

NEW FUNDING FOR STEM CELL CANCER RESEARCH

Guardian Trust confirmed today that a grant of over \$84,000 has been made from the Keith Seagar Research Fund to the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research, for cancer research. Further funding is also promised from the Keith Seagar Research Fund, one of a number of medical charitable trusts Guardian Trust manages.

Guardian Trust Client Adviser Vanessa Bourke said the first distribution of \$84,360 from the charitable trust will be used to fund cancer stem cell research at the Malaghan Institute. Future distributions will be directed to cancer research, but not exclusively cancer stem cell research, at the institute.

The charitable trust was established under the will of Keith Seagar in 2005. Ms Bourke says the nature of the institute's work aligns with the trust's philosophy of supporting research of significant merit and social benefit that is benchmarked against the highest international medical standards.

"The Malaghan Institute is New Zealand's leading vaccine and immunology research centre working to unlock the mysteries of the immune system in the fight against cancer. Mr Seagar established his charitable trust with the clear purpose of supporting this important work.

"Our role at Guardian Trust is to support philanthropists to define what it is they want to achieve, protect and grow the funds they have set aside for charity, and ensure that it is used as they would wish, even after they're gone. Especially in light of this latest distribution, it's very rewarding work," she said.

The Malaghan Institute of Medical Research's Fundraising and Communications Manager Tanya Fulcher says the funding from the Keith Seagar Research Fund will enable the institute's three dedicated cancer research groups to focus their attention on the research without the added pressure of identifying support funding in the current economic climate.

The first distribution will enable the Cancer, Cell and Molecular Biology Group to pursue its current focus on a small population of cells in tumours called cancer stem cells to find out more about the role they play in recurring cancers. The research project involves isolating and characterising

potential cancer stem cells from aggressive brain tumours removed during brain surgery at Wellington Hospital.

The research grant will fund the purchase of laboratory supplies and other items of equipment not provided for in the current budget.

Guardian Trust currently administers over 450 charitable trusts, with approximately 40 of these providing ongoing funding to support medical research in New Zealand.

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Further information about the Malaghan's Institute stem cell cancer research:

The Cancer, Cell and Molecular Biology Group's working hypothesis is that cancer stem cells are the only cells in a tumour that can maintain tumour growth at the primary site, and are responsible for its spread to other sites in the body. If any of these drug- and radiation-resistant cells remain following surgery, they will eventually cause the tumour to re-establish.

Cancer stem cells are maintained by growth in special tissue culture media and monitoring their ability to form tumours. The main purpose of this research is to use these cancer stem cells to generate effective anti-cancer immune responses that seek out and destroy the cells responsible for tumour growth in different parts of the body.

About Guardian Trust

Guardian Trust is a leader in the charitable trust sector, acting as trustee for more than 450 charitable trusts that provide approximately \$26 million of funding annually to benefit New Zealanders. The company has been serving New Zealanders for 125 years and is a market leader in estate planning, asset protection and wealth management. It is one of New Zealand's foremost trustee companies, providing wide-ranging advice and expertise in areas including Wills and

enduring powers of attorneys (EPAs), estate administration, financial planning, and personal and corporate trusts.