

# the Australian Society for Medical Research



Newsletters, News and Events

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November 18, 1998

The Australian Society for Medical Research welcome the acknowledgement by Dr Michael Wooldridge that NHMRC funding grants are the "... funding life blood of our research community".

**Australia's medical scientists have been awarded \$162M dollars through NHMRC; the same amount was awarded in 1994.**

The United States of America have acknowledged the importance of medical research in terms of dollars returned to the economy and benefits to the community research funding is up by 8.4% with a commitment to double funding to the National Institute of Health by the Y2002. Tony Blair, in the UK, similarly acknowledged that "...the science base is the absolute bedrock of our economic performance..."

We applaud Dr Michael Wooldridge for his commitment to "leadership now and plan well into the future" However, *the \$162M for NHMRC funding does not represent the increase needed to maintain our current world standing in health and medical research.*

The ASMR *implore* government to ensure Australia retains and nurtures those people the Minister refers to as "our top scientific minds". Allow us to capitalise on Australian discoveries and innovation for the benefit of Australians.

ASMR believe that investment in health medical research should be at 5% of total expenditure on health and that NHMRC funding should be doubled over the next 5 years.

**These goals are achievable.**

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