



HARRY PERKINS INSTITUTE
OF MEDICAL RESEARCH



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PERKINS Seminar Series

and
SCGH Research Week

WEDNESDAY 18 OCTOBER



Professor Sue Fletcher

Director of Research, Perron Institute
Deputy Director, Muscular Therapies Laboratory, Murdoch University

"Invention, drug development and the uncertain path to commercialisation"

Professor Sue Fletcher is the Perron Institute Director of Research and the Deputy Director of the Molecular Therapies laboratory at Murdoch University. She has been instrumental in developing antisense therapies for inherited disorders through oligomer induced exon skipping to overcome dystrophin mutations that cause Duchenne muscular dystrophy. She has developed antisense oligomers to skip each of the 79 dystrophin exons, except the first and last.

On 19th September 2016, the USA Food and Drug Administration gave accelerated approval to this compound, now called Exondys-51 (previously Eteplirsen). This is the first dystrophin restoring drug of its type ever approved by the FDA. The translational impact of Professor Fletcher's research on Duchenne muscular dystrophy has been acknowledged through several awards, including the 2012 WA Innovator of the Year Award, the 2013 Eureka Prize for Medical Research Translation jointly with Professor Wilton. Current research explores the use of similar drug strategies in other diseases, including spinal muscular atrophy, cystic fibrosis and Pompe's disease.

12:30pm till 1:30pm
followed by a light lunch

For more information, please contact Dr Aron Chakera on Aron.Chakera@health.wa.gov.au

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