

Bright Sparks

Creating a brighter tomorrow.



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Heart disease and diabetes are among the biggest health problems facing the Western world. Australians are living longer, but our quality of life is seriously threatened by a modern day health crisis. Heart disease, diabetes, cancer and dementia have reached alarming levels in the community.

We need great minds and leaders to help solve these problems. We need your help now more than ever before.

The Bright Sparks program is just one of the many ways the Baker Institute is addressing our current health crisis. The program invests in the next generation of scientific leaders who will help to create great change, and a brighter, healthier future for all Australians.

Each new group of Bright Sparks scientists go on to excel in their chosen field, help train others, and bring about powerful changes and developments in medical research that ultimately improves the health of all Australians.

"There is no medicine like hope, no incentive so great, and no tonic so powerful as expectation of something better tomorrow." Dr Orison Swett Marden, American Author.



From humble beginnings to an inspiring Bright Spark

The Baker Institute's Dr Xiaowei Wang is a Senior Research Fellow in the Atherothrombosis and Vascular Biology Laboratory.

Xiaowei commenced her career at the Institute as a student, and with the help of the Bright Sparks Scholarship Program, generously funded by kind donors like you, she has gone on to receive her PhD. She has earned over 20 international and national grants and awards for her research into cardiovascular disease, and is one of our most inspiring future research leaders. Xiaowei explains what the help of the *Bright Sparks* community has meant to her and her research career.

Investing in Scientific Talent

From a spark of inspiration comes great discoveries.

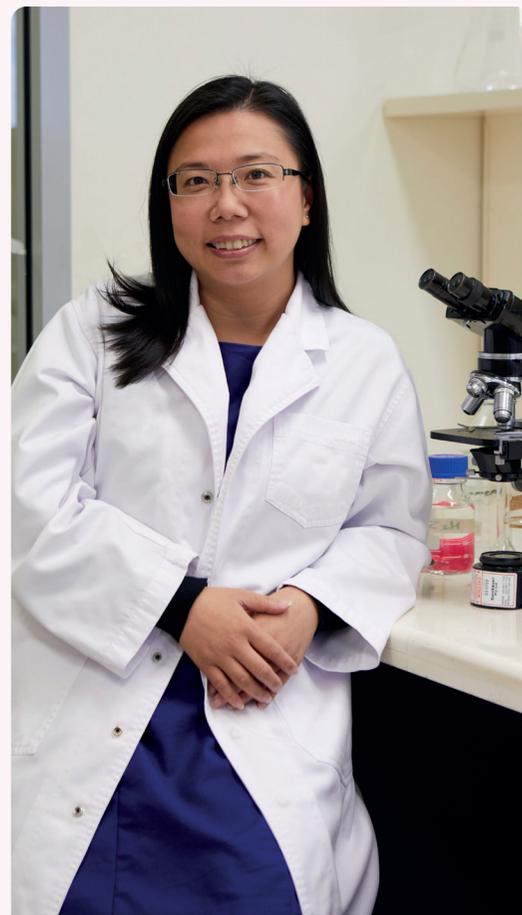
Medical research is a long-term investment, it requires innovation and dedication to solve our biggest health problems.

At the Baker Institute there are more than 300 scientists, support staff, health professionals and students who are committed to tackling the deadly trio of diabetes, heart disease and obesity. We provide an environment where innovation is continually fostered in the next generation of scientific leaders. This includes offering life changing and career enhancing opportunities through mentoring from senior scientists, lectures, training initiatives, research prizes, project grants, scholarships and fellowships.



'It's one of the things I really enjoy doing now, looking out for people to mentor and support. It's important to encourage them to believe in themselves—not to think that people like me should always be the only people whose voices are heard—but to create the best training pathways and hear the voices of other new up and coming Aboriginal researchers — because they need to take over.'

Professor Sandra Eades,
Head of Aboriginal Health.



"I come from a family from below the poverty line. Growing up in Singapore, I was recognised as a highly capable individual with an exceptional intellect by my teachers and professors. I am the first in my family to have obtained a university degree, without a scholarship and support from the Bright Sparks community, I would have needed additional employment to continue my studies and support my family.

I feel extremely fortunate and thankful for the support of the Bright Sparks community over the last 10 years. Your belief in my capabilities has motivated me to further excel in my research, shaping me into the researcher that I am today.

Dr Xiaowei Wang,
Group Leader and
Baker Fellow.



You hold the key

Join the Bright Sparks community to forever remain a piece of the bigger picture

It is the foresight and devotion of supporters like you that make the Bright Sparks community so powerful.

You hold the key to keeping our Bright Sparks scientists at the forefront of ground-breaking discoveries.

With over \$350,000 distributed annually, awards, scholarships and grants are valued from \$500 through to \$120,000 per year. Pledges span over three years to ensure financial stability for our early career scientists.

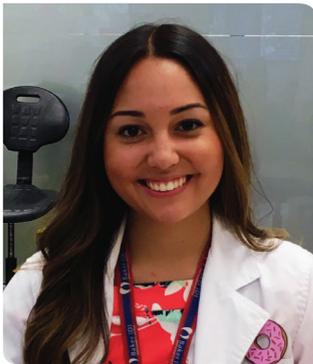
Contributions to this program are tax deductible and donors receive invitations to events, opportunities to tour our facilities with award recipients and special recognition on our website and in bi-annual newsletters.

The Bright Sparks program invests in the scientific leaders of tomorrow. To achieve this, the Bright Sparks community will provide the following types of support annually:

Top-Up Scholarships for PhD Students

\$7,500 per year for three years

Awarded to the most gifted university students pursuing their PhD and who are driven to excel in highly competitive environments. These scholarships serve to supplement the student's funding base, aid in significantly covering living expenses whilst studying and allows the student to focus on their education and research.



"My research focus is on Alzheimer's disease. The Stipend Scholarship enables me to perform research on a novel genetic model, being the most physiologically correct model thus far. Comprehensive behavioural analysis will be used to investigate all areas of cognitive decline associated with the progression of Alzheimer's disease. Without this scholarship, this type of research would not be possible."

Jessica Marshall,
Stipend Scholarship recipient.

Travel Awards & Travel Fellowships

Up to \$10,000 per award

The ability to share research results and information at an international level is one of the major factors that accelerates research progress and success.

An invitation to participate in seminal conferences provides an opportunity for students to grow their research networks and enable visits to renowned research institutes — an invaluable occasion for them to discuss postdoctoral opportunities with potential collaborators and to broaden their research horizons.



"Those with the foresight to invest in Bright Sparks are participating in a joint effort to enable ongoing research efforts of scientists like myself, and contribute to the health of future generations and fostering the health of Australian medical science, which in turn will result in a healthier Australian population."

Dr Darren Henstridge,
Head of Cellular and Molecular
Metabolism Laboratory.

Travel & Research Scholarships

\$15,000 per award

The complex problems of heart disease and diabetes cannot be solved in silos and global collaborations are a necessity to advance research. This scholarship provides funding for an intensive training period of 2-3 months at an international host institution, giving the student an opportunity to significantly broaden their research horizons with internationally renowned scientists.

“There is nothing more satisfying than to be the enabler for our young future innovators. Times are changing in science and philanthropy. We’re seeing big, life-changing breakthroughs being made by this new generation of gifted researchers. We want our involvement and support to be used imaginatively, constructively and systematically, and investing in talent now is the perfect time.”

Andrew Miller,
The Miller Foundation.

Educational Retreat

\$20,000 per year

This two day educational retreat is an opportunity for our early career scientists to develop the core skills that will be key to managing research projects. Academic success is one thing, but learning the practicalities of business and life skills, is what spearheads scientific innovations.



“Thanks to you, we can continue our most promising and innovative life-saving research. Because of you, we can fund state-of-the-art equipment and continue to develop our best and brightest minds into world-leading scientists. Together we can find new ways to understand, diagnose and treat cardiovascular disease, diabetes and associated conditions - helping to save millions of lives.”

Professor Thomas Marwick,
Director, Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute.

Stipend Scholarship for PhD Students

\$35,000 per year for three years

The Bright Sparks Stipend Scholarship recognises particularly gifted scientists throughout Australia and internationally. These individuals are working towards gaining their PhD, and the stipend provides the means for them to move to collaborate at the Baker Institute. Since the introduction of Bright Sparks stipends, all recipients have gone on to obtain prestigious external funding to support the completion of their PhD.

Novel Research Grants

\$50,000 per year for three years

Finding pathways that do not yet exist takes courage and a leap of faith. Novel Research Grants provide an opportunity for early career scientists to go off the beaten track, leading a pilot project that follows a promising but unproven theory.

Career Development Grants

\$50,000 per year for three years

Career Development Grants support the impressive scientists who are emerging leaders in their field and are building strong academic careers in the years following the completion of their PhD.

Early Career Scientist Fellowships

\$120,000 per year for three years

To address the biggest health problems facing Australia, we need the best minds working on innovative solutions.

Through your generous support, we can award and retain our highest performing young scientists, and provide them with a long-term salary guarantee meaning they can focus on their journey of discovery to change and improve the health of millions of people.



A brighter future is in your hands

A brighter future for the health of all Australians requires a solid pillar of support, generosity and foresight. The progress and success of life-saving medical research lies in your hands.

Your investment in our emerging research leaders ensures that preventions and therapies for heart disease and diabetes keep moving forward, and our quality of life can keep improving.

Please consider joining the Bright Sparks community today and join the movement to end heart disease and diabetes.

For information about the Baker Institute or the Bright Sparks community, please contact:

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