



The Royal
Children's
Hospital
Foundation

Your impact at The Royal Children's Hospital

Prepared for the Rats of
Tobruk Association

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The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) envisions a world where all kids thrive. At the heart of the RCH is an unwavering belief that every infant, child, and young person deserves the opportunity to realise their potential. The critical work of the RCH cannot be achieved without the support of kind and generous people and organisations – people just like you.

On behalf of the RCH Foundation, we would like to thank you for supporting transformative research, treatment and health outcomes for children and young people. We are incredibly grateful for your choice to make a tangible impact on the landscape of paediatric healthcare.



The Rats of Tobruk Neuroscience Fellowship

In 2010, The Rats of Tobruk Association (ROTA) presented a cheque for \$1.5 million to the RCH Foundation, generously donated from the sale of Rats of Tobruk House in 2007. With this gift began the Rats of Tobruk Neuroscience Fellowship Fund – a vital Fellowship that enables specialised training for up-and-coming neurologists at the RCH.

The Rats of Tobruk Neuroscience Fellowship is tailored to the Fellow's previous experience, skills, and needs, and allows them to build their skills in the management of childhood epilepsy, with a strong focus on use of EEG, brain imaging, genetic testing, and drug, dietary and surgical treatments.

Throughout the year, the Fellow is embedded within the Neurology Department, playing a significant role in daily clinical, teaching and research activities. The Fellows' clinical duties include inpatient and outpatient management, inpatient consultations, and after-hours emergency management.

As one of only three paediatric epilepsy fellowships available in Australia, it's highly sought after based on the quality of training and the reputation of the RCH as the national centre for excellence in the treatment of paediatric epilepsy. It is also extremely valued in the RCH community.

Through their generous support of the Rats of Tobruk Neuroscience Fellowship, ROTA has shown their ongoing commitment to the care of future generations of Australian children, supporting research that helps change the future of children's health both locally and around the world.

The following report provides an update on the impact of the Rats of Tobruk Neuroscience Fellowship, as well as an overview of the fund's status.



Your impact

The 2025 Rats of Tobruk Neuroscience Fellow – Dr Nadia Troung

As the 2025 Fellow, Nadia developed core skills in managing complex epilepsy patients, interpreting video and routine EEGs, and identifying normal and abnormal findings on brain imaging.

Day to day, she played a key role in the management of epilepsy patients and their families, overseeing everything from admission and medication management, family discussions about results and plans, as well as the operative journey and recovery.

Outside supporting patients and their families, Nadia also attended and presented at weekly clinical meetings within the Neurology Department, attended weekly Victorian Neurology Registrar Lectures, monthly Australia New Zealand Child Neurology Society (ANZCNS) case presentations, and several courses in neurology and neuroscience.

In addition, she contributed to vital epilepsy research being undertaken at the RCH, including her own project which involves the study of seizure semiology (what the seizure looks like and how each of the seizure component changes through a single seizure) in patients with focal cortical dysplasia (small areas of brain malformation that can cause focal seizures).

As part of this project, Nadia is looking to understand if mapping how a seizure would progress depending on where the focal cortical dysplasia is in the brain indicates a particular brain network connection, and if so, whether this can be used to predict risks of focal seizures becoming bilateral tonic clonic seizures (a type of seizure that causes the body to stiffen before it starts jerking).



“Being part of a world class children epilepsy program and learning from some of the best child epileptologists in the world has been a real highlight. I cannot say how grateful I am for the opportunity to be the 2025 Rats of Tobruk Neuroscience Fellow – hopefully someday I can return in person to thank you all as an epileptologist.”





Meet the 2026 Rats of Tobruk Neuroscience Fellow – Justin Kuang

Justin grew up in Melbourne before moving to South Australia to study medicine at the University of Adelaide. After completing his degree, he began paediatric training in Adelaide before moving to Sydney Children’s Hospital to complete a further two years of training.

He recently returned to Melbourne with his wife and young son for the Rats of Tobruk Neuroscience Fellowship.

Justin’s application for the Rats of Tobruk Neuroscience Fellowship was driven by a desire to work at a paediatric hospital renowned for its expertise in epilepsy care including surgery, which can at times represent the only viable solution for a child’s epilepsy. For him, this Fellowship offers the invaluable opportunity to collaborate closely with leaders in the field — to learn from them, work alongside them, and to share in the journey with families seeking hope and healing.



“I would like to sincerely thank ROTA for granting me this opportunity. As I undertake this Fellowship, I will do my utmost to ensure that the spirit of the Rats of Tobruk continues — a spirit of service to others and of helping those most in need.”



Fund status

One hundred percent of the inaugural \$1.5M gift made in 2010 is retained by the RCH Foundation as a perpetual endowment. The funds held in the endowment are invested and managed so that interest can be directed both to funding a Fellow each year and reinvested to maintain the endowment's value.

The Fund will continue to be protected and applied exclusively for the Rats of Tobruk Neuroscience Fellowship. The long-term future of the Fellowship may be strengthened through bequest commitments.

Rats of Tobruk Neuroscience Fellowship

	Financial Year Ended 30 June		
	2024	2025	2026 (est.)
Fund Opening Balance	1,691,955	2,547,720	2,591,119
Revenue			
Donations	2,948	2,405	2,271
Interest - Capital*	774,894	72,310	79,521
Interest - Operating	157,924	109,236	151,309
Total Revenue	935,766	183,951	233,100
Distributions**			
Feb 22 - Jan 23		(20,552)	
Feb 23 - Jan 24	(80,000)		
Feb 24 - Jan 25		(80,000)	
Feb 25 - Jan 26		(40,000)	(40,000)
Feb 26 - Jan 27			(40,000)
Total Distributions	(80,000)	(140,552)	(80,000)
Fund - Capital balance		2,485,034	2,566,825
Fund - Operating balance		106,085	177,394
Fund Closing Balance	2,547,720	2,591,119	2,744,219

* Interest - Capital in 2024 includes capital uplift of \$704,776 and interest of \$70,118

** Fellow appointments commence in February
2025 number includes \$20,552 adjustment of RCHF contribution now funded by ROTA



Thank you



The RCH's vision is a world where all kids thrive, and philanthropy is essential to making this vision a reality. Thank you for joining us on this journey.

Your support truly is instrumental in making a difference in the lives of children and young people at the RCH and beyond. To those who have generously left a Gift in your Will to continue the incredible legacy of the Rats of Tobruk, thank you.

If you have any questions, or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact:

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