



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Investing in breakthroughs not breaks

Osteoporosis Australia in partnership with the Australian and New Zealand Bone and Mineral Society invests in quality bone research. We are pleased to announce 3 new grants to help the 6 million Australians suffering from poor bone health.

Osteoporosis Australia CEO Gail Morgan said “The three grants announced today are very important for bone research and the 6 million Australians living with poor bone health.

“In Australia we are fortunate to have world class bone researchers working to unlock the deterioration of bone and make breaks from poor bone health a thing of the past.

“These research grants have been proudly supported by AMGEN Australia and form part of the OA – ANZBMS Research Fund. Supporting bone research is vital in combating the prevalence of osteoporosis and related fractures in the community.

“We must continue to invest in breakthroughs and not breaks”.

#### Grant Recipients and Research Projects

1. Dr Weiwen Chen (Sydney’s Garvan Institute of Medical Research) aims to understand how measuring bone quality, and its density, may predict fracture risk more accurately. This will help improve bone health management in people with chronic diseases, who are often at higher risk of fracture despite a ‘normal’ bone density measurement.
2. Dr Fran Milat (MIMR-PHI, Melbourne) will research the bone health of adults with neurological diseases such as cerebral palsy and spina bifida. An area of great unmet need, this work will contribute to guidelines for bone health management in people with these conditions.
3. Dr Jian Chen (The University of Sydney) will investigate why many people don’t take their osteoporosis medications needed to lower risk of fracture. Understanding treatment barriers will improve treatment rates and reduce the devastating impacts of osteoporosis.

**About the Grants:** This year's program aimed to support projects that evaluate the quality use of medicines in the treatment of osteoporosis or advance the diagnosis or management of patients with osteoporosis. Funding was awarded for projects that showed the most potential to improve patient care, build new skills for people working with osteoporosis patients, and develop new practices or medicines for treating osteoporosis. The successful recipients were determined by an expert assessment panel.

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