



Australian SCAD Support Group

It's been a really big year for SCAD awareness. In August the SCAD paper from the Victor Chang Institute was published by Open Heart. This is a great step forward.

Recently I have been contacted by a cardiac rehab nurse from Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital as she was wanting an 'information' pack to give to SCAD patients on discharge from hospital. It is great to see that we are finally raising the awareness we need within the hospital system. She will be giving all current and future SCAD patients the leaflet, website address and Facebook details so that they can make contact with other survivors.

I received an email from CVS services (cardiology group in WA) saying that "I am currently updating our website for CVS and perhaps you may wish for me to put a link to your website to assist in increasing awareness and direct patients to your wonderful support group. Please let me know if you would like for me to do this for you. Also, perhaps in the future we could look at presenting an educational webinar with you for your support group in the future and we could ask Dr Clugston to perhaps present to your group as he is a wonderfully talented and highly respected Interventional Cardiologist. In the future CVS is also looking at providing Patient Educational Evenings at Hollywood Hospital so perhaps that may be of interest to the SCAD support group?"

This is great news and I will be following up on this.

Pamela McKenzie

Australian Research updates



Research into SCAD attracts Funding

For the first time this year the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand secured support (\$100,000) from the pharmaceutical company Boehringer Ingelheim to fund research into heart and blood vessel diseases.

Eighty applications were received from researchers around Australia, and I am pleased to report that the application from the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute and St. Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, along with colleagues at the Mount Sinai Medical Centre in New York to study SCAD, was successful.

The study aims to look for alterations in genes that may be the underlying cause of SCAD as well as looking at the function of cells obtained from SCAD sufferers.

"In the first instance, we will be looking for a gene variant found in people with fibromuscular dysplasia (FMD) by the Mount Sinai group, to see if it also is prevalent in SCAD sufferers, as FMD is commonly found in SCAD sufferers", said Prof Robert Graham, who heads the study. "I am delighted that with this grant we can now start to move ahead in trying to find the causes of SCAD and there's no doubt that we only got the grant because of all of the SCAD sufferers who signed up to Pamela's Facebook site and volunteered to help – so please give yourselves a big pat on the back" he continued. "However", he cautioned, "this work will take time and realistically more funding, but it's a great start. So thank you all".

Prof. Bob Graham

Executive Director
Head of Cardiac Receptor Biology Laboratory

Canadian SCAD studies

<http://scad.ubc.ca/>

The Canadian SCAD study is still going strong, with hospitals and research groups participating in most of the provinces across the country. We're hoping that through our combined efforts, we'll be able to shed some more light on this condition.

Brady Robinson

Research Coordinator
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Sites of interest -

<https://aheartdivine.wordpress.com/>

written by one of our own –
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