UTR2.145 – THE PROFESSOR DONALD BROOK CHEEK FUND IN OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY

Background –

A. Pursuant to the provisions of a Deed dated 3 October 1989 Professor Cheek (‘donor’) donated to the University of Adelaide the sum of $10,000* (‘donation’) to be administered in the following manner:

‘for the object of promoting study and research into growth nutrition and/or body composition of the foetus, neonate or child and into obstetric problems insofar as they influence the growth and nutrition of the foetus. Such income shall be available for equipment and emoluments for scholars and other workers whose research serves the objects of the Fund as the Council in its absolute discretion may determine PROVIDED ALWAYS that in approving, considering, reviewing or assessing any research the Council shall only have regard to the opinion of research workers who are recognised by virtue of their publications and not by the opinion of clinicians.’

B. In 1992, the fund was further supplemented by $4,000 from the estate of Professor Cheek.

C. Professor Donald Brook Cheek (1924-1990) (MBBS 1947, MD 1953) was educated at Prince Alfred College and the University of Adelaide, where he was awarded the Eric Smith Scholarship. From the time of his graduation he embarked on a life of research, initially under the direction of Professor Sir Stanton Hicks in the University of Adelaide Physiology Department, where he established a link between Pink Disease (Infantile Acrodynia) and salt deficiency. In 1958 he described pseudohypoaldosteronism, a hitherto unrecognised salt wasting syndrome in infancy, which overseas workers referred to as Cheek’s disease.

D. After research appointments in USA at Yale and the University of Cincinnati, interspersed with a post at The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto and a research fellowship at the Royal Children’s Hospital in Melbourne, he was appointed Assistant Professor at the University of Texas, then from 1962 spent a decade at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, becoming Professor and Head of the Division of Growth Research.

E. He resumed work in Australia as Research Professor of Paediatrics at the University of Melbourne and first Director of the Royal Children’s Hospital Research Foundation from 1973-1979. From 1980-1988 he was Visiting Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the University of Adelaide, researching hydration and tissue growth in newborn infants and pregnant women.

F. In a lifetime of research into the growth and development of children he wrote two books and more than 200 papers. He was described by American colleagues as a ‘pioneer of children’s body composition and growth investigations’, and was the only non-American to win the coveted Borden Award, America’s highest award for paediatric research. The Adelaidean, 6th April 1990

G. The University accepted the donations upon the trusts specified by the donor and the donations therefore became the capital subject to those trusts (‘capital sum’).
Investment of the fund

1. The fund is to be amalgamated for the purposes of investment, and held in a common fund, and the net income earned by the common fund shall be credited, rateably, to the funds so amalgamated and thereafter distributed according to the trusts specified by the donor.

Obligations

2. In administering the fund, the University must adhere to the terms specified and is obliged:-

   (a) to invest the capital sum according to the directions of the donor; and

   (b) to establish a fund to be administered according to the wishes of the donor.

Rules

1. The award shall be known as “The Professor Donald Brook Cheek Fund in Obstetrics and Gynaecology”.

2. The award is available to early career researchers and members of the professional research staff in the Discipline of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Adelaide who are seeking funding to assist with costs of materials, equipment, and remuneration of full time or casual staff for research associated in the area of fetal growth.

3. Calls for applications for the award shall be made once per year and applications will be submitted to the Head of the Discipline of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the form prescribed.

4. The annual value of the award will be set by the Head of the Discipline of Obstetrics and Gynaecology who will take into account the level of annual income available from the Endowment Fund, the need to maintain the capital base and other potential funding sources available to support the award. It shall be awarded from time to time as the income from the Endowment Fund permits.

5. The award shall be administered by the Discipline of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the University of Adelaide.

6. Selection of the successful candidate will be made by a selection panel, whose members shall be:

   o researchers from the Discipline of Obstetrics and Gynaecology;
   o nominated by the Head of the Discipline of Obstetrics and Gynaecology by virtue of their publications rather than their clinical experience, in compliance with the requirements imposed on the University by Professor Cheek.

7. The Head of the Discipline of Obstetrics and Gynaecology will provide the name of the awardee annually to the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences.

27 March 2017
8. Surplus income not awarded as part of this award may be added to the capital sum in the Endowment Fund from time to time.

9. The University may vary the rules from time to time in a manner consistent with the University’s legal obligations and policies.

Rules approved by Acting Vice Chancellor & President, Professor Mike Brooks, 27 March 2017

Rule Revisions:

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<td>27 March 2017</td>
<td>Acting Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Mike Brooks</td>
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