



PRIME MINISTER

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY

FOR THE OPENING OF THE NEW WALTER AND ELIZA HALL
INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH
MELBOURNE - 8 NOVEMBER 1985

SIR ANDREW, MR PREMIER, MINISTERS, PROFESSOR NOSSAL,
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I AM GREATLY
HONOURED TO BE HERE TODAY ON THIS MOST SIGNIFICANT OCCASION.

IT IS NOT OFTEN THAT A PRIME MINISTER CAN BE ASSOCIATED WITH
AN EVENT INVOLVING AN AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTION ABOUT WHICH
THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT AS TO ITS UNRIVALLED WORLD REPUTATION.

THE FACT THAT WE HAVE HERE TODAY SUCH AN IMPRESSIVE
CONTINGENT OF INTERNATIONAL SCIENTISTS TO HELP CELEBRATE
THIS MILESTONE IN THE HISTORY OF THE WALTER AND ELIZA HALL
INSTITUTE SHOWS THAT I AM NOT ALONE IN MY VERY HIGH REGARD
FOR THE INSTITUTE AND ITS RENOWNED WORK.

I THINK IT IS APPROPRIATE IF, AT THE BEGINNING OF MY
ADDRESS, I DEVOTE SOME TIME TO TRACING THE BACKGROUND AND
EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF THIS GREAT AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTION. FOR
IT IS AN INTERESTING STORY THAT INVOLVES A NUMBER OF PEOPLE
WITH DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS AND EXPERIENCES; PUBLIC SPIRITED
PEOPLE, ALL OF THEM, WITH VISIONS OF WHAT WAS NEEDED IN THIS
COUNTRY AND HOW AUSTRALIANS COULD GO ABOUT MAKING THESE
VISIONS A REALITY.

AUSTRALIA WAS INDEED FORTUNATE THAT, SO SOON AFTER ITS BIRTH
AS A COMMONWEALTH, THERE HAD DEVELOPED A DESIRE TO FOUND A
NATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO ADVANCE THE HEALTH OF
AUSTRALIANS.

MUCH OF THE CREDIT IS DUE TO THE PROFESSOR OF PATHOLOGY AND
DEAN OF THE MEDICAL SCHOOL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE,
SIR HARRY BROOKES ALLEN. HE SAW THE NEED FOR CLINICAL
LABORATORIES FOR ROUTINE DIAGNOSTIC WORK AND FOR RESEARCH AT
THE MELBOURNE HOSPITAL - NOW THE ROYAL MELBOURNE.

BY A HAPPY SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES, THERE ARRIVED ON THE SCENE
OTHERS WHO MADE THIS DREAM A REALITY.

THE STORY OF WALTER HALL, OF COURSE, IS PART OF THE ROMANCE OF AUSTRALIA'S DEVELOPMENT. WALTER HALL ARRIVED IN AUSTRALIA IN 1852 AS A PENNILESS MIGRANT. BY THE TIME OF HIS DEATH IN 1911 HE HAD MADE A FORTUNE - INITIALLY FROM INVOLVEMENT WITH COBB AND CO. COACHES AND LATER FROM INTERESTS IN THE MOUNT MORGAN MINING VENTURE IN QUEENSLAND. AFTER HIS DEATH HIS WIDOW, ELIZA, MAINTAINED A PRACTICAL INTEREST IN SOCIAL WELFARE, THE RELIEF OF POVERTY AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION. AS THE HALLS HAD NO CHILDREN, MRS HALL WAS RECEPTIVE TO THE IDEA OF BEQUEATHING A SUBSTANTIAL SUM TO SET UP A CHARITABLE TRUST FUND.

THROUGH THE WORK OF SIR HARRY ALLEN AND A PROMINENT MELBOURNE BUSINESSMAN, RICHARD GARDNER CASEY (WHOSE SON WAS TO BECOME LORD CASEY AND GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF AUSTRALIA) THE HALL TRUSTEES AGREED THAT PART OF THE INCOME FROM THE HALL BEQUEST OF ONE MILLION POUNDS, WHICH INITIATED THE WALTER AND ELIZA HALL TRUST FUND, SHOULD BE USED TO ESTABLISH THE WALTER AND ELIZA HALL INSTITUTE.

THE INSTITUTE WAS ESTABLISHED IN MELBOURNE IN 1915. WORLD WAR I INTERVENED, HOWEVER, AND AUSTRALIA'S FIRST MEDICAL RESEARCH UNIT, ALTHOUGH OFFICIALLY 'FOUNDED' FIVE YEARS EARLIER, DID NOT GET DOWN TO SERIOUS WORK UNTIL 1920.

THE EARLY YEARS OF THE INSTITUTE WERE NOTABLE FOR THE WORK OF DR CHARLES KELLAWAY, THE DIRECTOR FROM 1923, WHO ATTRACTED INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION FOR HIS RESEARCH INTO VENOMOUS SNAKES AND ANTI-VENENES. KELLAWAY'S EFFORTS LED TO FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AND FROM THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION.

THIS INTERESTING BEGINNING LAID THE FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE WALTER AND ELIZA HALL INSTITUTE. THE NEXT STAGE WILL ALWAYS BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE NAME OF SIR MACFARLANE BURNET WHO WILL FOREVER BY HIGH ON THE HONOUR ROLL OF AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL RESEARCH. I KNOW THAT MANY OF YOU WILL SHARE MY SADNESS THAT HIS RECENT DEATH MEANT THAT HE COULD NOT BE WITH US TODAY.

UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT IN 1965, SIR MACFARLANE SERVED FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS AS DIRECTOR OF THIS INSTITUTE. HE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN DEVELOPING RESEARCH EMPHASIS IN IMMUNOLOGY; EXTENDING VIRUS RESEARCH INTO AREAS SUCH AS INFLUENZA, MURRAY VALLEY ENCEPHALITIS, HERPES AND POLIOMYELITIS. IT WAS FOR HIS WORK IN IMMUNOLOGY THAT SIR MACFARLANE RECEIVED THE NOBEL PRIZE IN 1960.

SIR MACFARLANE BURNET'S LONG PERIOD OF SERVICE WAS FOLLOWED BY THAT OF SIR GUSTAV NOSSAL, WHO NOW HAS COMPLETED HIS SECOND DECADE IN OFFICE. SIR GUSTAV HAS MAINTAINED THE INSTITUTE'S COMMITMENT TO BASIC AND CLINICAL IMMUNOLOGY AND HAS EXPANDED ITS WORK TO TAKE IN A MAJOR EFFORT IN CANCER RESEARCH; INITIATIVES IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND GENETIC ENGINEERING; STUDIES IN TROPICAL PARASITIC DISEASES - PARTICULARLY MALARIA; AND TRANSPLANTATION TECHNIQUES FOR USE IN TREATING DIABETES.

WITH A STAFF OF MORE THAN 200 PEOPLE AND A BUDGET EXCEEDING \$7 MILLION, THE WALTER AND ELIZA HALL INSTITUTE TRULY HAS ESTABLISHED ITSELF AS ONE OF A HANDFUL OF GREAT INSTITUTIONS OF MEDICAL RESEARCH IN THE WORLD.

THE INTERNATIONAL STANDING OF THIS INSTITUTE IS EXEMPLIFIED BY ITS OUTPUT OF PROFESSIONALS WHO HAVE ACHIEVED INTERNATIONAL DISTINCTION. IN ADDITION, THE RESIDENT TEAM OF HIGH CALIBRE SENIOR PERSONNEL HAS ATTRACTED VISITING RESEARCH FELLOWS AND ADVANCED TRAINEES TO THE WALTER AND ELIZA HALL INSTITUTE, INCLUDING, IN RECENT YEARS, FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND SOUTH EAST ASIAN NATIONS. THE INSTITUTE IS DEEPLY COMMITTED TO VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS IN BASIC RESEARCH AND IN APPLIED SCIENCE. SUCH COMMITMENT HAS LED TO BOTH INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION AND TO FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

IN THIS REGARD, I MUST MAKE SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE JOHN D. AND CATHERINE T. MACARTHUR FOUNDATION OF CHICAGO WHICH ENDOWED THE INSTITUTE WITH A MAGNIFICANT GRANT OF \$2 MILLION RESULTING IN THE DEDICATION, EARLIER TODAY, OF THE MACARTHUR LABORATORY. I SHOULD PAY TRIBUTE, AS WELL, TO THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION OF NEW YORK, THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION AS PARTICULARLY FAITHFUL LONG-TERM SUPPORTERS.

TURNING NOW TO THE AUSTRALIAN SCENE, THE WALTER AND ELIZA HALL INSTITUTE SHOULD INDEED BE PROUD OF ITS STATUS AS A PIONEER OF MEDICAL RESEARCH IN THIS COUNTRY. MEDICAL RESEARCH, BECAUSE OF THE OBVIOUS AND UNDOUBTED BENEFITS IT BRINGS TO INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES, IS PERCEIVED AS A VERY WORTHWHILE ACTIVITY AND ONE DESERVING OF STRONG AND CONSISTENT SUPPORT.

THERE HAVE BEEN TIMES, HOWEVER, WHEN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENTS, FOR WHATEVER FINANCIAL OR PHILOSOPHICAL REASONS, HAVE NOT GIVEN MEDICAL RESEARCH - IN FACT THE ARTS AND SCIENCES IN ALL THEIR EXPRESSIONS - WHAT MANY WOULD CONSIDER TO BE THEIR PROPER ENTITLEMENT FROM THE COMMONWEALTH BUDGET.

I BELIEVE MY GOVERNMENT CANNOT BE CHARGED WITH SUCH A SIN OF OMISSION.

IN 1983, WHEN THIS GOVERNMENT TOOK OFFICE, THE ALLOCATION TO THE NATIONAL HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL STOOD AT JUST BELOW \$30 MILLION. IN SUCCESSIVE BUDGETS WE HAVE INCREASED THIS TOTAL BY 72% TO JUST OVER \$50 MILLION IN THE 1985/86 BUDGET.

TRULY A REMARKABLE DEMONSTRATION OF OUR GENUINE COMMITMENT TO MEDICAL RESEARCH AT A TIME OF ACUTE BUDGETARY PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT.

FROM THESE FUNDS, OF COURSE, COME THE COMMONWEALTH GRANTS WHICH, IN TOTAL, AMOUNT TO 50% OF THE RECURRENT FUNDS REQUIRED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR ITS FUNCTIONING.

ON THAT NOTE IT IS APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO ANNOUNCE THAT, FOR 1986, THE GOVERNMENT, ON THE ADVICE OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL, HAS INCREASED THE ALLOCATION TO THE HALL INSTITUTE TO \$5,040,498. THIS TOTAL INCLUDES A SPECIAL GRANT, FOR 1986 ONLY, OF \$150,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT.

WHILE THE GOVERNMENT IS GRATIFIED AT THE WAY IT HAS BEEN ABLE TO INCREASE THE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH IN AUSTRALIA, IT KNOWS THAT ALL OF YOU HERE TODAY WOULD VOTE IN FAVOUR OF MORE FINANCIAL RESOURCES BEING PROVIDED FOR THIS IMPORTANT PURPOSE: AND, IN PARTICULAR, FOR THE COMMONWEALTH TO CONTRIBUTE EVEN MORE FUNDS.

ONE FEATURE OF SUPPORT FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH IN AUSTRALIA - PERHAPS AN UNFORTUNATE FEATURE - IS THAT IT IS FAR MORE RELIANT ON GOVERNMENT FUNDING THAN IS RESEARCH IN THOSE COUNTRIES WITH WHICH WE ARE MORE CLOSELY RELATED AND EQUATED. AND I SAY THIS WHILE RECOGNISING THAT MANY AUSTRALIAN COMPANIES, INDIVIDUALS AND FOUNDATIONS HAVE ASSISTED GENEROUSLY THE CAUSE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH. NEVERTHELESS, THIS IS CLEARLY ONE ASPECT WHICH REQUIRES CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BY ALL ASSOCIATED WITH MEDICAL RESEARCH IN AUSTRALIA.

HOWEVER, AS WELL AS INCREASING FUNDING FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH, THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN IMPORTANT INITIATIVES WHICH, BACKED BY THE EFFECTIVE LOBBY OF THE MEDICAL RESEARCH COMMUNITY, SHOULD GIVE THE PRIVATE SECTOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASSUME A LARGER ROLE AS A PARTNER IN RESEARCH FUNDING.

AS FROM THE FIRST OF JULY THIS YEAR, COMPANIES SPENDING MONEY ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN AUSTRALIA ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A 150% TAX DEDUCTION. INDIVIDUAL DEDUCTIONS ARE AVAILABLE UNDER THE EXISTING TAXATION ACT FOR GIFTS TO PUBLIC AUTHORITIES ENGAGED IN RESEARCH. THE NATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY PROGRAMME-RESEARCH GRANTS SCHEME GIVES PREFERENCE TO RESEARCH PROPOSALS WHICH INVOLVE DIRECT COLLABORATION WITH AUSTRALIAN-BASED INDUSTRY.

THESE MEASURES ARE DESIGNED TO GIVE A FILLIP TO NON-GOVERNMENT SUPPORT OF MEDICAL RESEARCH AS A SIGNIFICANT COMPONENT OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN AUSTRALIA, AND, I HOPE, SOME NEW TARGETS AS YOU CAMPAIGN FOR INCREASED FUNDING OF MEDICAL RESEARCH.

I UNDERSTAND, FOR INSTANCE, THAT THE BANKING SECTOR SUPPORTS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES WITH RISK CAPITAL. I WOULD EXHORT THE RESEARCH COMMUNITY IN GENERAL TO DIRECT THEIR EFFORTS TOWARDS CONVINCING NATIONAL BANKS - AS WELL AS THOSE INTERNATIONAL, BANKS WHICH HAVE ESTABLISHED THEMSELVES IN AUSTRALIA, AS A RESULT OF MY GOVERNMENT'S DE-REGULATION OF THE BANKING SYSTEM - TO CONSIDER THE BENEFITS OF INVESTING IN AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH.

THAT, OF COURSE, IS A MATTER FOR THE FUTURE. AND THE FUTURE IS WHAT WE ARE ABOUT TODAY. WHILE JUSTIFIABLY PROUD OF ITS PAST, AND ITS PRESENT, THE WALTER AND ELIZA HALL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH IS, LIKE THE GOVERNMENT, EQUALLY CONCERNED FOR THE FUTURE. THIS MAGNIFICANT NEW BUILDING WILL PHYSICALLY EQUIP THE INSTITUTE TO CHART OUT ITS COURSE IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

THE OPENING OF THIS NEW BUILDING FOR THE WALTER AND ELIZA HALL INSTITUTE REFLECTS A CLIMATE OF PROGRESS AND EXPANSION AND, I AM CONFIDENT, MARKS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA FOR A RECOGNISED LEADER IN THE INTERNATIONAL FRATERNITY OF MEDICAL RESEARCH.

AFTER YOUR PREMIER, JOHN CAIN, HAS SPOKEN I SHALL HAVE PLEASURE IN JOINING HIM IN OFFICIALLY DECLARING OPEN THE NEW WALTER AND ELIZA HALL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH.
