

Prof Greg Snell
Head, Lung Transplant Service (Medical)
Provider No: 0385713Y
Tel: 03 9076 2867
Fax: 03 9076 3601

31st December 2009

Dr Ronnie Goldberg
OAM and Havaheart Chair
C-/ Rotary Club of Williamstown
PO BOX 111
WILLIAMSTOWN 3016

ronniegoldberg@yahoo.com

Dear Ronnie,

An update on the progress of our lung transplant research and clinical activities here at The Alfred Hospital. As you will see we have been able to build upon the significant research support that your team, The Rotary Club of Williamstown and The Australian Rotary Health Research Fund initiated.

The initial plan to provide more Donations after Cardiac Death (DCD) organs for transplantation is becoming a reality. From our initial experiments we went on to perform our first case in 2006 and we have just done our 21st case. This is the world's largest experience and the work has been chosen to be show cased from amongst a thousand other submissions at the upcoming International Society of Heart and Lung Transplantation Meeting in Chicago. The work has been recognised and duplicated by other groups with around 10 similar transplants being performed in New South Wales and the 1 in Queensland. The grouped Australians results will be presented in this Chicago Meeting and I think will cause quite a stir. The title of our presentation is: "Are DCD lungs Superior? Excellent intermediate results from a DCD lung transplant national collaborative". We had hoped that these organs would be nearly as good as our traditional brain dead donor organs for transplant but at 3½ years the results actually appear better. We will be acknowledging Rotary in this presentation.

Although my interest has obviously been in the lungs, I am very pleased to say that many other organs have been recovered in the last couple of years from the same donors. In 2009, in the 11 months to November, 24 DCD donor kidney transplants were done in Victoria. These 'extra' kidney transplants, significantly supplement the 83 traditional donation-after brain-death donor transplants done over the same period. As you can therefore see a lot of lives have been changed and saved already. Most importantly though, if you look at the accompanying graph with this letter you can see that there is an exponential rise in the number of DCD donors in Australia as the Rudd Governments Organ Donation Initiative has got behind DCD and made it one of the main platforms to increase organ transplantation opportunities.



**Allergy, Immunology and
Respiratory Medicine**
5th Floor, Main Ward Block

Professor Robyn E O'Hehir
FRACP PhD FRCP FRCPath
Director
Phone: +61 3 9076 2251
Fax: +61 3 9076 8692

Professor Trevor Williams
MBBS MD FRACP
Clinical Director
Phone: +61 3 9076 2405
Fax: +61 3 9529 8498

Professor Greg Snell
MBBS FRACP MD
Head, Lung Transplant Service
(Medical)
Phone: +61 3 9076 2867
Fax: +61 3 9076 3601

Professor John Wilson
BSc(Hons) MBBS PhD FRACP
Head, Cystic Fibrosis Service
Phone: +61 3 9076 2315
Fax: +61 3 9076 8050

A/Professor Matt Naughton
MBBS FRACP MD
Head, General Respiratory & Sleep
Medicine Service
Phone: +61 3 9076 8398
Fax: +61 3 9529 8498

A/Professor Jo Douglass
MBBS FRACP MD
Head, Allergy, Asthma & Clinical
Immunology Service
Phone: +61 3 9076 2934
Fax: +61 3 9076 2245

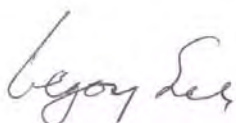
A/Professor Bruce Thompson
BAppSci CRFS PhD
Head, Physiology Service
Phone: +61 3 9076 3476
Fax: +61 3 9076 3434

Beyond the DCD story we have gone on to use the lung perfusion rig that was supported by Rotary for other experiments. Through a unique collaboration with colleagues at St Vincent's Hospital in Melbourne we have assessed the possibility of using genetically modified pig lungs for human transplants. This high tech supply of organs hasn't been tested on any other type of organ yet. We were delighted to see that the experiments went very well with excellent lung function 6 hours after the pig lungs were perfused with human blood compared to only 14 minutes if unmodified normal pig lungs were used with human blood. We aim to go onto do more experiments and will continue to alter the lungs so that they tolerate human blood for even further extended times. This information will be useful for the St Vincent's team when they move onto looking at the possibility of transplanting other organs from these modified pigs.

Other groups have come forward with ideas that could also be tested using our Rotary supported testing rig. One group has a means of cutting out the blood group antigens from organs and this would obviously give us a lot more flexibility with which organs we transplanted. Another group are looking at using the rig to allow time for new treatments between retrieval of the organs from the donor and implantation into a new recipient. This would be a way of improving the organs and perhaps protect them against rejection in the short and long term.

All in all it has been quite a journey over the last 6 years and it's absolutely fantastic to see small ideas go from research into mainstream medical practice. I can only say again, thankyou very much for your support!

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory Snell', written in a cursive style.

Prof Gregory Snell
MBBS FRACP MD
Medical Head, Lung Transplant Service
Allergy, Immunology & Respiratory Medicine
Alfred Hospital