



A U S T R A L I A

RESEARCH  
ADVOCACY  
CURE

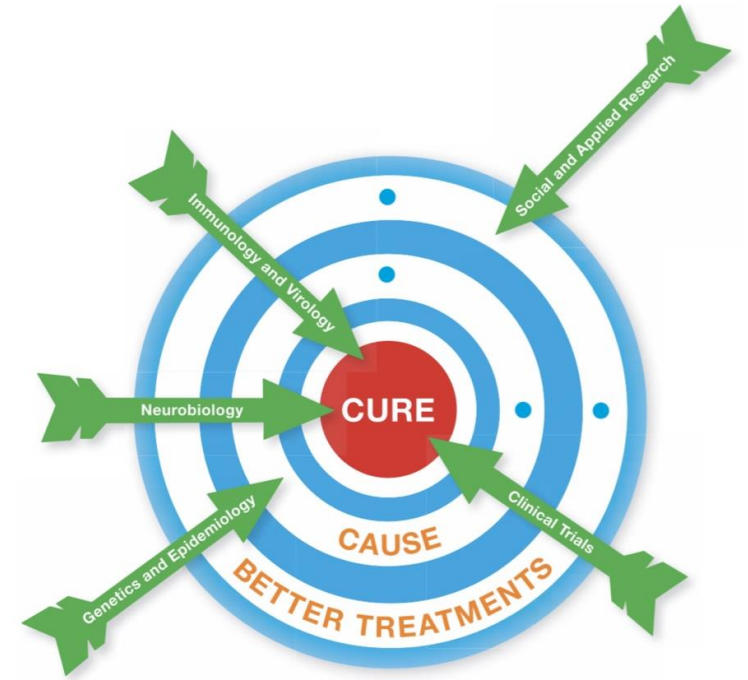
# **The Future for MS Research in Australia**

## ***Closing Remarks***

**Rohan Greenland**  
**CEO MS Australia**

# Summary

- Where are we now?
- Research priorities survey results
- Supercharging the research agenda



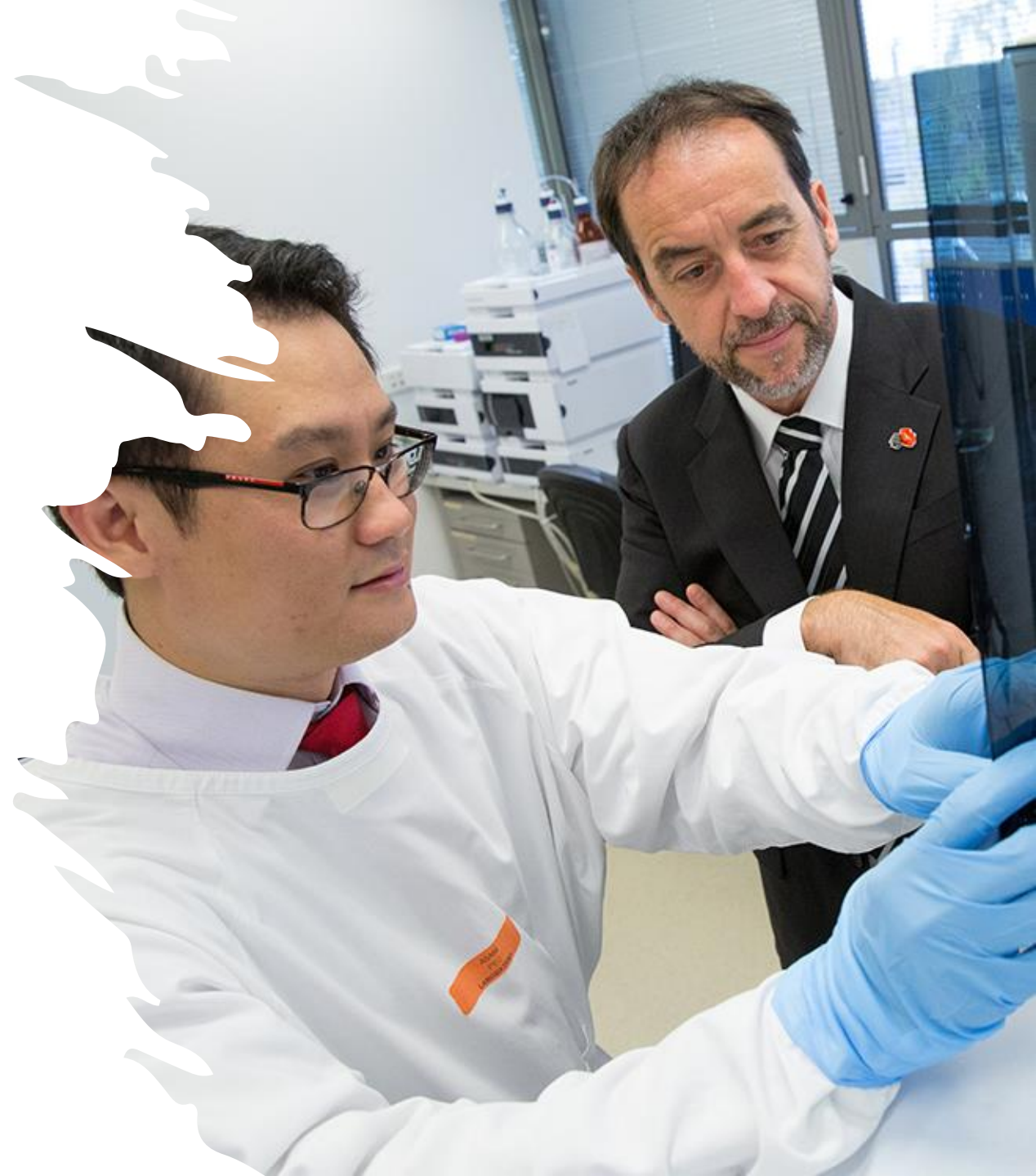
# The new MS Australia

- MS Australia and MS Research Australia merged in 2020
- Bringing together of activities
  - ◆ Research
  - ◆ Advocacy
  - ◆ Education and Awareness
  - ◆ Governance and Operations



# MSA Strategic Planning

- Developing strategic plan for the new entity 2022-26
- Focus groups around the country
- Consultations with Member Organisations, international bodies
- Research & advocacy priorities survey
- Strategic plan to be launched later this year



# Research and Advocacy Priorities Survey

- Repeat of 2016 survey to determine priorities of the MS community
  - Research
  - Advocacy
  - Strategy
- Undertaken July-August 2021



# Research Priorities

- Asked about overall priorities
- Questions drilled down into specific research questions
- Very powerful, as we could split according to different respondent characteristics eg: connection to MS or type of MS
- Able to compare and contrast with the 2016 results

# MSA Research Strategy

- Priorities align with the current research strategy and allows us to use the detailed data to plan for the future
- Commitment to **supercharge the research agenda** for MS in Australia



# MSA Research Strategy

- Aligned with survey results
- Has evolved over time:
  - May 2018 – Roadmap to Defeat MS in Australia
  - Oct 2019 – Roadmap Implementation Plan
  - **September 2021 – MRFF Proposal**



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# MSA Research Strategy – MRFF Proposal

- Find cures through repair and regeneration
- Develop better treatments and prevent MS via co and shared infrastructure
- Support and expand clinical trials for the cure and prevention of MS



# MS Research in Australia

MSA proud to currently fund:

- 7 national platforms
  - 4 international platforms
  - 60 ongoing individual research grants
- 
- Overall we have funded:
  - Over \$47m in MS research
  - 327 individual grants

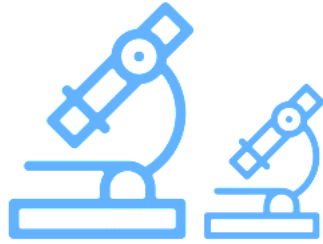


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# Research Priorities and Streams

## Priorities



Cure for MS (through repair, regeneration and neuroprotection)



Better Treatments



Causes and Prevention

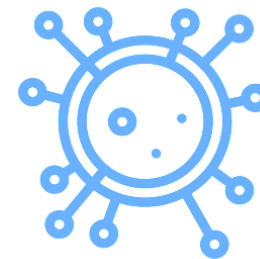
## Streams



Genetics and Epidemiology



Neurobiology



Immunology



Social and Applied

# Investigator-led Grants

- Applications invited
  - Annual grant rounds for most grant types
  - Incubator Grants two rounds per year
  - 2021 has the largest ever number of grant types: projects, scholarships, postdoctoral and senior fellowships, paired fellowships and incubators
  - Targeted call projects call for applications in a specific area
- International subject-matter experts approached to provide peer-reviews
- Applicants provide 'rebuttals' to reviewers comments
- Application materials sent to RMC members
- RMC meet in October each year - review, discuss and rank applications
- RMC Chairs present recommendations to MS Australia CEO



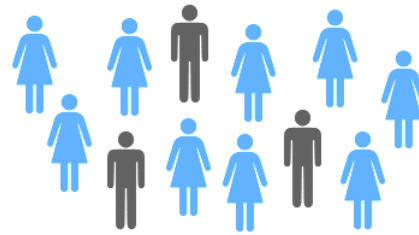
# National Research Platforms



ANZgene



MS Research Australia  
Brain Bank



Australian MS  
Longitudinal Study



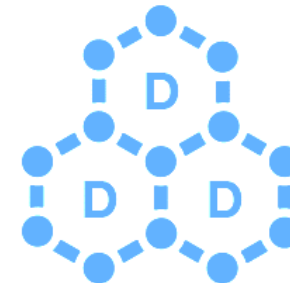
InforMS



MS Clinical Trials



AHSCT Registry



PrevANZ

# The community is powering research

- Integrating fundraising across the MS organisations – greater efficiencies, effectiveness and more money for research
- MSWA record \$7.4m
- May50K raised \$5.2m



\$5,150,234

**RAISED TO LEAVE MS WHERE  
IT BELONGS, BEHIND US.**



28,623

**PEOPLE ARE LEAVING THEIR  
LIMITS BEHIND.**

# Thank you!



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