

Statement from Professor Neil Piller AM

Receiving this honour means so much for our area of research, relating to the lymphatic system, and lymphoedemas, which develop when the system fails through cancers and their treatment or when its linked to a range of other diseases and disorders. It's an area deserving more attention and this award may help us achieve that!

Gaining this recognition is not just about me, for without our fantastic staff who support us we could never achieve what we have done and will do. A particular mention must be made of our clinical trials lead Ms Marielle Esplin and the very dedicated and enthusiastic students currently undertaking PhDs with me in the areas of the impact of climate on lymphoedemas (Ms Susan Witt); the role of AI and e-learning and what its strengths and weaknesses are for patients and professionals (Dr Andrea Mangion); and in the area of pre-screening of high risk patients (Yani Dick).

Also, without the continuing input and enthusiasm of new ideas and directions from our MD Advanced Studies students, we would never have the opportunity to learn new things and to advance our knowledge in hitherto unconsidered issues such as underlying lymphoedemas in diabetes and osteo and rheumatoid arthritis (Theodora Robbins and Georgia North); and looking to objectify the impacts of treatments such as taping for arm lymphoedemas (Megan Qi and Holly Arkell).

There have been many many other students and staff, both professional and academic, who have helped me achieve my ambitions, who over the years have kept me determined to make a difference to all those at risk of and with lymphoedemas. Through the information collected and information given to patients so they can have knowledge and control over their conditions, empowering them and encouraging them to ask more questions to which we all pay attention to further our knowledge.

A special thanks over the many years to members of the Lymphoedema Support Group of South Australia, Ms Monique Bareham, the Lymphoedema Association of Australia and the Australian Lymphology Association as this award is more about all of them. Through their support and questions and comments about what has been done and where we need to go from here that has kept me stimulated and enthusiastic and determined to make a difference throughout my time at Finders and through my post-retirement period (I've still got my foot on the accelerator but easing off just a little!).