is doing well with the support and treatment of an expert team of doctors, led by Dr Mark Horrigan, Head of the Cardiology Department at Austin. The Cardiology Department at Austin Health is a centre of excellence for the management and treatment of this challenging condition.

“Unfortunately there is no cure, but treatment is all about management of symptoms and prolonging life by using medications,” says Dr Horrigan. Patients currently undergo a diagnostic test in the Cardiology Catheterisation Laboratory to measure pressure in the heart and vessels. Each year an Austin Health nurse is awarded the Liz Baker Scholarship to help educate patients. Each year an Austin Health nurse is awarded the Liz Baker Memorial Diabetes Education Certificate Scholarship to help educate patients. Each year an Austin Health nurse is awarded the Liz Baker Memorial Diabetes Education Certificate Scholarship to help educate patients.

You make a world of difference

Dr Horrigan praised his team and the Cardiac Team ready to help patients.

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The generosity and kindness of every one of our supporters is inspirational. So before anything else, we want to say “Thank You!”

Thank you to those who donate in memory of a loved one or friend, to those who run community events, and to those who pick up the phone and donates “just because.”

A special thank you to our committed monthly donors who help us plan for the future, and to those who make the visionary choice to leave a bequest to Austin Health in their will.

And thank you to those in the corporate world who give value supporting to community health and medical research.

Here are just a few of you that we would like to highlight this month:

- Ivanhoe Girls’ Grammar School $3,000 for the Acute Care Unit. Thank you to the students for their fundraising. For more information on how you can help support patients going towards purchasing items – such as iPads – to improve patient experience during lengthy hospital stays.

- Gabriel Philanthropy: $5,000 to the Cardiology Department to help purchase a Metabolic Cart at the Austin Health Cardiology Department to be able to purchase the Metabolic Cart for the cost of $35,000. If you would like to help the Cardiology Department at the Austin Health, consider donating to purchase a Metabolic Cart please complete the gift coupon attached to this newsletter and send it to the Vitality Autumn 2016

- Collier Charitable Fund: $20,000 for IntelliVue Patient Monitors for Respiratory Medicine
- William Angliss Charitable Fund: $2,000 for The Respiratory High Dependency Unit Equipment.
- The Gandel Philanthropy: $18,277 for Athekens Jewish Genetic Screening – An Education Program.
- Gandel Charitable Fund: $20,000 for Healthlink Patient Monitors for Respiratory Medicine and a Baried Rabbit Walking Frame for Orthopedics.
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Unlocking the mysteries of the mind

A world-first trial into a rare genetic form of early onset Alzheimer’s disease (ADAD) has been launched with an effective treatment for Alzheimer’s disease.

Approximately 200 Australians suffer from the rare Autosomal Dominant Alzheimer’s Disease (ADAD). Austin Health, alongside the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, is one of two Australian sites participating in the Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer’s Network Trial (DIAN-TU), which tests drugs that could delay, prevent or even reverse Alzheimer’s changes in the brain.

Professor Michael Woodward OAM said the combination of Austin Health’s drug trials and Florey’s research was unique because it is among the first to attempt to use therapies to both arrest and reverse Alzheimer’s disease.

PET scanning is integral to the DIAN-TU study. Using small amounts of radioactive material, the scanning highlights the existence of amyloid plaque from the combination of Austin Health’s drug trials and Florey’s research. The results enable Austin Health’s research team to make a diagnosis of Alzheimer’s. Antibody medication can then target the build-up of amyloid plaques in the brain, identified by Austin Health from the first place.

Professor Michael Woodward OAM said: “It will effectively treat a hypothesis — that amyloid causes Alzheimer’s — but also that amyloid is potentially a way to diagnose dementia early so we can stop people from getting it in the first place. If this works, we’ll have an effective treatment for Alzheimer’s disease not only for people with this rare young-onset form but also for Alzheimer’s patients more broadly.” said Professor Michael Woodward OAM.

“The world is very unique in that it’s one of a handful of Australian sites participating in the Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer’s Network Trial (DIAN-TU), which tests drugs that could delay, prevent or even reverse Alzheimer’s changes in the brain. We’re working with Florey’s researchers and the combination of Austin Health’s drug trials and Florey’s research is unique because it is among the first to attempt to use therapies to both arrest and reverse Alzheimer’s disease.”

The Medical and Cognitive Research Unit at Austin Health is the largest dementia clinical trials site in southern hemisphere. Currently we are conducting 27 trials with patients with various stages of Alzheimer’s disease.

To find out more about these trials visit: www.austin.org.au/cognitiveresearch

Record breaking year for the Renal Transplant Unit

Austin Health’s Australian-first series of kidney transplants capped a record-breaking year for our renal transplant program.

Hundreds of staff across Austin Health, Monash Medical Centre, the Royal Melbourne and NSW’s Westmead, Prince Charles and Canberra hospitals were involved in the exchange which has given 24 patients a new lease of life.

On 19 November, 14 simultaneous operations were carried out across the seven hospitals to remove the kidneys from donors before the precious organs were either co-ordinated across towns or flown by road and air to the recipients.

Austin Health had one transplant donor per Forest Hill mother Veronica Reid received a kidney when her son, Ash, was diagnosed with Alport’s Syndrome.

Veronica was suffering from end-stage renal disease and said: “I am so grateful. If the transplant didn’t happen I would probably be on dialysis by early 2016. I used to feel like there was cement in my body. I always felt heavy and tired. All of the symptoms have totally gone now which is why I am grateful.”

Austin Health Renal Transplant Unit Deputy Director, Associate Professor Tony Ierino said: “It’s a great thing to see patients benefitting from the collaborative way is just fantastic,” Assoc Prof Ierino said. “To see our health system working in such a collaborative way is just fantastic.”

All of the symptoms have totally gone now which is why I am grateful. I always felt heavy and tired. All of the symptoms have totally gone now which is why I am grateful.

Donations of $50 or more are tax deductible.

Please send me more information.

Name: __________________________
Address: __________________________
Email: __________________________
Phone: __________________________
Signature: __________________________
Expire Phone Number: __________________________

Reference: The Cleveland Clinic

A PET image used in the study.

Austin Health’s Professor Chris Rowe is one of the world’s leading experts in the field of PET scanning. He said PET scanning is crucial because it is among the first to attempt to find treatment for people who don’t have dementia symptoms.

STOP PERSPECTIVES: Michael Woodward receives Australia Day Honour.

Associate Professor Michael Woodward has been appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for his long and distinguished contribution to health, especially in the area of dementia research. Congratulations Michael!