

August 8, 2012

Tara Chandramouli  
Disha

Dear Tara,

The Mental Health Research Institute considers itself to be very fortunate to have the support of Disha. Over the last seven years Disha has generously supported the work of the institute by providing important funding to purchase vital laboratory equipment.

The Perkins Elma DNA Thermal Cycler purchased almost five years ago is still in use today allowing us to analyse DNA from patients with mental illness assisting us to understand the underlying cause of illnesses such as bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and major depression.

Similarly a gel imaging system also funded by Disha is being used to examine DNA and RNA and is a fundamental tool of our research. The aim of this work is to identify changed genes and develop drugs that will return them to normal function with the expectation that this will relieve the symptoms of the disease.

The word Disha means direction and the support provided by Disha has greatly assisted the direction of our research and is offering hope to people who live with mental illness.

Recently the *Mental Health Research Institute* and the *Florey Neuroscience Institutes*, amalgamated to become *The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health*. This new organisation will continue the research mission to improve the lives of people with a mental illness and neurodegenerative disorders. We will continue to work with our partners to ensure that this work helps address the problems that affects over one in five Australians.

Disha can be proud to be supporting the new organisation has created a powerhouse of research strength making it one of the top ten neuroscience research institutes in the world. We are certainly proud to benefit from the wonderful work of Disha.

Sincerely,



Laureate Professor Colin L. Masters  
Director, Division of Mental Health  
Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health