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Message from the Director

Season's Greetings

Wishing You a 'Cell'-ebration of Joy and Discovery this Festive Season

December 2023

As we approach the close of another remarkable year at the Gillies McIndoe Research Institute, I wanted to take a moment to extend our heartfelt Season's Greetings and express our deepest gratitude for your unwavering support. Your generosity has been instrumental in expanding our fantastic cohort of PhD students and propelling our research endeavors.

This holiday season, as we reflect on the progress we've made, we are reminded that none of it would be possible without the support of our dedicated community of donors and ambassadors. This month we are celebrating 10-years in Newtown. Your donations have not only fueled our innovative research projects but have also fueled the hopes of countless individuals seeking breakthroughs in medical treatments.

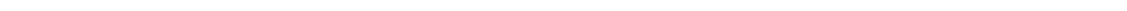
Gillies McIndoe is fortunate since its inception, to have had many wonderful longstanding donors, supporting this independent research institute. Ten years ago, after years of fundraising, it moved into the Newtown premises with its state-of-the-art laboratory. Dr Swee Tan and the Board's founding aspirations were ambitious, but much has been achieved in that time from the investment by donors, trusts, and foundations to our cancer research. In early 2024 we will be celebrating 10-years in Newtown, with enormous gratitude to all who have supported us, outlining the range of achievements, and canvassing our aspirations for the next five to 10-years.

As the Director of the Gillies McIndoe Research Institute, I am profoundly grateful for the support and trust you have placed in us. Your contributions truly make a difference in the lives of those we aim to help.

May this festive season bring you joy, good health, and the warmth of shared moments with loved ones. We look forward to the opportunities that the coming year holds and are excited to continue our journey together.

With heartfelt thanks and warm wishes,

Dr Clint Gray
Director, Gillies McIndoe Research Institute



Recent Achievements

Awards and recognitions



The collaborative effort between Massey Ventures, the Gillies McIndoe Research Institute, and AFT Pharmaceuticals has received the Best Licensing Deal at the [Australian Research Commercialisation Awards 2023](#) and the [KiwiNet Research Commercialisation Awards 2023](#) PwC Breakthrough Project Finalist. These esteemed recognitions result from our successful commercial partnership focused on developing a topical treatment for Infantile Haemangioma (strawberry birthmark). Image reference: [2023 KiwiNet Research Commercialisation Awards Finalists](#)

These significant achievements stand as a testament to the unwavering commitment, hard work, and exceptional talents of each member of our team. In particular, [Dr Maddie White](#), Senior Research Fellow & Strategic Partnership Manager, whose outstanding contributions have been instrumental in leading the lab-based component of the Infantile Haemangioma project since joining Gillies McIndoe. Our success not only reflects our team's collective strength and determination but also underscores our shared vision at Gillies McIndoe.

Thank you to everyone for your interest and investment in our research. We couldn't do it without your generosity.

Recently Published Papers

In the last two months, our PhD students, Freya Weth and Clara López Vásquez, have accomplished a remarkable academic milestone within the first year of their PhD.



Freya has published a paper as first author, in the British Journal of Cancer (BJC), [Unlocking hidden potential: advancements, approaches, and obstacles in repurposing drugs for cancer therapy](#), in collaboration with Victoria University of Wellington. The BJC is one of the most prestigious general cancer journals that serves as a leading platform for disseminating groundbreaking research in cancer biology, oncology, and related disciplines, contributing to the global advancement of knowledge in the field.



Clara has published her very first paper as the first author in MDPI's Organoids journal, [Modelling Meningioma Using Organoids: A Review of Methodologies and Applications](#) in collaboration with University of Otago, Wellington. Organoids publishes cutting-edge research on organoid models, providing a platform for advancing our understanding of complex organ development and disease modeling at the cellular and molecular levels.

Open Days

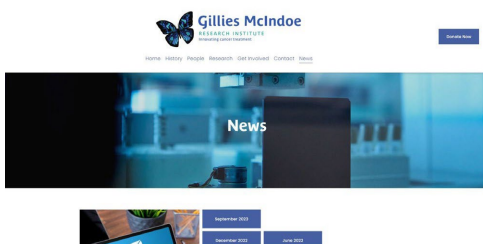


As Gillies McIndoe supporters, we invite you to [visit and look “down the microscope”](#) at the cutting-edge research undertaken at our Wellington facilities, including a laboratory tour and the opportunity to meet our growing team of dedicated scientists. While availability for tours in 2023 is closed, you could be amongst the first to book your tour for 2024.

Please note bookings are available for a group of people, at least five and up to 10 at a time.

If you want to visit, please get in touch with us at info@gmri.org.nz or call 04 282 0366.

Previous News



If you missed our 2023 newsletter, read the [September 2023](#) newsletter on our website.

Share the updates!

If you learned something new or found value in this newsletter, we'd love it if you shared it with your family and friends!



Help Innovate Treatment

We would love to hear from you if you want to supporting innovative cancer research with a donation or a legacy. For donations, click the "Donate Now" button below. Email margie.beattie@gmri.org or call Margie directly at 021 457 281 to have a legacy discussion.

Any donation you make plays a critical role in safeguarding the future of the Gillies McIndoe Research Institute.

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