Vale Henry Krum
1958 - 2015

Professor Henry Krum, our colleague, friend and internationally renowned cardiovascular researcher passed away in late November 2015 following a long battle with cancer.

Henry was Head of the Clinical Pharmacology Department at the Alfred Hospital & Director of the Centre of Cardiovascular Research and Education in Therapeutics in the Department of Epidemiology and Preventative Medicine at Monash University. Henry established this centre with a National Health and Medical Research Council grant in 2002, and has employed approximately 60 staff, students and visiting academics. He has published more than 500 journal articles, four books and 22 book chapters. Henry was a dedicated supervisor and mentor of 24 PhD students and 12 honours students. He has held numerous competitive research grants and was recently awarded two NHMRC grants in the 2015 round of funding.

Henry studied medicine at the University of Melbourne and graduated in 1981. He became a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians in 1989 and completed his PhD in 1991. Henry then undertook post-doctoral studies at Columbia University in New York, USA. Upon his return, he had a joint position at the Austin Hospital and the University of Melbourne, before being appointed in 1996 to Monash University and the Alfred Hospital. He became a full professor in 2003.

Among many awards, Henry was the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand Gaston Bauer Lecturer in 2011. Other awards included the Henry Christian Award from the American Federation of Clinical Research, a listing as a Thomson Reuters Highly Cited Researcher in 2015, a NHMRC Achievement Award in 2011, and the National Heart Foundation’s Victorian President’s contribution to research award October 2015.

In a profile in The Lancet in 2014, Henry was described as putting “…Australia on the map with respect to clinical trials in cardiovascular disease, particularly in heart failure…” He played a leading international role in trialling novel cardiovascular drugs and other therapeutic treatments, including beta-blockers for heart failure, the renin inhibitor aliskiren for heart failure, and renal denervation for resistant hypertension. It has been estimated that Henry conducted 150 clinical trials during his career, and he developed numerous clinical guidelines. He was a journal editor, associate editor and editorial board member of many international journals.

Henry was also a highly respected member of the Department of Cardiovascular Medicine at the Alfred Hospital, which has a large Heart Failure Unit. I also worked with Henry on the Alfred Health Human Research and Ethics Committee for many years, where his insights were incisive and invaluable. Henry Krum was a kind and good person, whose intellectual rigour was admired, and yet he had a great warmth and sense of humour. Henry is survived by his wife Lauren, children Joshua and Emily, his sister Sharon and extended family.

The Society would like to thank Dr Stephen Duffy, Head, Cardiology General Services, The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne who has kindly provided this Vale.