Background –

A. Dr Trevor Dinning founded the Neurosurgical Research Foundation (NRF) in 1963. The object of the NRF is directed primarily towards research into the cause, diagnosis, prevention and treatment of diseases or injuries or malfunctions of the brain, spine and the nerves.

With the passage of time it became evident that productive research in the surgical neurosciences required an academic basis, and in 1988 the NRF launched an appeal to establish a Chair in Neurosurgical Research in South Australia. This was the first such Chair in Australia and was supported as a national project by the Neurosurgical Research Society of Australasia.

In 1992 the NRF established the Gwendolyn Michell Chair of Neurosurgery Research at Adelaide University. This was the first University Chair of Neurosurgery in Australia. Clinical neurosurgical services are also predominantly located in one institution in Adelaide, the Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH), and other neuroscientists are on campus or immediately adjacent. This concentrates experience and opens opportunities for non-academic neurosurgeons to have an involvement in research.

On 29 January 2004, the Chair was established on a permanent basis, and in tribute to the role of the NRF, it was renamed the NRF Chair of Neurosurgery. Donations amounting to $1,841,235 were presented to the University of Adelaide.

It is a statement to the increasing respect of NRF funded research that neuro-scientists throughout the world and Australia collaborate with the Chair of Neurosurgery at Adelaide University and with the independent grant recipients.’

Information obtained from Neurosurgical Research Foundation website www.nrf.com.au/

B. The University accepted the donations upon the trusts specified and the donations therefore became the capital subject to those trusts (‘capital sum!’).

Name of the fund

1. The capital sum, all income arising from the capital sum and any accumulations and additions thereto together form a fund called the ‘NRF Chair of Neurosurgery’ (‘fund’).

Investment of the fund

2. 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.
Obligations

3. 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 and fund a Chair of Neurosurgery according to the wishes of the donor.