



the Australian Society *for* Medical Research

ACN 000 599 235 - ABN 18 000 599 235
145 Macquarie Street, Sydney, 2000
Ph: (02) 9256 5450, Fax (02) 9252 0294
Email: asmr@world.net,
Website: www.asmr.org.au
Executive Officer: Catherine West

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The Reviewers,
c/- Child Health Research Institute
72 King William Road
NORTH ADELAIDE SA 5006

A Submission to the External Review of the Child Health Research Institute

The Australian Society for Medical Research

The Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR) is a registered Australian Company (ACN 000 599 235). The ASMR was formed in 1961 with the goals to foster excellence in Australian health and medical research, and to promote community understanding and support for health and medical research in Australia.

Who does the ASMR currently represent?

At the present time there are 1100 financial members of the Society and 42 affiliated member Societies and Medical Colleges, a further 15,000 medical Researchers. We have further access to 95,000 Australians through the disease-related Foundations which have joined the Society as associate members. The Society receives strong financial and moral support from the Department of Health and Aged Care, pharmaceutical companies and biomedical companies.

The Child Health Research Institute

For over 10 years, the Child Health Research Institute has conducted research vital to the provision of first class paediatric health care. The impact of their work has benefited Medical Practitioners, scientists and health professionals locally, nationally and internationally. Since establishing a body of expertise in the investigation of childhood and maternal illness the Institute has continued to grow. The conduct of this research provides much needed training for South Australian health care workers in the area of paediatric medicine.

Researchers at the Institute have made key contributions in child nutrition, paediatric immunology, tissue repair and gastroenterological disorders. With an impressive publication record (33 for the calendar year 2001 at the time of writing) over 10 years the Institute has built a reputation that has enabled the establishment of crucial collaborations around Australia and internationally. CHRI's membership of 2 Co-operative Research Centres

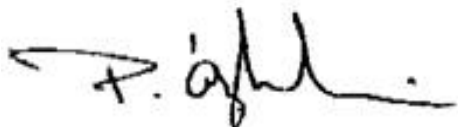
(Tissue Growth and Repair and Diagnostic Technologies) is indicative of the importance of the contributions that its members make in their respective research fields.

As a significant shareholder in the biotechnology company, Gropep, CHRI is strategically placed to capitalise on the intellectual property generated by its researchers. Their granted and provisional patents indicate that the members of the Institute are conducting innovative work at the cutting edge of modern biomedical research. This activity brings essential commercial opportunities to South Australia.

The training opportunities offered by CHRI allow South Australian health professionals access to the very latest findings in paediatric research. The ability to interpret and implement the major advances in biomedical understanding can only be achieved through direct experience in the research that leads to those advances. Research experience for South Australia's health care workers enables them to put into practice new diagnostic, therapeutic and management techniques many years before they are available as off-the-shelf technology. The Institute currently has 35 students, mostly at the postgraduate level.

Medical Research brings money into South Australia and provides job opportunities for highly motivated and highly trained individuals. For the Financial year 2001-2002 CHRI will bring over \$3 million into the state in the form of competitive grants and contributions from CRC's and industry partners. The Institute currently employs 126 staff members.

The ASMR commends the Child Health Research Institute for its contributions to the investigation of childhood and maternal disease. The Institute should also be encouraged in every way possible to continue its cutting edge research and training of health professionals and congratulated for its contributions to the South Australian economy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. O'Loughlin', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Peter O'Loughlin
President, Australian Society for Medical Research.