Diabetes Australia Research Program Board

Chairperson - John Townend AM, CFRE, FFIA, LFS (Hons)

John was appointed to the Board of Directors in June 2010 and is the Chair of Diabetes Australia Research Ltd. He has served as a Director since 1989, and is a Governor of the Kellion Diabetes Foundation.

John was formerly the Vice-Chairman of the International Diabetes Federation Western Pacific Region, President of Diabetes Australia, and President of Diabetes Australia – NSW. John was also the Chair of Fundraising Institute Australia – NSW and Fundraising Institute Australia.

As part of his role as Director of International Ministries for a US not-for-profit, he is a Chair for organisations in Germany and Holland, and a Director for organisations in Canada, England, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, Russia and the United States.

John has actively contributed to the diabetes movement over the last 28 years, and he personally experienced the effects of diabetes when one of his sons was diagnosed at the age of five. His wish is to see a cure for diabetes.

Moira Watson DipTch, B Ed, Grad Dip Dist Ed, Dip Man

Until April 2013, Moira held the role of Diabetes Australia President and she maintains her position on the Board of Directors. She is the current President of Diabetes WA and has been a Director since 2006.

Moira is a member of the National Diabetes Services Scheme Committee, member of the Diabetes Australia International Affairs Committee and a Diabetes Australia Delegate for the International Diabetes Federation Western Pacific Region. She is also the Chair of the Diabetes Australia Finance, Audit and Risk Management Committee, Chair of the Nominations and Remuneration Committee, Chair of the Constitutional Reform Committee, and a Director of Diabetes Australia Research Limited.

Moira is CEO of Chutzpa, a management consulting company that constructs corporate capability through strategic visioning, change transitioning, leader enhancement and coaching. Moira is also a Councillor with HBF, and is an Appointed Member to the Australian Government's Diabetes Advisory Group.

Having experienced the impact of diabetes, Moira is keen to use her understanding and skills to make a difference to those at risk of, or affected by, this chronic condition.
Ian Rodwell BCom

Ian is the founder of Adcorp Group, Australasia's largest locally owned Marketing and Advertising Communications Group and was the Managing Director until his retirement in January 2004.

Currently, Ian is a Director of the Diabetes Australia Research Program and Chairman of Denarau Villas Ltd in conjunction with Sheraton Hotels in Fiji. He is also the Chairman of Optalert Pty. Ltd., a company which is developing an innovative technology product to measure both alertness and drowsiness, intended to act as an aid to the global transport and mining industries.

Ian is also a Director of Motor Neuron Disease Australia, an organisation responsible for raising and funding medical research to find the cause and cure for motor neurone disease.

Gordon Bunyan BA, LLB

Gordon has been involved in many aspects of diabetes for almost as long as he has had Type 1 diabetes. He has been involved in the research trust, at local, state and federal levels, and internationally. He was Assistant Director at the Australian Institute of International Affairs and was previously a lawyer. Gordon is currently a senior manager with Toyota Motor Corporation Australia Ltd. and a racing car driver.

Gordon is also currently on the Board Committee on Governance and Membership and Vice President and Chair for the International Diabetes Federation.

As a person with diabetes he can provide to the Board an important and different perspective to that offered by the medical and business professionals committed to DA, and to the parents and partners of loved ones with diabetes who give their time so generously.

Malcolm Gray AM, B.Com, DDA, FREI, FAPI, FAICD

Previously the Deputy Chairman for the Bank of Melbourne, the Chairman of Cricket Australia, and the President of the International Cricket Council, Malcolm currently works in a number of community services organisations. He is the Chairman of BQ Design, Director of the Bennelong Group, Director of Gray Johnson, and a Board member for Diabetes Australia – Victoria.

Malcolm’s son has lived with diabetes for 35 years and Malcolm is committed to working with Diabetes Australia in order to improve services available to individuals, families and carers.
Richard Maclsaac Bsc (HONS), PhD, MBBS, FRACP

Richard is a member of the Australian Diabetes Society; the Australian and New Zealand Bone and Mineral Society; the Endocrine Society of Australia; the Endocrine Society (USA); the American Diabetes Association; the European Association for the Study of Diabetes; and the American Society of Nephrology.

Richard is professor and director of Endocrinology and Diabetes at St Vincent’s Hospital and the University of Melbourne. Prior to taking up his current position he was head of diabetes at Austin Health. He has also completed a PhD at the Howard Florey Institute, Melbourne followed by a 2-year post doctoral fellowship at St Vincent’s Institute of Medical Research, Melbourne examining foetal calcium metabolism. He graduated from the University of Melbourne’s Medical School in 1995 and was awarded his fellowship with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians in 2002.

Richard’s main research interest is diabetes and its complications, especially those related to cardiovascular and kidney disease and he has published over 100 research articles on this topic. Alongside his role on the Board of the Diabetes Australia Research Program, he also sits on its Advisory Grants Committee.

Associate Professor Paul Williams – BSc, MSc, PhD, ARCPA, FFSc (RCPA)

Paul was appointed to the Board of Directors in 2008. He is a Director of Diabetes Australia Research Ltd and a past President of the Australian Diabetes Society. He is a member of the Diabetes Australia International Affairs Committee and is on the Executive Committee of the International Diabetes Federation Western Pacific Region. Paul was also previously a member of the Diabetes Australia Medical, Education and Scientific Committee.

Paul is the Endocrine Society of Australia's delegate to the Pathology Associations Committee and a member of the American Diabetes Association. He has been a Foundation Fellow of the Faculty of Science and an Associate Member of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia. He is an Associate Professor and Principal Research Fellow at the University of Sydney Medical School.

Paul has been involved in diabetes research since 1972, covering insulin resistance, insulin receptor structure and function, insulin action, diabetes complications and pathology testing for diabetes. He aims to ensure that the rights and concerns of people with diabetes are represented by Diabetes Australia to the Commonwealth.