



# MonSTaR FOUNDATION



Together we can make a difference

## ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018

Proud to distribute \$580,000 to our beneficiaries this financial year

MonSTaR Foundation  
[Sarah.bunting@monstarfoundation.com.au](mailto:Sarah.bunting@monstarfoundation.com.au)

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## From the Directors

### MONSTAR FOUNDATION

#### Patron

Peter Overton

#### Directors

Mark Golding  
Greg Hargreaves  
Hamish Pearce

#### Foundation Manager

Sarah Bunting

#### Greatly assisted by

Cheryl Golding  
Kim Hargreaves

#### Additional contributions from

#### Danny Bergan Memorial Foundation

Daniel Bergan  
Stuart Jamieson  
Lana Trivuncevic

#### STaR Association

Margaret Meaker  
Rai Chen  
Megan Cooper



Welcome to our 2017-18 Annual Report.

Once again we are indebted to our friends, family and supporters – many of whom have been involved since our inception in 2007 through to all our new supporters who join us each year. Without you all, none of this would be possible.

As a registered Charity our funds are shared between Professor Dominic Rowe's MND research and clinic at Macquarie Neurology, MND Research Institute of Australia and the STaR Association who assist children with disabilities and other special needs. More detailed information about our beneficiaries and where the money goes is included in this report.

This report also includes details of the additional events we have undertaken in 2018 under the banner of the 'MonSTaR Golfers'. Through these established events which have now moved across under the MonSTaR Foundation name, we hope to raise over \$100,000 in additional funds for our beneficiaries.

Over 12 years, we have now raised \$3.5million. This year along with the contributions from the Danny Bergan Memorial Foundation, we were able to distribute \$580,000 (\*see p10) to our beneficiaries making the second consecutive year we've distributed over half a million dollars.

**Thank you for helping us make a difference.**

Mark, Greg and Hamish

## Who We Are



**Mark Golding** is the Director of GoldKey Financial Services and has operated successfully in the Financial Services sector for over 30 years. He was a board member of Pennant Hills Golf Club for a number of years and is a regular volunteer at the Matthew Talbot Hostel for the Homeless.

Mark's sister, Lisa, had profound disabilities and passed away at a young age. Mark is married to Cheryl and has three children, Cassandra, Lauren and Jonathan.



**Hamish Pearce** is a Financial Advisor with Mentor1 Financial Planning in North Sydney. Hamish's dedication to this cause came about through the MND diagnosis and subsequent passing of his wife Fiona in April 2007. The generosity and support that was extended to Hamish from family and friends during the tough times of Fiona's illness motivated him to establish the MonSTaR Foundation.

Hamish is now married to Kimberley and together they are raising Will, Angus and Jerry.



**Greg Hargreaves** is the Director of Hargreaves Property Group, a commercial property development business with over 30 years experience in the property industry. He has served as a board member of Pennant Hills Golf Club along with being an active volunteer at Matthew Talbot Hostel providing services for the homeless.

Greg's sister, Carmel has a learning disability and loves drawing the raffle with her hero Peter Overton at the MonSTaR Ball each year. Greg is married to Kim and they have three sons, Matthew, Daniel & Luke.

## Staff

Sarah Bunting continues as our Foundation Director and is our only paid staff member. With the addition of the extra MonSTaR Golfer events in 2018, Sarah works nearly full time all year round although hours are flexible in quieter times, through to full time (and more!) as we approach the MonSTaR Cup and MonSTaR Ball each year.

Sarah is voluntarily assisted by our Director's wives, Cheryl Golding and Kim Hargreaves along with the team at the STaR Association as we approach our key fundraising events each year along with many volunteers who assist on event days.

Sarah has over 20 years of event management and administration experience, predominantly with sporting events including wheelchair tennis and the Olympic and Paralympic tennis events. She lives on the Northern Beaches with Jason and their children Tana and Kaia.

## Our 2017-18 Sponsors

We are indebted to our sponsors and supporters – many of whom have been with us now over 10 years and without whom our event simply could not happen.

### OUR GOLD SPONSORS



## OUR SILVER SPONSORS





## OUR TABLE SPONSORS



*We would also like to acknowledge the contributions from the following supporters who donated product or gave additional assistance for this year's MonSTaR Cup and MonSTaR Ball.*



DIAGEO



## Danny Bergan Memorial Foundation

Once again we acknowledge and thank the Danny Bergan Memorial Foundation whose incredible efforts add significantly to our fundraising total each year.

Daniel Bergan lost his father to MND in 2007 and together with his best friend Stuart Jamieson, they have been raising funds through their golf day and trots nights each year ever since.

DBMF is run solely by volunteer efforts and corporate sponsorship, allowing them to donate 100% of all of their net proceeds directly to MonSTaR. We are so pleased to be able to pass on these proceeds on their behalf to both the STaR Association and MND Clinics and Research.



Their amazing contributions have amounted to over \$635,000 over the last 7 years.

To Daniel, Stuart and their team – your efforts are truly remarkable. We are forever grateful for your incredible support of the MonSTaR Foundation.

*This financial year the Danny Bergan Memorial Foundation contributed **\$110,000** to the MonSTaR Foundation.*





## MonSTaR Golfers - Additional Events for 2018

Since the start of 2018 we have added seven new events – coming under the new name of **MonSTaR Golfers**. These events were already established and previously run voluntarily by a group of MonSTaR golfing supporters. We'd especially like to thank John & Jenny Cover, Steve & Cath Bardwell, John Cheadle and Brian Hamilton for all their hard work establishing these events and offering MonSTaR the chance to raise additional funds for our beneficiaries. As mentioned at the MonSTaR Ball in March, we will share some of our initial net proceeds from these events with Sporting Chance Children's Cancer Foundation who were the previous beneficiary.

We are proud to have already distributed **\$82,400** to the MonSTaR beneficiaries from the MonSTaR Golfers fundraising so far in 2018 along with an additional **\$15,000** to Sporting Chance.

**MonSTaR Golfer Membership** - approximately 80 players who pay an annual fee of \$1,000 (which includes a \$500 donation to MonSTaR) to participate in 5 golf days throughout the year which for 2018 are:

1. Pennant Hills Golf Day
2. Avondale Golf Day
3. Twin Creeks Golf Day
4. Bonnie Doon Golf Day
5. Concord Golf Day and Christmas Dinner

In addition to the 5 golf days under the MonSTaR Golfer Membership, this year we will also run:

- **MonSTaR Race Day** – 305 people at Rosehill Races in August
- **Sportsman's Lunch** – 150 people at The Hunters Hill Club in October

We are very fortunate to have an extremely supportive group of MonSTaR Golfers and at each event we run auctions and raffles to raise additional funds.

*We hope by the end of this year to have raised well over \$100,000 in additional funds to share between our beneficiaries.*

If you are interested in joining the MonSTaR Golfers or supporting our additional events with raffle or auction items – please email Sarah at [sarah.bunting@monstarfoundation.com.au](mailto:sarah.bunting@monstarfoundation.com.au)

## Finances

The MonSTaR Foundation has seen significant growth since our move to the city in 2016 for our 10 year anniversary celebration. (Figures rounded to nearest \$100.)

Year	Evening Guests	Venue	Revenue	Expenses	Balance	Danny Bergan	Donated to Beneficiaries
2015	330	Pennant Hills Golf Club	\$418,000	\$147,000	\$271,000	\$86,000	<b>\$350,000</b>
2016	470	Four Seasons	\$538,000	\$183,000	\$355,000	\$112,000	<b>\$400,000</b>
2017	630	The Westin	\$685,000	\$265,000	\$420,000	\$143,500	<b>\$500,000</b>
2018	695	The Westin	\$724,200	\$279,000	\$445,200	\$110,000	<b>\$555,200</b>

*For the 2017-18 Financial Year  
MonSTaR distributed **\$580,000\*** to our beneficiaries.*

*\*\$520,000 from the 2018 MonSTaR Cup and Ball and \$60,000 in September last year from additional funds raised from the 2017 event.*

## Keeping Costs to a Minimum

We continue to remain conscious of minimising our operational costs to ensure the maximum amount raised can be given to our beneficiaries. These are some of the ways we aim to achieve this:

- No MonSTaR Foundation office – Sarah works from home.
- Wages and salaries are 9% of revenue.
- Less than \$250 stationery/office costs this financial year and no other overheads including phone, internet, utilities or car expenses are claimed by Sarah or Directors.
- We use voluntary or heavily discounted services of MonSTaR business connections wherever we can for services such as accounting, website, media, designers, printing etc.
- We rely heavily on volunteers on event days and are strongly supported by the STaR Association and other volunteers in the lead up to the event.
- The Directors are not paid any wage or salary and do not claim any expenses.
- We were extremely lucky to receive donated product which help our bottom line such as soft drink and water through Schweppes/Voss, flowers for the evening function through Wahroonga Flower Shoppe and the BBQ at golf provided by The Baristas' Shed.
- Incredible donations, auction and raffle items from our many supporters including Renascent Australia who raise significant funds for us each year and Tremlett Jewellery who joined us for the first time in 2018.
- We were able to build our new website for under \$1,500.

*Salaries are less than 9% of revenue.*

*Directors are not paid any salary and do not claim any expenses.*

## MonSTaR Summary Accounts 2018

<b>Revenue</b>		<b>% of total Revenue</b>
Sponsors	\$ 177,300	21%
Dinner only	\$ 43,500	5%
Auctions	\$ 367,160	44%
Raffle/other event day	\$ 45,495	5%
Donations	\$ 90,758	11%
Danny Bergan Memorial Foundation	\$ 110,000	13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 836,231</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Expenses</b>		<b>% of total Revenue</b>
Golf Day	\$ 46,270	6%
Ball	\$ 114,100	14%
Other Event Expenses	\$ 8,730	1%
Operations	\$ 75,900	9%
Auction item costs (estimate)	\$ 34,000	4%
<i>To be distributed to beneficiaries</i>	<i>\$ 555,000</i>	<i>66%</i>
<b>Net funds</b>	<b>\$ 555,222**</b>	<b>100%</b>

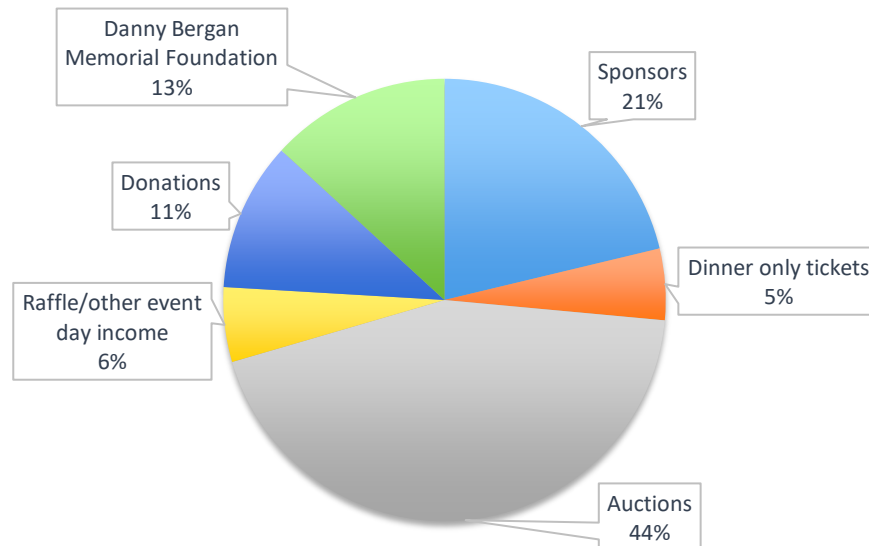
<b>Total given to beneficiaries so far from 2017-2018 funds</b>	<b>\$ 520,000</b>
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\* The \$580,000 distributed during the 2017-18 Financial Year is made up of \$520,000 from the 2018 MonSTaR Cup and Ball and \$60,000 in Sep 2017 from additional funds raised from the 2017 event.

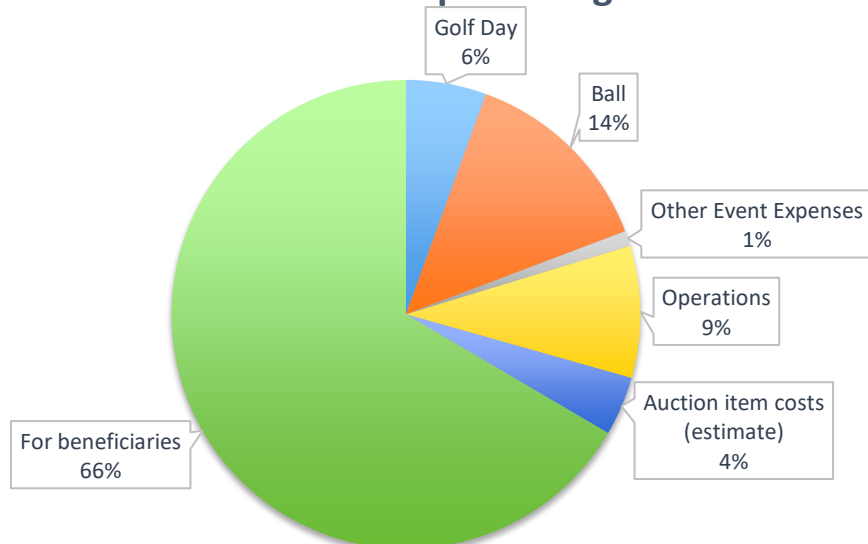
\*\* From the net \$555,222 raised, \$35,222 is used as working capital in preparation for the 2019 event before more income is received.

## 2017-18 Summary of MonSTaR Foundation Revenue and Expenses

### MonSTaR Foundation Revenue 2017-18 \$826,231



### MonSTaR Foundation Expenses and Beneficiary Distributions 2017-18 as a percentage of Revenue



## Beneficiaries

The funds we raise are shared between three beneficiaries:

- The STaR Association (50%)
  - Educational programs and the funding of special educators to support children with disabilities, in turn ensuring that they are able to attend mainstream childcare centres.
- The MND Research Institute of Australia (25%)
  - Research into finding a cure for MND
- The Macquarie Neurology MND Clinic headed by Professor Dominic Rowe (25%)
  - Operating a Multi-Disciplinary Clinic which provides critical support to those suffering from MND.

## Beneficiary Reports

The funds we raise help specific projects for each of our beneficiaries each year. Their reports are included on the next pages.



# The STaR Association

Received \$290,000 in 2017-18

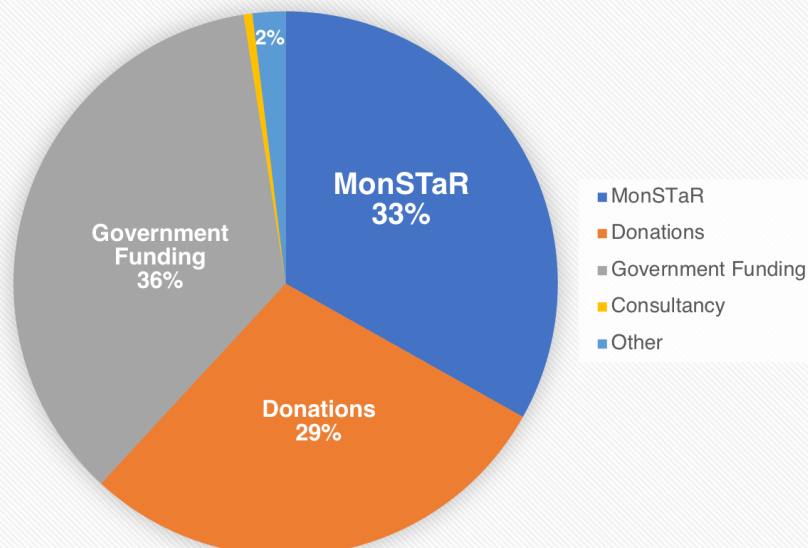
STaR provides access to mainstream childcare centres for children with disabilities, opportunities for them to reach their full potential and acceptance of their difference. We often support children with very complicated needs who otherwise would be refused care. We don't promise to fix the children but we do promise to teach them.

In the past financial year, philanthropic support generated 62% of STaR income. Over half of this income came from MonSTaR. Without this support we would simply have to halve our services overnight. STaR is grateful to MonSTaR for recognising the importance of what we do to include as many children with disabilities as possible in mainstream child care centres. We have made a conscious decision not to impose fundraising on our families who are already stressed and stretched financially and emotionally, and we therefore rely on philanthropy to fill the gap in funding.

*The support we have received during FY 2017 - 2018 has enabled us to:*

- Support 81 children and their families
- Continue working with 10 child care centres
- Provide intensive, crisis support to 6 vulnerable families
- Commence development of a Family Support model
- Recruit a STaR Education Manager, an additional Special Educator and 1 release teacher to join our dynamic team

**STaR Income for FY 2017-2018**



Whilst the support we give every STaR child varies, **on average it costs STaR \$12,500 to put a child through our educational program each year.** Every donation is deeply appreciated and never taken for granted. Without your support we will not be able to continue giving all children the chance to learn together.

## Nathaniel's STaR Story

Imagine a very sociable little boy, just 5 years old, who gets invited to the birthday parties of other children attending childcare at Bright Achievers Glenwood. Think of his enthusiasm for trucks, cars and trains. Share his anticipation of going to school with his older brothers next year. These are very positive aspects of Nathaniel's world.

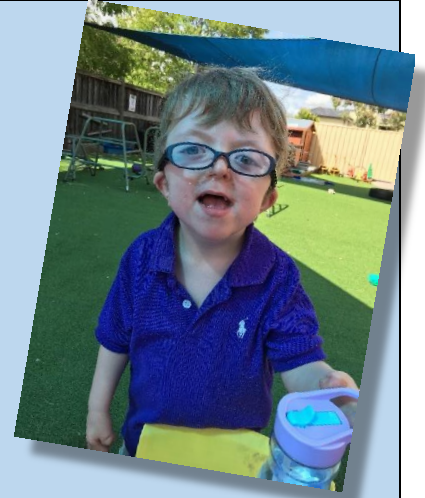
Nathaniel also has challenges that result from Apert syndrome. For him to even experience the joy of playing with other children, his parents had to take the risk that he would 'catch' ordinary childhood illnesses that challenge his suppressed immune system.

Nathaniel has to work hard at learning skills that come easily to most children his age: dressing, toileting, using scissors and pencils, climbing, speaking so that he is understood. Luckily, there is a committed and collaborative 'Team Nathaniel' who ensure that his childcare day gives plenty of opportunities to practise the skills he needs now and for school next year, while he does whatever the other children are doing and has fun. On the team are Nathaniel's childcare educator, a STaR special educator and his speech pathologist, physiotherapist and occupational therapist, all guided by his parents' priorities. They plan the steps and the right amount of assistance and praise as Nathaniel becomes more competent and independent.

Right now, Nathaniel is getting ready to be a schoolboy who is able to follow instructions, take part in news time, manage his lunchbox and schoolbag, write his name and take turns in an activity. These skills – and his dazzling personality – will be a recipe for a successful start to school, along with the welcoming attitude that Cherrybrook Public School has shown.

Nathaniel is a brilliant reminder that STaR children are so much more than their diagnosis labels!

Thank you MonSTaR.



# MND Research Institute of Australia

Received \$145,000 in 2017-18

The Motor Neurone Disease Research Institute of Australia (MNDRIA), the research arm of MND Australia, promotes research excellence by supporting only the best research that has the greatest chance of finding effective treatments and improving the care of people living with MND.

MNDRIA has been funding research in Australia for 31 years through projects which advance MND research to understand its causes, foster the development of treatments and clinical trials or enhance clinical research and the evidence-base for clinical practice.

MonSTaR Foundation is funding two MND research projects through MNDRIA in 2018. These projects would not have been possible without the support provided by MonSTaR. Below are brief summaries of these projects:

## **Associate Professor Anna King**

University of Tasmania

### **MonSTaR MND Research Grant 2018**

*Towards axon protection in ALS*

Nerve cells communicate with each other and their targets, such as muscle, via long processes called axons. In motor neurone disease (MND) these nerve cell processes degenerate and are lost, resulting in a loss of movement.



Several mechanisms of axon degeneration have been recently identified, but we don't know which of these mechanisms is involved in MND. In this project, we will use two models to determine which mechanisms of axon degeneration are involved in nerve process loss in MND. This will allow us to determine which molecules to target for therapeutic intervention.

## **Dr Shyuan Ngo**

University of Queensland

### **MonSTaR MND Research Grant 2018**

*Using single cell RNA-sequencing of induced pluripotent stem cell derived neurones to identify novel disease*

Our studies of energy balance in MND show that people with MND use more energy than expected. We have new data to show that this increase in energy use might be linked to the loss of nerve cells in the spinal cord and that it can affect patient outcome.



We now aim to make nerve cells from MND patients to investigate gene signatures that might explain why nerve cells are susceptible to death and how this relates to energy balance. Insights will help to develop therapies to save nerve cells from death.



# Macquarie University MND Research Centre and Clinic

Received \$145,000 in 2017-2018



MACQUARIE  
University

## Background

The multidisciplinary Motor Neurone Disease (MND) service led by Professor Dominic Rowe AM and his clinical team treats 10% of all Australians living with MND. Their integrated approach means all patients have access to expert neurological care as well as to a range of allied health professionals – all in one location.

All patients and their families are invited to supply DNA and tissue samples that are stored for ongoing analysis in the Macquarie MND Biobank. A centerpiece of the research program and largest of its kind in Australia, the Biobank has collected more than 30,000 samples from 700 individuals since 2013.

## Meet the team

- Genetics Team – led by geneticist Associate Professor Ian Blair
- Biomarker and Cellular Stress Team – led by Associate Professor Julie Atkin
- Protein Aggregation Team – led by neuroscientist Professor Roger Chung
- Neuroinflammation and Neurotoxicity Team – led by Professor Gilles Guillemin
- Zebra Fish Team – led by Dr Angela Laird

## A word of thanks

“We mean it when we say that we couldn’t run the Macquarie University MND Clinic without the support of the MonSTaR Foundation.

The Clinic currently looks after 200 patients with MND. The support from the MonSTaR Foundation enables us to run MND Clinic every Wednesday, with multidisciplinary clinic on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month.

The generosity that we receive from the MonSTaR Foundation supports the MND Clinic team, including our MND Coordinator and allied health clinicians. It helps to buy assistive and adaptive equipment for the clinic that improves the lives of our MND patients, and further supports the admission of patients without insurance.

MonSTaR Foundation’s support of the Macquarie University MND Clinic is crucial to our work with MND patients and their families. We wouldn’t have made the progress we have to date without this invaluable support.”

– Professor Dominic Rowe AM



## Latest milestones

Macquarie has recently completed two trials designed to significantly prolong the survival of MND sufferers.

### The Lighthouse Trial

We have completed the first phase of the Lighthouse trial in which we re-purposed an HIV therapy to see if it could slow or stop activation of endogenous retroviruses in sporadic MND – the most common form of MND. The next phase will be an international trial we are looking to commence in late 2018/early 2019.

### Copper-ATSM

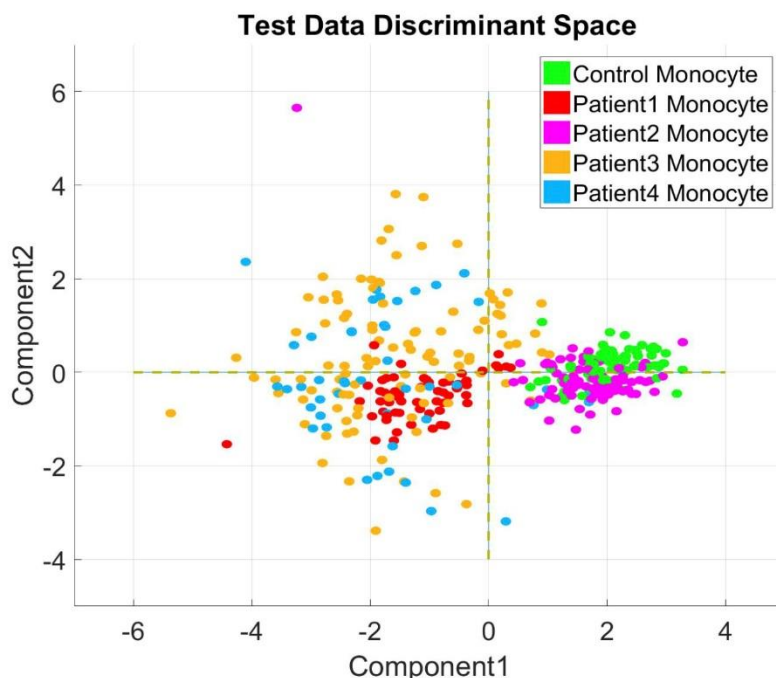
Dom Rowe is also leading a world-first clinical trial testing a novel compound developed in Australia called Copper-ATSM, aiming to redress the imbalance of metals that occurs in the brain of patients.

Our hope is to commence a third trial in the near future using a therapy called 3K3A-APC to address the inflammatory response implicated in MND.

### Patent for Blood test that detects MND

(refer to Test Data Discriminant Space graph)

The Clinic was recently awarded a patent for new technology to diagnose MND, a novel blood test that is able to identify changes known as ‘monocytes’ which are a kind of blood cell from MND patients.



## How you can help

- **Become a Sponsor**
  - The MonSTaR Cup simply could not happen without the support of our amazing sponsors and supporters. We have a variety of sponsorship packages available and you can also buy individual tickets to the evening function. Visit <http://www.monstarfoundation.com.au/events/monstar-cup-2018> for info.
- **Donate**
  - A single donation allows us to help with day to day items that are needed by both STaR and MND throughout the year.
  - A regular monthly donation allows us to fund longer term projects to make a real difference to the lives of many children and adults.
  - Visit <http://www.monstarfoundation.com.au/get-involved/donate> to donate.
  - All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.
- **Volunteer**
  - We need a variety of volunteers on the day and in the lead up to the event. To volunteer, please call Sarah on 0432 719210 or email [sarah.bunting@monstarfoundation.com.au](mailto:sarah.bunting@monstarfoundation.com.au)
- **Invite friends**
  - Do you have a friend, family member or a business associate such as your firm of accountants or lawyers who might like to support MonSTaR alongside you? We'd love to hear from you.
- **Help source products or donate an item**
  - Could you, or someone you know, help us source items for the event such as beer for the evening function, signage, stationery or even a fabulous new auction item? Large or small, they all make a difference.

## Looking Ahead - 2019 MonSTaR Cup

The next MonSTaR Cup will take place on Friday 29th March 2019 and will once again comprise of a golf day at Pennant Hills Golf Club for 144 golfers followed by a black-tie ball at The Westin Sydney for around 700 guests - a spectacular evening of free-flowing drinks, delicious 3-course meal and fabulous entertainment finished off with dancing into the early hours to a live band.

Golf and dinner sponsorship packages are available or you can join us for the evening function as a Table Sponsor or buy individual tickets and come with friends. Golf always fills early so please register through our website or call Sarah on 0432 719 210 if you'd like to join us for 2019. We'd love to see you there.

### Contact Us

[www.monstarfoundation.com.au](http://www.monstarfoundation.com.au)

[sarah.bunting@monstarfoundation.com.au](mailto:sarah.bunting@monstarfoundation.com.au)

Call Sarah: 0432 719 210