



**THE HON NICOLA ROXON MP**  
**Minister for Health and Ageing**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

8 July 2009

NR09/

**H1N1 MEDICAL RESEARCH PROJECTS FAST-TRACKED**

Today approval and funding was given to 41 Australian medical research projects that will help ensure the Australian Government's response to the evolving threat of H1N1 is based on the most up-to-date information available. The research will help the Government tailor its response to the spread and nature of the disease, and better equip the Government to help those most at risk from the disease.

\$7 million has been provided for these projects from the Government's peak health and medical research agency, the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

The projects cover research from the laboratory to the bedside, from patients to community health, with an emphasis on rapid results to benefit Australians and the rest of the world. The successful applicants are based throughout Australia.

Some of the research to be supported includes:

- understanding why some people get more severe flu than others;
- strategies for containment in rural, remote and Indigenous communities
- improving the detection of swine flu;
- the best strategies for anti viral use;
- the prospects for swine flu to interact with other flu strains; and
- risks to children in hospitals.

NHMRC has fast-tracked a robust international peer review of applications for medical research grants to identify the critical projects that would best shed more light on H1N1.

The peer review process, which can typically take many months, was completed in little more than a week thanks to the involvement of highly-experienced researchers not only in Australia but also from countries including Singapore, New Zealand and the United States.

The quick, collaborative international response seeks to take advantage of the current Australian flu season to learn much more about the virus. The results will be shared internationally, and will be particularly valuable for those countries who are currently preparing for their coming flu season.

Researchers will report their findings at a symposium in December 2009 attended by the Chief Medical Officers of Australia and each state and territory, as well as public health experts.

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## SUCCESSFUL H1N1 GRANT APPLICATIONS

App ID	Chief Investigator	Title	Administering Institution	State	Recommended Budget
585530	Dr Lisa Marie Alleva	Trialling agents that could limit influenza disease and improve resistance to secondary infections	Australian National University	ACT	\$159,903
585531	A/Prof Paul Kelly	Establishing a Rapid Alert System for Severe Respiratory Illness in Adults: The FluCAN Surveillance system	Australian National University	ACT	\$268,991
585533	Dr Kamalini Lokuge	Surveillance for H1N1 influenza 09 and evaluation of the impact of control measures in prisoner populations	Australian National University	ACT	\$58,765
585534	A/Prof Leslee Roberts	Transmission dynamics of H1N1 variant in households and schools	Australian National University	ACT	\$97,923
585536	Prof Niels Becker	Improving Response by Monitoring Incidence and Assessing Seasonality and Specific Interventions	Australian National University	ACT	\$125,550
587801	Prof Chris Del Mar	Physical interventions to interrupt or reduce the spread of respiratory viruses: an updated systematic review	Bond University	Qld	\$83,014
594875	Dr Tony Velkov	The structure and receptor binding properties of the 2009 swine influenza pandemic Hemagglutinin	Deakin University	Vic	\$179,500
595625	Dr Jennifer McKimm-Breshkin	Impact of resistance mutations on sensitivity of A(H1N1) swine flu neuraminidase (NA) to current and novel NA-inhibitors	CSIRO	Vic	\$116,742
595996	Prof David Gordon	Development of recombinant GPI-anchored haemagglutinin of swine influenza H1N1 for serological and immunological studies	Flinders University	SA	\$191,000
601034	Prof Richard Speare	Feasible containment strategies for swine influenza H1N1 in rural and remote Indigenous Communities	James Cook University	Qld	\$457,750
603750	Prof Suzanne Crowe	Immune responses to 2009 H1N1 to assist public health response	Burnet Institute	Vic	\$184,712
603752	A/Prof Rosemary Ffrench	A centralised facility for immunological monitoring of human H1N1 immunity post infection or vaccination	Burnet Institute	Vic	\$184,395
603753	A/Prof Margaret Hellard	The epidemiology, transmission and impact of new influenza a (H1N1) on the Victorian community in 2009.	Burnet Institute	Vic	\$152,335

App ID	Chief Investigator	Title	Administering Institution	State	Recommended Budget
604925	A/Prof Heath Kelly	Estimating the protective effect of seasonal influenza vaccine against medically attended ILI due to novel influenza A (H1N1)	Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory	Vic	\$156,125
604931	Mr Aeron Hurt	The role of NA inhibitor treatment and prophylaxis in reducing disease severity and spread of A(H1N1) swine origin virus	WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza	Vic	\$252,812
604934	Dr Caroline Marshall	Do frontline healthcare workers have increased risk of contracting influenza H1N1? A prevalence and risk factor study	The University of Melbourne	Vic	\$220,000
604982	A/Prof Heath Kelly	Laboratory confirmed novel influenza A(H1N1) and seasonal influenza, Victoria 2009: comparison of the clinical spectrum of disease	Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory	Vic	\$55,645
606975	Prof Anthony Harris	Impact of an influenza epidemic on the Australian economy	Monash University	Vic	\$117,750
606976	Prof Paul Herzog	Development of a signature for early responses to influenza strains that determine /correlate with severity of infection, vaccine response and changes in virulence.	Monash University	Vic	\$313,063
614290	Prof Gerard FitzGerald	Emergency Department impact and patient profile of H1N1 Influenza 09 outbreak in Australia: A national survey	Queensland University of Technology	Qld	\$106,136
620240	Prof Michael Parker	Swine influenza: Molecular basis of potential resistance to neuraminidase inhibitors	St. Vincent's Institute of Medical Research	Vic	\$97,250
626867	Dr Helen Marshall	Evaluating community understanding of and participation in strategies to prevent the spread of H1N1	University of Adelaide	SA	\$185,922
628010	Prof Warwick Blood	Public and media understandings of A/H1N1 within a risk communication environment	University of Canberra	ACT	\$107,340
628962	Prof Anne Kavanagh	H1N1-related Victorian school closures: quarantine compliance and impact of parents' precarious employment	The University of Melbourne	Vic	\$276,974
628965	Dr Katherine Kedzierska	Understanding the extent of cross-reactive T cell immunity between H1N1 09 and seasonal influenza strains	The University of Melbourne	Vic	\$186,808
628967	Prof Terry Nolan	Immunity to novel H1N1 influenza prior to and after immunization with seasonal TIV in children aged 6 months to 9 years	The University of Melbourne	Vic	\$59,521
628970	Dr John Stambas	Identification of determinants associated with pathogenicity of Swine-Origin 2009 A (H1N1) influenza virus	The University of Melbourne	Vic	\$127,250
628974	Dr James McCaw	Determining optimal strategies for use of antiviral agents in the 2009/10 A(H1N1) swl influenza epidemic in Australia	The University of Melbourne	Vic	\$75,250

App ID	Chief Investigator	Title	Administering Institution	State	Recommended Budget
628975	Prof David Jackson	Is Pam2Cys the new anti-viral against influenza A virus?	The University of Melbourne	Vic	\$143,250
628976	A/Prof Joseph Torresi	Swine influenza: epidemiology and virology of the Victorian epidemic	The University of Melbourne	Vic	\$414,724
628977	Prof John Mathews	Models for influenza virulence to explain changes over time & place, including the differences between 1918-19 and 2009	The University of Melbourne	Vic	\$80,250
628980	Dr Lorena Brown	Ability of H1N1/09 and seasonal influenza vaccines to reduce symptoms and halt spread of H1N1/09 infection in ferrets	The University of Melbourne	Vic	\$290,500
628988	A/Prof Louis Irving	Utility of POC predictive blood biomarkers in triage and management of high risk populations	The University of Melbourne	Vic	\$191,500
630779	Dr James Wood	Optimal use of vaccine to mitigate a second wave of H1N1 2009 influenza in Australia	University of New South Wales	NSW	\$78,050
630785	Prof William Rawlinson	Novel swine-origin influenza H1N1 09 Quality Assurance	University of New South Wales	NSW	\$144,725
630787	Prof Raina MacIntyre	Efficacy of face masks against H1N1 swine influenza	University of New South Wales	NSW	\$337,563
631098	Prof David Durrheim	Australian public's H1N1 knowledge, risk perception, containment measure adoption and willingness to be vaccinated	University of Newcastle	NSW	\$60,896
631720	Prof Mark Kendall	Nanopatch immunisation against pandemic Novel A (H1N1) influenza virus 09: potent immunity at a reduced dose	The University of Queensland	Qld	\$179,472
633027	Dr Bin Wang	Real-time and quantitative monitoring of the emergence of oseltamivir resistance during the current influenza pandemic	University of Sydney	NSW	\$183,500
633028	Prof Elizabeth Elliott	Characterisation of H1N1 Influenza 09 in hospitalised children using Paediatric Active Enhanced Diseases Surveillance	University of Sydney	NSW	\$118,513
633032	Prof Robert Booy	An Unblinded randomized study of influenza A/H1N1 09 resistance to oseltamivir and zanamivir	National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance of Vaccine Preventable Diseases	NSW	\$149,460
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>&gt;&gt;&gt;</b>	<b>\$6,970,829</b>