

2025 IN REVIEW

January

- Funding committed to **TarGeT** a groundbreaking partnership that funds essential clinical trials for children & young adults with high-grade gliomas.
- We welcomed **Sally Wivell** to the team as MHF Centre Coordinator.
- **Dun Team** awarded ChadTough Foundation Game-Changer grant of \$920k.

March

- **Prof Matt Dun** appointed to the NHMCR-MRFF Industry, Philanthropy and Commercialisation Committee.
- **Dr Clara Savary** presents at Youth4Kids Congress and Australian Children's Brain Cancer Conference.

May



- **Sophie Cleal** joins the **MHF Brain Cancer Coordinator** Team based at the John Hunter Hospital.
- **Mika Persson** presents at SNO Pediatric Neuro-Oncology conference in San Diego.
- PhD student **Izac Findlay** returns from 12 months offshore study in Lausanne, Switzerland.

August

- **MHF Centre** team attended the launch of **Invisible Brain Cancers** at the French Embassy in Canberra.
- We welcomed **Andrew Giles**, CEO of Cure Brain Cancer for a visit to the MHF Centre.
- **MHF Paediatric Stream Leader Professor Matt Dun** awarded The Australian Financial Review and Uni Super Higher Education Emerging Leader Award.



October

- **MHF Brain Cancer Biobank Manager Dr Cassandra Griffin** awarded her PhD.
- **MHF Centre Team** attend **Head to the Hill** at Parliament House, for the launch of **The Australian Brain Cancer Landscape 2025**.
- MHF Centre Teams co-locate to HMRI and we welcomed **Hondermarck Lab** and **Dun Lab** to the building.



November

- **Dr Tuan Vo** awarded Hunter Children's Research Foundation funding of \$30,000.
- **Olive Loughnan** embarks on offshore PhD study and bioinformatics training at Cambridge University.
- **Professor Matt Dun** awarded the 2025 CNS Rare Tumours Award: Exploiting Cell of Origin Vulnerabilities to Guide Multimodal Strategies in Diffuse Midline Glioma at the Society for Neuro-Oncology Annual Meeting 2025, Honolulu USA.
- **MHF Centre** welcomed collaborators from the **Brain Cancer Centre** at WEHI for a visit to share research collaboration opportunities.
- The **MHF Centre** commenced a research collaboration with the **Gregory Lab at Duke University** in the US working with samples from the **MHF Brain Biobank**.

February

- **International Brain Tumour Summit** hosted by the **MHF Centre**.
 - PhD Candidate **Simin Zheng** passed her confirmation
 - PhD Candidate **Yuanho Jiang** passed their confirmation.
 - **Prof Hubert Hondermarck**, **Christian Behler** and **James Brown-Miles** awarded Tour de Cure funding.



April

- Six **Innovation Grants**, awarded to teams from across the nation.
- Professor **Hubert Hondermarck** awarded funding from **Cancer Council NSW**.
- **Professor Matt Dun** and team commence MRFF-funded ADAPTS project.



June/July

- Team attended **National Rugby League Banie for Brain Cancer Round** at McDonald Jones Stadium in Newcastle.
- Announced \$1 million investment from **MHF Banie Round** to kick off new targeted **Theranostics research**.
- **Professor Mike Fay** joined **Mark Hughes** on a 1000km roadtrip to visit our BCCCs and meet with patients and carers.
- University of Newcastle **Campus Banie Event** held at **Bar on the Hill**.
- **MHF Brain Cancer Patient** forum held with over 100 patients and carers in attendance.
- Mika Persson submits PhD Thesis
- Prof Matt Dun presents on the NHMRC Speaking of Science Program
- **Dr Ryan Duchatel** and **Prof Matt Dun** present at the **Cure Starts Now International Brain Cancer Symposium** in Canada.



September

- **Pooja Kumari** passes their PhD confirmation: Targeting ROS to Modulate the Epigenome and Improve the Treatment of Diffuse Midline Glioma.
- **Prof Matt Dun** and Team awarded \$18.7m via Frontier Health and Medical Research Scheme, plus \$1.8 institute and philanthropic cofunding.
- We travelled to **Australian Brain Cancer Research Alliance (ABCARA) Scientific Research Symposium** in Brisbane where 6 members of the MHF Centre, presented their work.
- **Dr Amiee Dowdell** awarded her PhD: Endoplasmic reticulum stress, neutrophins and their receptors as targets in glioblastoma.
- **Dr Mark Marsland** awarded his PhD: Neurotrophin receptors in human cancer.
- **Bekki Spratford** passed their confirmation: they will explore A Targeted Therapy to enhance chemotherapy and neuroprotection in glioblastoma.



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