

JACKIE CHAN SCIENCE CENTRE OPENING

9 MARCH 2008

The Jackie Chan Science Centre will showcase the history and current research of The John Curtin School of Medical Research (JCSMR) at The Australian National University.

It was made possible by a generous donation by international movie star Mr Jackie Chan. Mr Chan first visited JCSMR in December 2002 to make a donation to cancer research in memory of his mother and long-time Canberra resident Ms Lee Lee Chan.

In 2006, Mr Chan made a further donation to JCSMR, which funded the new education centre in his name. This project is designed to inspire the next generation of Australian scientists by giving them an insight into the past success stories and current research at JCSMR. Initially consisting of a number of descriptive panels and windows into working laboratories, the Jackie Chan Science Centre will continue to develop as a place of discovery for budding researchers.

Part of ANU, JCSMR is Australia's national medical research institute. It was created in 1948 as a result of the vision of Australian Nobel Laureate Howard Florey and Prime Minister John Curtin.

Within 60 years its scientists have made major discoveries and contributions to world health and won two of Australia's Nobel Prizes.

Fundamental discoveries have included the Nobel Prize-winning elucidation of mechanisms of transmission of signals in the nervous system (Sir John Eccles, 1963), and the discovery of the role of the major histocompatibility complex for which Peter Doherty and Rolf Zinkernagel shared the 1996 Nobel Prize for Medicine.

Many other international awards have been won by ANU scientists from the John Curtin School. Professor Frank Fenner in particular has been honoured by the award of the Japan Prize (1988), the Copley Medal of the Royal Society (1995), the Albert Einstein Award (2000) and the Prime Minister's Science Prize (2002).

Current research at JCSMR includes:

- New treatments for cancer, including the development of therapeutic vaccines
- Development of an oral HIV vaccine
- Better understanding of how the human eye interprets the world
- New ways to combat autoimmune diseases like Type 1 Diabetes

In 2006, the first stage of a new JCSMR building was opened. Stage 2 should be completed in late 2008.

For more: <http://jcsmr.anu.edu.au/>