

# the Australian Society for Medical Research



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Newsletters, News and Events

## Media Releases

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October 9, 1998

### THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH APPLAUDS GOVERNMENT/INDUSTRY INITIATIVE

The Australian Society for Medical Research, representing some 15000 Australian biomedical and biological researchers, today expressed strong support for the new agreement between County Investment Management and the National Health and Medical Research Council.

Commenting at the launch of the funding agreement today Dr Steven Wesselingh, President of the Society said:

*"This is the sort of scheme that is needed to advance medical research in Australia. It does not reduce the requirement for Government support of medical research. If anything, it should give great encouragement to the Minister and Government to continue and expand support of health and medical research, in particular to the NHMRC if their funds attract additional matching funds from industry."*

*"This is an initiative that bright, young Australians need to assist them in pursuing a career in medical research" he said, "Although it does not change the poor salary structures for researchers, it does mean that they will no longer have to struggle quite so much to carry out their research at the level required to become and remain internationally competitive."*

*"It will provide significant employment opportunities for a range of people who will need to be skilled in state of the art technologies, in areas like cell and molecular biology."*

Dr Wesselingh added, *"The proposed scheme will go some way to encouraging our best researchers to stay here to continue their work, rather than heading off to better resourced laboratories overseas. In addition, this new agreement will help capture, protect and manage our valuable intellectual property for Australia."*

**AUSTRALIA HAS THE CAPACITY TO BE A  
WORLD LEADER IN HEALTH AND MEDICAL  
RESEARCH.**

THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH URGES GOVERNMENT TO DOUBLE NHMRC FUNDING OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS AND TO CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION SUCH AS THAT OF COUNTY INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT. THE RESULT WILL BE BETTER HEALTH FOR ALL AUSTRALIANS, EXPORT EARNINGS AND A WIDE RANGE OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

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