



TheAlfred
Foundation

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Final Report to The Fred Liuzzi Foundation/Rare Neuromuscular Disease Foundation

Grant Details:

The purpose of the grant was to employ a Research Fellow within the Victorian Neuromuscular Laboratory Services (VNLS) to develop and research the contents of the database.

Project Outcomes:

- A Research Fellow working to Professor Catriona McLean, Head Anatomical Pathology was employed for 6 months on a full time basis until the 7/02/2014.
- Successful completion of the complex task of amalgamating into one database, three unique databases that contains diagnostic information relating to rare neuromuscular diseases.
- Developed and integrity tested the database to allow it to be utilised to provide information for rare diseases including specific diseases, specific pathology findings and provide cohorts for future research studies.
- Developed plans to advertise and communicate the existence of the database. Commencing in March 2014 with presentation at the Australian Neuromuscular Network and the NHMRC Neuromuscular Centre for research excellence meeting.

With the assistance of the grant from The Fred Liuzzi Foundation the incredible potential of the VNLS database will be able to be realised. There are very few databases of this capacity world wide with stored matching samples and with this resource open to anyone undertaking quality research this resource will be instrumental in facilitating future ground breaking research related to neuromuscular diseases.

Acknowledgement of The Fred Liuzzi Foundation will occur in oral presentations by Professor McLean including at the March 2014 meeting of the Australian Neuromuscular network where researchers from around Australia will be told of the relevance and availability of the database and associated samples.. Acknowledgement will also occur in The Alfred Foundation Annual Report 2013 - 2014.

We wish to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to Mrs Elena Liuzzi and the Fred Liuzzi Foundation.