Dr Renea Taylor
Young Victorian scientist, Dr Renea Taylor (nee Jarred), spends her day talking and thinking about a disease that she will never have – prostate cancer. Yet this is a topic that most Australians are afraid to confront, despite the fact that it affects many men over 50 years of age.

Dr Taylor is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Monash Immunology and Stem Cell Laboratories and Monash Institute of Medical Research, Monash University. She says:

"Breaking down social barriers and talking openly about reproductive health issues is vital and will save lives. While some people initially find a discussion by a young woman on prostate disease a little confronting, they soon appreciate that medical science has a lot to share and age and gender are not really a factor."
(Research Funding: NHMRC)

Tye Dawood
Tye Dawood, a PhD student at the Baker Heart Research Institute and Monash University stated, "Patients with depression are at increased risk of developing heart disease independent of conventional risk factors, including smoking, high blood pressure and high cholesterol.

Depression after a heart attack also increases the chance of dying."

The association between depression and heart disease is not known, but research at the Baker Heart Research Institute has identified a link between the nervous and immune systems in patients with depression.
(Research Funding: National Heart Foundation of Australia, Rotary Health Research Fund and the NHMRC)

Cathryn Hogarth

- Attended Wangaratta High School from 1993-1998
- Complete the Bachelor of Biomedical Science and a Bachelor of Science (Honours) at The University of Melbourne.
    - Honours degree in Biochemistry
- Started my PhD at The Monash Institute of Reproduction and Development (MIRD) – which is now the Monash Institute of Medical Research (MIMR) – in February of 2003 with the financial aid of an Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) and under the guidance and support of Dr Kate Loveland. Kate's research focus is in Male Germ Cell Biology.
- My PhD research is focused on analyzing the machinery that drives the development of sperm in the testis. To date, I have examined the expression of the importin proteins. These proteins allow other proteins access to the genes in a cell by carrying them into the nucleus. For the last year of my studies, my focus will primarily be in studying the role of the importins in sperm and egg development in the mammalian embryo.
- I have won several awards since starting my PhD, the most exciting being The Women in Scientific Excellence Award (WISE Award) which was for excellence in science and community spirit. I was also awarded The NIH and Australian Academy of Science Junior Scientist award in March of this year and both awards will financially support an extended stay in the USA to work next year.

Research Funding: Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) through Monash University and a top-up Australian Research Council (ARC) Research Scholarship.

Tasha Czarny

Tasha Czarny has been a researcher with the Animal Gene Resource and Storage Centre for three years. This group plays an important role in the animal conservation by running a genebank, full of genetic material from native and exotic wildlife. When an animal from within an Australian zoo dies Tasha receives samples such as sperm, ovarian tissue or skin. This material is then cryopreserved and held in suspended animation at -196°C in liquid nitrogen to be thawed out in several years time when science has a greater ability to understand their value. The techniques which these cells may be used for include genetic studies and artificial insemination.

In addition to cryopreservation, Tasha uses non-invasive methods to investigate the genetics and reproductive hormones of several species including the New Holland Mouse and the Eastern Quoll, both valuable species which are in decline.

(Research Funding: Norwood Abbey, The Ross Trust, Holsworth Wildlife trust and Australian pacific Science Fund)