

## Statement from the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute

The science behind Professor Sally Dunwoodie's 2017 research published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* has never been questioned and in 2018 she was awarded the UNSW Eureka Prize for Scientific Research for her research into the genetic and environmental causes of birth defects. Since that 2017 publication, Professor Dunwoodie, AO, has published a further six peer-reviewed papers in top international journals extending her discoveries into NAD and congenital heart disease. Furthermore, International groups have independently reported additional patients based on Dunwoodie's findings with the results published in four additional scientific papers. Also, the genes in question *KYNU*, *HAAO* and *NADSYN1* have been validated as causing birth defects by the UK's NHS Genomic Medicine Service and Australia Genomics PanelApp Australia and are now recommended as tests for specific types of birth defects. Her team also has developed a diagnostic test that can accurately measure women's NAD and vitamin B3 levels. A clinical study measuring NAD levels of more than 200 women has also been undertaken. The results will be published later this year. In 2017, the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute addressed the issues arising from the original press release, and the communications team associated with that release has since left the Institute.