

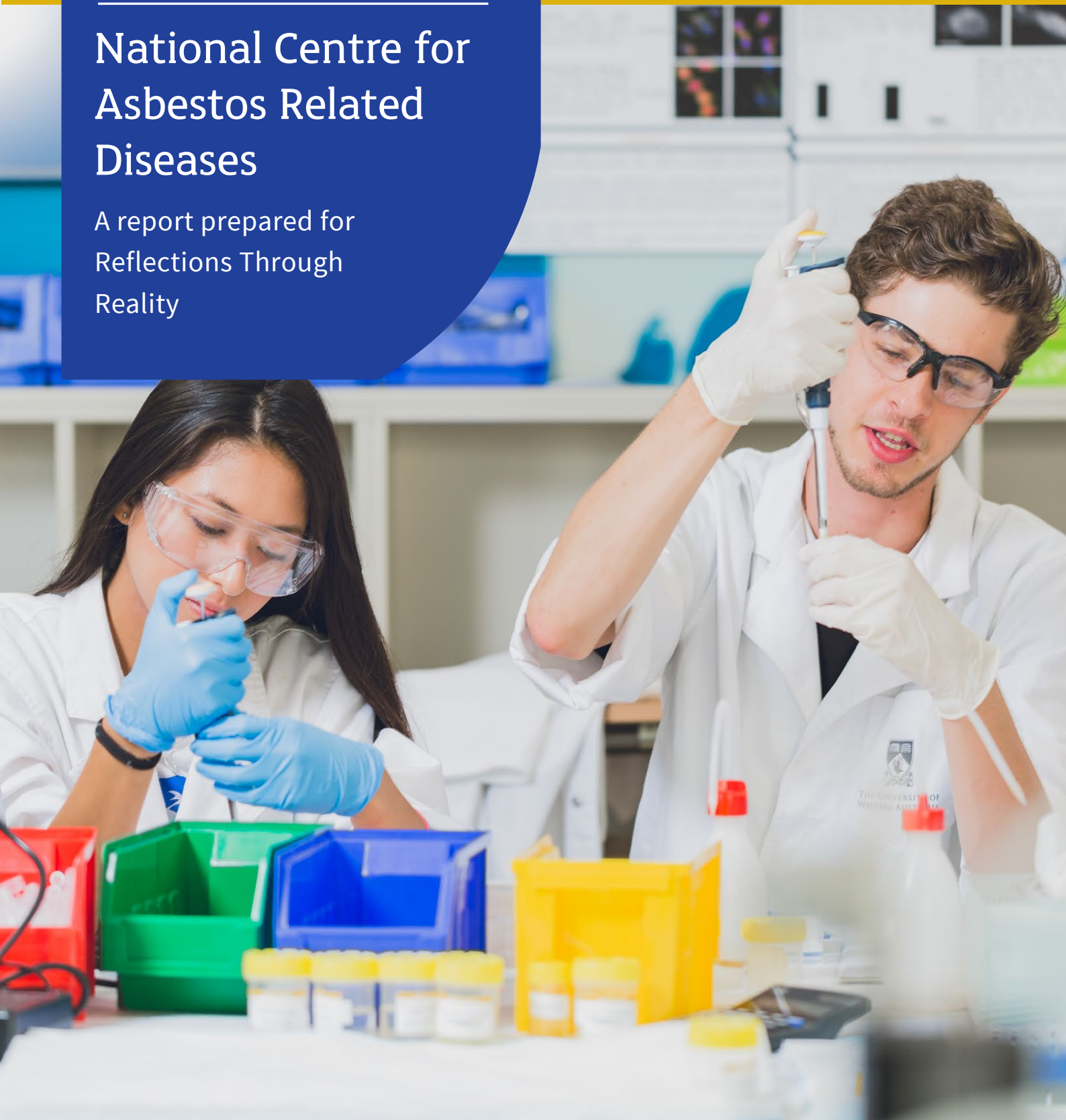


THE UNIVERSITY OF
**WESTERN
AUSTRALIA**

Seek Wisdom

National Centre for Asbestos Related Diseases

A report prepared for
Reflections Through
Reality



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Message from the Professor Anna Nowak, Director of the National Centre for Asbestos Related Diseases



Dear Mr Watkins,

On behalf of the National Centre for Asbestos Related Diseases (NCARD), I wish to thank you for Reflections Through Reality's generous research support. As you will read in this report, NCARD celebrated many achievements of staff and students in 2018.

Amongst these successes, NCARD worked towards improving diagnosis and treatment outcomes for mesothelioma and other asbestos related diseases through exploring an exceptional range of research possibilities, including combined chemotherapy and immunotherapy, genomics, immunology, biomarker research and repurposed pharmaceutical approaches.

A key aspect of NCARD's collaborative research future is recognising and developing exceptional, passionate and determined research students. Your support has seen Dr Linda Ye complete her Research Fellowship with us at NCARD in lung cancer research and inspired her to continue onto a PhD. Dr Ye represents the next generation of researchers who will build on our work and develop the breakthroughs of the future.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support and investment in our vision.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna Nowak". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Professor Anna Nowak

Director NCARD

NCARD – 2018 highlights

Cutting edge research



In 2018 NCARD has been successful in attracting research funds from iCare (formerly the Dust Diseases Board of NSW), the US Department of Defense, the WA Cancer Council and other sources. Discussions are progressing for a Phase III DREAM Trial, combining chemotherapy and immunotherapy.

Worldwide collaborations



Two key events were held in Perth in recent months, with NCARD members on the organising committees: the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA), which had a focus on mesothelioma; and the Australasian Society of Immunology (ASI) Conference. Leading researchers Professor Dean Fennell from the University of Leicester, and Professor Phil Hodgkin from the Walter & Eliza Hall Institute in Melbourne took the opportunity to visit NCARD and meet with researchers.

A celebration of leadership



NCARD celebrated the outstanding contribution of Professor Bruce Robinson in establishing and leading NCARD for more than a decade, as he stepped down from the directorship and officially handed over to Professor Anna Nowak.

Community engagement



NCARD held an inaugural Community Forum in November during Asbestos Awareness Week. A capacity audience included mesothelioma patients and family members, and long term participants in the Asbestos Review Program. A laboratory tour was conducted afterwards. Feedback was so positive that this will become an annual event.

Outstanding achievements



Professor Anna Nowak was named WA Cancer Researcher of the Year at the WA Cancer Council Lunch and Awards.



NCARD Research Fellowship

Dr Linda Ye - fellowship outcome

Clinical trial preparations

During her lung cancer fellowship, under the primary supervision of Professor Bruce Robinson, Linda worked with the NCARD team to develop, write, and achieve ethics approval of a clinical trial protocol looking to explore the novel therapeutic strategy of neoantigen vaccination, initially in patients with lung cancer, with expansion into mesothelioma planned in the future.

This treatment is expected to help one's own immune system fight the cancer by generating an immune response against an individual's unique cancer mutations.



Ongoing planning and development are underway and the trial will be ready to start recruiting in the near future.

Lung cancer research projects

Additionally, Linda conducted regular lung cancer clinics and undertook two research projects based on molecular testing of lung cancer. These two projects helped to assess the pattern of expression of immunological and molecular markers in the Western Australian lung cancer population, and demonstrated the efficacy and feasibility of a new molecular test to detect a specific mutation seen in lung cancer. These projects were both presented at the Australasian Lung Cancer Conference in 2018, one has been accepted for publication and the other has just been submitted for publication.

Future plans

Linda enjoyed her time as the NCARD research fellow immensely and the opportunity provided her with invaluable research and clinical experience, made possible by Reflections Through Reality. She hopes to continue lung and mesothelioma related research in the future and is currently planning to pursue a PhD through the neoantigen vaccine project.

Thank you

Your support ensures we can continue providing students with a world class education, foster innovation and conduct cutting edge research.

Contact us

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