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KRI Researchers receive \$149 800 in grants from the Ramaciotti Foundation

Two leading researchers at the Kids Research Institute have each received grants from the Ramaciotti Foundations to continue their outstanding biomedical research.

Dr Julian Ayer from the Heart Centre for Children received the grant of \$75 000 to research the mechanism of action of Adiponectin, an important protein whose levels in the body are related to obesity. The outcome of the research could have an impact on pharmacological treatments to reduce cardiovascular disease.

Dr Loretta Lau received an establishment grant of \$74,800, to study how neuroblastoma, a childhood cancer, uses different methods to acquire unlimited growth. The research will help predict how a cancer tumor will behave. This knowledge can then be used to design better treatments for cancer.

These grant recipients were among the 22 recipients who were awarded \$1.6 million at the annual awards evening in Melbourne.

The Ramaciotti Foundations Establishment Grants support emerging researchers early in their career. The grant enables them to buy equipment or start a project that can be critical to the future success of their research.

Ramaciotti Foundations, set up by philanthropist Vera Ramaciotti, are collectively one of the largest private contributors to biomedical research in Australia.