Barbara Dicker
Brain Sciences Foundation

Some projects funded by the Barbara Dicker Brain Sciences Foundation

- Training inpatient nursing staff to provide evidence-based psychological care to older patients with anxiety, depression and dementia
- Overcoming obstacles in the public mental health system: An investigation of increased engagement by people with depression
- Monitoring anxiety and depression in the Australian population over time: The development of an annual national Anxiety & Depression Monitor
- Psychophysiological correlates of Major Depressive Disorder (MDD): Possible early biomarkers
- Evaluation of a fully automated internet-based treatment for depression
- Development of an online treatment program for insomnia
- Life-logging: using computer-generated virtual environments to facilitate reminiscence therapy in the early to mid-stages of dementia
- Using magnetoencephalopathy (MEG) to better understand auditory hallucinations
- Mechanisms of effective treatments for suicidal ideation in young people
- Genetic and brain function biomarker predictors of outcome in the treatment of depressed people with hoarding disorder.

For more information about these projects or other projects funded by the Foundation visit www.swinburne.edu.au/barbaradicker

Become involved

If you are interested in supporting the work of the Barbara Dicker Brain Sciences Foundation or would like to understand more about what we do, please contact the Alumni and Development team.
alumni@swin.edu.au
03 9214 8705
Responding to a critical societal need

The Barbara Dicker Brain Sciences Foundation has been established by Mr Ian Dicker AM and his family to honour the memory of his late wife Barbara Dicker. The mission of the Barbara Dicker Brain Sciences Foundation is to contribute to the wellbeing of individuals and communities by supporting research in the areas of dementia, depression and sleep disorders.

One in two people will experience a mental health problem in their lifetime. At least one in five people are currently experiencing a mental health problem. In the developed world, the burden of mental health disorders is now overtaking that of physical health disorders.

Better mental health through applied collaborative research

With the generous support of the Dicker family, Swinburne is establishing Australia’s first multidisciplinary mental health institute. It embraces a range of applied biological, psychological and social research methodologies and collaborations with a broad range of enabling disciplines from the faculties of Science, Engineering and Technology, Health, Arts and Design and Business and Enterprise.

Swinburne’s research capacities in the mental health area encompass basic research, from cellular and genetic science all the way through to brain and behavioural sciences, with the aim of understanding cognitive, biological and contextual influences on behaviour and health. We focus on the translation of basic research findings into applications to improve the wellbeing of individuals, groups and the community.

We are looking for answers to questions such as:

- How do the brains of people with depression, schizophrenia and other mental health disorders differ from healthy controls?
- Which parts of the brain are involved in impulse control and how can we help people develop better control?
- When things happen, do they turn on or turn off a specific part of the brain using Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS)?
- Why do some children become aggressive or have behavioural problems?
- What helps people to develop happiness or to be prone to anxiety, depression, substance abuse and other problems?
- What factors help people work well together?
- What are the most effective treatments for mental health difficulties?
- Can psychological treatments be administered using technological advances?

Swinburne’s investment in mental health

Swinburne has invested $40million to establish Australia’s newest and most complete human brain imaging research facility in the recently opened Advanced Technologies Centre. It incorporates state-of-the-art equipment including a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine and Victoria’s first magneto-encephalograph (MEG) machine.

Swinburne offers researchers the full spectrum of multi-modality imaging. This infrastructure and equipment is complemented with clinical interview rooms, computing facilities for image analysis, clinical trials and e-therapy facilities, cellular neurosciences and genetic laboratories, and a baby laboratory.

Swinburne’s mental health research expertise includes:

- Depression
- Anxiety
- Schizophrenia
- Autism
- Dementia
- Epilepsy
- Obsessive Compulsive Disorders
- Hoarding Disorder
- Anorexia and body image disorders
- Insomnia
- Stress and its effects on chronic health problems.

Yes, I would like to support the Barbara Dicker Brain Sciences Foundation with a tax-deductible gift

$20  $50  $100  $250  $500  $1000  $2500  $5000  Other $

Payment

I wish to pay by:  
- Cheque (payable to Swinburne University of Technology)  
- Visa  
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Please send this form to Alumni and Development, H84, Swinburne University of Technology, PO Box 218, Hawthorn VIC 3122, Australia, or return to a Swinburne staff member.

Swinburne University of Technology is a certified DGR. All gifts over $2.00 are tax-deductible within Australia. ABN 13 628 586 699