



**Asbestos Diseases
Research Institute**

Year In Review

2021 / 22

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A note from our ADRF Chair



Few years in memory will match the dramatic environment we all were required to live through

over the past few years - especially the early part of last financial year. Everyone across the world was impacted again by COVID-19 and in Sydney, we were subjected to a 5-month lockdown during this period.

We often use the word resilient when we talk about our work and our quest to find answers in the lab - it can sometimes be a bit of a professional buzz word. But following another COVID hampering year, our being resilient was something we proved beyond a reasonable doubt.

Our primary research work involves being in the laboratory and with strict lockdown measures in place, we were all required to adjust and adapt on a day-by-day basis.

We staggered our team's time in the lab and became the champions of Zoom because we did not stop working around the clock to unlock the answers to make dust and asbestos-related diseases (ARDs) history

While parts of the year felt like we were in limbo, other parts felt like we were operating at breakneck speed.

2021/22 saw the introduction of a new leadership team committed to spearheading ADRI's response to a national health crisis - asbestos burden and increasing dust and asbestos-related diseases.



Professor Sonja Klebe joined ADRI on secondment from Flinders University and Kim Brislane, previously Director of Philanthropy (and International Projects), assumed the CEO role. This partnership brings together an enormous range of skill, expertise and ambition.

ADRI's passion and agility - backed by our status as a WHO Collaborating Centre for the Elimination of Asbestos Related Diseases - saw us launch the International **E-Toolkit for the Elimination of Asbestos-related diseases**, an online education resource to assist in training specialists in developing countries. Our international status is testimony to our expertise and reflects the global caution and concern over the escalating dangers of asbestos and ARDs. We continue to forge partnerships with key international organisations to deliver on-the-ground training and support.

Our team stewarded crucial projects - the completion of grants, success of new grants, expansion of our scope of work into silica and dust diseases and dedicated support of patients and families impacted by mesothelioma.

I want to acknowledge them all as together they truly reflect the incredible power of people who want to remedy and tackle a serious health crisis.

Our work this year has set us up for greater achievement in 2022/23 and beyond. There is still much to do and until we can prevent ARDs, provide better treatment options and ultimately cure mesothelioma, we will not rest.

Mr Peter Tighe
Chair

Mesothelioma and Dust/Asbestos-related Diseases



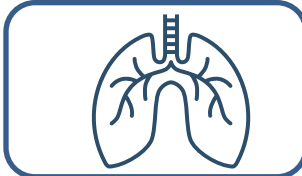
1 in 3 Australian homes still contain asbestos



Many homes built before **1990** contain asbestos



4000 Australian die of dust and asbestos-related diseases each year - almost 4 times the annual road toll



Some **800** Australians die from the aggressive cancer mesothelioma each year - there is currently no cure



The rate of malignant mesothelioma is expected to continue to rise for at least the next **20** years



2003 Asbestos completely banned in Australia



Approx **6000** tons of asbestos illegally dumped each year, costing around **\$11.2M** p.a. in clean-up costs



World Health Organization declares no known safe minimum exposure to asbestos fibres



Asbestos fibres are invisible to the naked eye

Key Priority Areas

ADRI has a global Impact across four pillars of research. As long as mesothelioma, silicosis and dust/asbestos-related diseases threaten public health, we will be relentless in our mission to improve patient outcomes and leave a positive impact on people's lives.

Biomedical (preclinical) research

Focuses on a variety of molecular and biological techniques and utilises the invaluable biological specimens stored in the **ADRI Biobank** to further research into dust/asbestos-related diseases.

Clinical

We are passionate about discovering promising new therapeutic approaches to convert into clinical practice to improve outcomes for patients diagnosed with dust/asbestos-related diseases.



Public Health and Prevention

Dust / Asbestos-related diseases have unique aspects that arise from being industrial, man-made diseases. By nature, they are 100% preventable. ADRI aims to provide novel perspectives and scientific evidence that can lead to the prevention and ultimately, the elimination of dust/asbestos-related diseases .

Patient support

The Patient is at the centre of everything we do. We work with mesothelioma patients who are undergoing therapy or post-therapy in the community, thereby integrating clinical and public health approaches. Biomedical (preclinical) research is conventionally conducted in the context of translational research, i.e., "from bench to bedside" to which ADRI gives a major emphasis.



ADRF Board

The Asbestos Diseases Research Foundation (ADRF) was established in July 2006 as a charitable, not-for-profit organisation dedicated to assisting and supporting the research efforts of the Asbestos Diseases Research Institute (ADRI). ADRI is a stand-alone research institute located in a purpose-built facility on the Concord Hospital Campus. Through prevention and translational research, ADRI aims to improve the diagnosis and treatment of dust and asbestos-related diseases - and contribute to more effective preventative measures.

The Board of the Foundation consists of the independent chairperson invited by the Minister for Industrial Relations, two members from the Workers Compensation Dust Diseases Board; nominees from the University of Sydney, ANZAC Health & Medical Research Foundation, Sydney Local Health District, Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia Inc., Unions NSW, and past and present manufacturers and suppliers of asbestos or dust-containing goods. In addition, the Board has appointed a further member, being the Research Director of the Institute.

Read more about our Board [here](#).

ADRI Team

New Leadership

In 2021/22 ADRI welcomed a new leadership team to drive ADRI's mission to improve the diagnosis and treatment of dust and asbestos-related diseases; as well as contribute to more effective measures to prevent exposure to asbestos. Together, they spearhead our goal to make asbestos diseases history.

Associate Professor Sonja Klebe Research Director (On secondment)

Sonja is an internationally recognised authority in the field of dust and asbestos-related disorders, a clinical pathologist and academic at Flinders University. She has personally examined or reviewed over one thousand mesothelioma cases, and has a deep and real-world grasp of the struggles of those living with dust-related diseases, including silicosis. She is driven to improving patient outcomes and transforming our collective understanding of the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of dust diseases. [View full profile](#)



Ms Kim Brislane CEO

Kim has over 25 years' experience in the not-for-profit, private and public sectors in governance, management and strategic development. Kim joined ADRI as Director of Philanthropy in October 2020 and was appointed CEO in April 2022. She thrives on high-impact projects, creating long-term visionary campaigns, driving strategic direction and nurturing partnerships. With the resurgence in cases of dust and asbestos-related diseases, Kim is driven to lead the team to continue its exceptional work to improve the diagnosis and treatment options for mesothelioma, silicosis, dust and asbestos-related diseases. [View full profile](#)



Our Impact in 2021/22



Research Committee formed

We assembled some of Australia's leading medical, science and research experts to become our Research Committee. This esteemed group (more national experts will join in 2023) will advise the Board on the scope and impact of our research projects and direction of our work. We are grateful for their support and the expertise they bring to ADRI and our national and international work:

- Dr Juliet Burn
- Professor Nick Pavlakis
- Professor Christine Jenkins
- Professor Stephen Clarke
- A/Professor Maija Kohonen Corish
- Dr Scott Fisher
- Professor David Roder
- Chaired by A/Professor Sonja Klebe



\$ 846K in new competitive grants

- **Support Organisation Funding Grant** via the Dust Diseases Board to expand our Mesothelioma Support Service by one full-time registered nurse and allow the development of a comprehensive Nurses Education Package - a one-stop resource tool for nurses.
- **Study of *Leptospermum polygalifolium* extract in mesothelioma - 'Manuka Project'** - successful grant via Dust Diseases Board to progress an exciting research project involving Manuka extract - specifically through the manuka leaves. Preliminary success will now progress to a pre-clinical trial examining the impact and benefits of the Manuka compound.



20 Peer-reviewed publications

Our Impact in 2021/22



ADRI Biobank expansion

- National strategy in development with SA Exemplar Biobank to broaden the collection model. First model to be launched in 2022/23.



Patient support

- Actively supported over 300 patients and carers
- Over 1,500 contact transactions



International impact

- Partnered with United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) to deliver additional training resources across developing countries.
- Launch of the **E-Toolkit for the Elimination of Asbestos-related diseases**. The first online education resource to assist in training specialists in developing countries. Launched by ADRI Patron The Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd.)
 - Developed over **24** months
 - Bringing together over **60** specific topics
 - Written with collaboration by **100** Global experts
- ADRI commenced discussions with key international organisations to deliver on-the-ground training: Union Aid Abroad (APHEDA), Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (ASEA), The University of Bunahwah Jakarta, Universidad of Catalagna.

Our Patrons



Our Patrons: Their Excellencies The Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd.) and Mrs Hurley



Our Patrons: Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC Governor of New South Wales and Mr Dennis Wilson

Our Supporters

COVID-19 continued to impact our organisation – like so many others – with significant resource and fiscal challenges. We sincerely thank our committed corporate partners and our community for their ongoing support which enabled us to navigate this difficult climate.

Want to know more about what we do and why? Click [here](#)





Looking Ahead

We have big plans and a lot to achieve next year and beyond. We remain firmly focused on our mission to find a cure for dust and asbestos-related diseases, as well as to provide the best in patient support. Our key areas of activity include:

- Expanding our focus to centre firmly on dust and asbestos-related diseases, including silicosis which is emerging as a national health crisis
- Progressing the pre-clinical trial to assess the use of manuka compound to provide a natural treatment for Mesothelioma
- Participating in Federal Government Roundtables to add ADRI's voice to the national conversation addressing the impact of dust-related diseases
- Building Federal Government support to secure increased and ongoing funding to enable our ongoing research and support services
- Progressing the National Biobank program with stage 1 launch in South Australia
- Expanding our international leadership and collaboration to provide crucial training, resources and support across developing countries
- Specifically building the capacity of health facilities in Indonesia, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam
- Working collaboratively with The Colombia Asbestos Free Foundation (FundClas) and University of Cartagena Colombia to develop a Clinical Guideline for Diagnosis of non-malignant dust and asbestos-related diseases.

Financial Summary

Financial Summary

<u>Profit and Loss Statement</u>	2021-22	2020-21
Revenues		
Research	1,085,954	972,922
Fundraising	778,955	764,484
Government Stimulus payments		228,600
Interest	16,581	15,302
Total	1,881,490	1,981,308
Expenses		
Employee Benefits	1,412,170	1,585,569
Research consumables/equipment	288,224	250,413
Office expenses	449,694	307,523
Depreciation	265,509	314,802
Finance costs	170	249
Total	2,415,767	2,458,556
Surplus / Deficit for the period	-534,277	-477,248
<u>Balance Sheet</u>		
	30/06/2022	30/06/2021
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents incl Term Deposits	2,878,938	3,445,030
Trade and other receivables	272,644	70,076
Property Plant and Equipment	6,668,025	6,914,990
Total	9,819,607	1,0430,096
Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	216,538	204,297
Employee provisions	117,534	205,987
Total	334,072	410,284
Net Assets	9,485,535	10,019,812

The figures above have been extracted from the audited Financial Statements of ADRF for the relevant periods.
The full audited financial statements are available from info@adri.org.au



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