

- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

ausEE donates \$20,000 towards helping find a targeted drug delivery to help fight eosinophilic oesophagitis

ausEE has donated \$20,000 of its research funds supporting a new study from The University of Newcastle. This study aims to develop new treatments for Eosinophilic Esophagitis (EoE) and other eosinophilic gastrointestinal disorders (EGIDs).

EoE is a rapidly growing condition effecting an estimated 1 in 1,000 people. EGID occur when eosinophils (pronounced ee-oh-sin-oh-fills), a type of white blood cell, are found in above-normal amounts within the gastrointestinal tract. Eosinophils are important in your body's defence against parasitic infections (e.g. worms). However, they are also involved in allergy. In some individuals, eosinophils accumulate in the gut in response to food and/or airborne allergens and can cause inflammation and tissue damage.

Eosinophilic oEsophagitis (EoE) is the most common type of Eosinophilic Gastrointestinal Disorder (EGID). The symptoms of eosinophilic oesophagitis vary from one individual to the next and can include: Feeding difficulty (such as needing to puree foods, being slow to chew foods, avoidance of certain foods), poor appetite, dysphagia (difficulty in swallowing foods and/or requiring a drink after eating), nausea, persistent vomiting and retching, that does not respond to anti-acid medication, abdominal or chest pain, failure to thrive (failure to put on or loss of weight), food impaction or difficulty sleeping.

Currently there are few options for the management of these conditions. This study aims to create new targeted drug delivery therapies through the use of nanotechnology. The study is being conducted at the University of Newcastle, Hunter Medical Research Institute and John Hunter Hospital, and should be complete within the next two years. We look forward to sharing the results with you.

We are grateful for Laureate Professor Nicholas Talley and his team for their dedication to Eosinophilic Gastrointestinal Disorders and wish his team every success.

For more information about eosinophilic oesophagitis and ausEE please visit www.ausee.org.

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