Translating Fundamental Science into Better Health Outcomes

RMIT University’s Health Innovations Research Institute (HIRi) takes an integrated approach to address key health problems facing Australia in the 21st century. Its four research programs explore how the human body functions at a molecular and cellular level. This knowledge will help to shape innovative therapeutic strategies to improve the health and wellbeing of people in Australia and around the world.

The Institute

HIRi’s primary goal is to translate basic science discoveries into safe and effective therapeutic outcomes. HIRi brings together more than 100 national and international researchers and industry partners to increase research in specific areas of socio-economic health burden. These include cardiovascular disease; insulin resistance and diabetes; obesity; mental illness; respiratory disease and chronic and neuropathic pain. By better understanding the basic mechanisms of these diseases, HIRi aims to develop new ways of preventing and treating them.

The Research

The research includes a broad range of activities, from electrophysiology, molecular biology and cellular imaging, to whole-body pharmacology and physiology. HIRi researchers are also involved in the discovery and characterisation of natural products as therapeutics. Phase II and III randomized, controlled clinical trials of complementary and other therapies are conducted in HIRi’s purpose-built facilities. HIRi researchers attract more than $8 million of research income every year.

Working Together for Better Health

To more effectively address the changing needs of biomedical research and society, HIRi better connects Australian and international health enterprises. It does this locally through fostering collaboration between key researchers and groups from the range of RMIT Schools. More widely, it coordinates inter-disciplinary and cross-institutional research with industry associates and other stakeholders. HIRi also shares its state-of-the-art infrastructure and technology with its partners to increase their research and development capability.

HIRi recognises the value of successful partnerships with local start up, major national biotechnology and large international pharmaceutical companies. Its academic and industry collaborations span all corners of the globe, including Australia, China, South East Asia, Europe and the USA. In this way, HIRi is creating a fertile environment for advanced technological and outcome-driven product research and development.

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Ion Channels and Transporters as Therapeutic Targets

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Metabolism, Exercise and Disease

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Traditional and Complementary Medicine

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