

ACvA newsletter – January 2020

Dear Colleagues

We love keeping you engaged and active in the ACvA – read on for ACvA activities and upcoming events. In this edition:

- Inaugural ACvA Executive Director announced
- Funding opportunities and the “Mission” update
- Events – current and upcoming



Appointment of the new ACvA Executive Director

Happy 2020 to all our members. Many of you are aware that we have run a highly competitive recruitment process for the critical leadership position in our team- our inaugural Executive Director. The Executive Director is the key management leader of ACvA and is responsible for overseeing the administration, programs and strategic plan of the organisation by providing strategic advice, managing communications and implementing strategies to support the achievement of the organisation’s strategic and operational objectives. The position reports directly to the Board of Directors.

We are thrilled to announce that we have appointed Ms Kerry Doyle in this role as our new Executive Director. Kerry will be stepping across from the Heart Foundation where she has been the Chief Executive Officer at the NSW Division, and played a huge role in strategy development. She also has immense experience in working with state and federal government- from both internally and in advocacy, having previously been the Executive Director of NSW Government’s Industry, Innovation & Investment Division. Kerry has interests that span from fundamental discovery and innovation through to public health.



A key early goal for Kerry and the team that she will build around her, will be to cement the key research flagships of the Australian Cardiovascular Alliance and facilitate the drawing up of a map of current research strengths and research priorities, as well as capacity building initiatives relevant to each. In addition to formulating communication of these priorities to the independent Expert Advisory Board of the Mission, the Executive Director will work with the Board to explore opportunities with leading international industry partners, and philanthropy, as well as with the state and territory governments. Working in close collaboration with our founding partner the Heart Foundation will be greatly strengthened by having Kerry in this role.

We would like to express massive thanks to our supporters who have contributed to our skeleton budget for our Executive Director, and a number of support staff. These include **Bioplatforms Australia; the Snow Foundation; The Heart Foundation and The NSW Cardiovascular Research Network**. Thank you, also, to those other fabulous applicants who

applied – it was terrific to see the broad interest of talented individuals who were inspired by the Mission of the ACvA.

The “Mission” and other funding opportunities

As many of you know, the MRFF Mission for Cardiovascular Health released a call for applications for its first round of grant funding just in time for Christmas! Whilst this initial round does not yet refer very closely to the roadmap that you all fed back on, this is just the initial round. The extensive public feedback that went into roadmap, specifically with an emphasis on whole-of-pipeline collaborative research strategy will be a focus for integration into future rounds. Please let us know if you are putting together and application that any of our Flagships could help you with.

Also, please note, that whilst the Mission (~\$20 Mill pa) will be an important injection into the sector- driving collaborative and translational research excellence and capacity, this is only one of many opportunities we have for the ACvA to help increase funding and in-kind support of cardiovascular research in Australia. Please continue to engage with us so that we can work to provide the best platform for all traditional grant opportunities as well as other less classic funding opportunities you may dream up.

Events

FEBRUARY 2020

Drug Discovery Flagship Workshop | 1st February 2019 | Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute

Clinical Trials Flagship and ANZACT Combined Workshop | 6th February, Melbourne

Please follow on twitter (@OzCvA) and ACvA website (<https://www.ozheart.org/>)

Communication and media presence

- Thanks to the hard work of our energetic emerging leaders Committee, and some of our hard-core twitter addicts, we have dramatically increased our social media presence. We are well over 1400 twitter followers!
- If you have any stories that you are keen on promoting regarding individual research experience or discovery, please let us know.

Next Steps



The ACvA has the unique opportunity to continue to increase the visibility of cardiovascular disease, and to work with state and federal agencies, to increase peer-reviewed funding for research into heart, stroke and vascular disease.

For our voice to continue to be heard and acted on in the community and at a government level, we need to act together. This level of advocacy needs to happen right now, and the legal structure, as well as the breadth of membership makes the ACvA a powerful force.

Please renew your membership when prompted to do so to help us to continue to forge ahead with our goals and thank you for your support.

January 2020