



Regenerative medicine.
Teaching the body to
treat itself.



Prof Kerry Atkinson has dedicated his life to improving patient outcomes. He was at the forefront of bone marrow transplantation in the 1970's and continues to search for improved ways to treat patients.

At Mater Medical Research Institute Prof Atkinson and his team are investigating adult (non-embryonic) stem cells and how they can be used in regenerative medicine.

"Adult stem cells are amazing, some stem cells (known as induced pluripotent stem cells) have opened so many more possibilities of repairing damaged human organs. These stem cells can be obtained from any tissue type in the body (for example heart, brain and liver), and used to repair damage," Prof Atkinson said.

Using the body's own cells to fight disease is not new, but this research takes the concept to a new level. The opportunities for the application of this research in treating patients with a range of health problems—from asthma to cancer—have far-reaching implications.

"I hope this research into adult stem cells will open new treatment opportunities for patients in the same way that bone marrow transplants changed the face of leukaemia treatment in the past," Prof Atkinson said.

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