

5 March 2021



IDENTIFYING VASCULAR DYSFUNCTION IN CF – CHILDHOOD TO ADULTHOOD

Sponsored by Cystic Fibrosis South Australia

Some titles don't have to be sleek and attention grabbing. My experience of grappling with CF research papers and proposals (in the capacity of an enthusiastic but hopelessly out-matched layperson) has taught me a lot, mostly about how much I have to learn. It has also re-confirmed for me the homespun wisdom of the tortoise, that 'slow and steady wins the race'.

Progress is made in increments, humble steps that are nevertheless hard won, with many disappointments along the way. At a time when the Australian CF community is fighting vocally for Trikafta – the drug that more than any other deserves to be called a CF 'miracle' – it is easy to forget that fighting this disease on the research front takes patience and attention to detail.

The Australian Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust (ACFRT) is ready to reward innovative projects in big ways because they know that this is the reliable path to knowledge. Tireless and experienced researchers with robust research angles are often far from the limelight, but they deserve our gratitude and our financial support.

Today my deepest and warmest accolades are for Andrew Tai, Paediatric CF Centre Director and researcher at the Women and Children's Hospital in Adelaide and his crack team. They have put together an outstanding project and will be given fifty thousand dollars this year by Cystic Fibrosis South Australia (CFSA) through the ACFRT as part of our ongoing collaborative commitment to grassroots CF research.

Their work aims to better characterise dysregulated vascular functions in children with CF. It also looks at pulmonary and coronary artery vessels as they are affected by CF over time.

Let me convey my excitement and admiration for the newest recipients of the ACFRT Innovation Grant and extend a massive thanks to CFSA for their dedication to research.

CFA and CFSA are confident that an investment in Andrew Tai and his team is an investment in a future of Lives Unaffected By CF.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Nettie Burke'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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