

# Clem Jones Centre for Neurobiology and Stem Cell Research

## *Spinal Injury Project*

### *Driving a treatment for paralysis and brain injury*

There is new hope for thousands of Australians who suffer the devastating effects of acquired brain and spinal cord injuries.

More than 12,000 Australians currently live with spinal paralysis and each year around 300 people are diagnosed with the condition. Each case incurs a cost between \$5 and \$9.5 million over a lifetime, costing the Australian economy around \$2 billion annually. A successful cure would not only transform the lives of sufferers, but also create substantial savings for the entire health system.

Researchers like Associate Professor James St John from the Menzies Health Institute Queensland and the Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery at Griffith University are working towards exactly that.

Their globally recognised work could see a therapy to treat spinal cord injury being trialled in the clinic within two years.

**With your support, our researchers  
can continue to fight for a cure.**



Associate Professor James St John and Associate Professor Jenny Ekberg from the Clem Jones Centre for Neurobiology and Stem Cell Research are leading the world in the discovery of a cure for paralysis and brain injury.

Pioneered by the 2017 Australian of the Year—Professor Emeritus Alan Mackay-Sim, this research is working to transform the lives of people who have experienced serious trauma.

By combining advanced cell purification techniques with natural product drug discovery and engineering, the team is designing three-dimensional nerve bridges that will help injured nerves to regenerate.

Up to half a million people globally suffer from spinal cord injury.

This exciting new therapy now offers hope for a treatment that could see paralysed patients walking and feeling again.

“By developing a therapy to treat the paralysed spinal cord, we can then apply similar approaches to treat acquired brain injuries,” says Associate Professor St John.

“While we believe this approach will be successful, there is still a long way to go.”

This transformative research has the long-term support from the Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation, the Motor Accident Insurance Commission and the Clem Jones Foundation—but we need your help too.

Your donations drive our research success.

## For more information on supporting this research, contact:

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*‘Every day in Australia at least one person’s life is devastated by paralysis. Our research gives thousands of Australians hope that paralysis doesn’t have to be forever.’*

– Associate Professor James St John

