
press



release

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Rewarding Research

Westmead Millennium Institute cancer researcher Dr Stefan Schuechner this week was awarded the prestigious Cure Cancer Foundation's, Young Researcher of the Year 2003.

Currently undertaking post-doctoral studies at WMI, Dr Schuechner is researching two proteins found in a large percentage of breast and ovarian cancers.

“ My work is focusing on the breast and ovarian specific tumor suppressor BRCA1 and its binding partner, itself a potential tumor suppressor, BARD1. BRCA1 was first discovered in the mid 90's. Mutations in the BRCA1 gene are associated with about 50% of familial breast cancers and 90% of inherited breast and ovarian cancer cases which are characterized by an early onset of the disease,” says Dr Schuechner.”

Little was known about the function of these proteins but Dr Schuechner has discovered that one of the genes has the ability to kill breast cancer cells. The Young Researcher of the Year Award, funded by Macquarie Bank, gives recognition to Dr Schuechner enabling him to continue his important research into this area.

Cure Cancer Australia in recognition of an exceptional contribution to cancer research presents the Young Researcher of the Year each year. It is designed to recognise outstanding medical scientists at the beginning of their career in cancer research.

“It is, however, important that we first characterize the normal function of the BRCA1-BARD1 tumor suppressor pair before we truly understand what goes wrong when they become mutated and before we can think of effective new therapies against breast cancer,” states Dr Schuechner.

Cure Cancer Australia Foundation began supporting innovative cancer research programs 35 years ago and many of these have led to important breakthroughs in the diagnosis and treatment of many forms of cancer.

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