UTR2.209 - NEUROSURGICAL CLINICAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (ABBIE SIMPSON CLINICAL FELLOWSHIP) AND THE ABBIE MEMORIAL LECTURE

Background –

A. The Neurosurgical Research Foundation (NRF) donated $1.8 million to the University of Adelaide for the purpose of supporting the research infrastructure for the Chair of Neurosurgical Research. Since that donation, the NRF entered into discussions with the University with a view to supporting a clinical neurosurgical research fellow which will help to ensure a strong clinical emphasis remains in the research programs of the Chair of Neurosurgical Research. It is intended that the clinical neurosurgical fellowship be named after Emeritus Professor Donald Simpson AO (a former Professor of Neurosurgery at the University and who held a chair in neurosurgery and neurotrauma for many years) and Mrs Abbie (the wife of Professor Andrew Abbie, a former Professor of Anatomy and Histology at the University) who have been long-term supporters of the University of Adelaide. Members of the Abbie and Simpson families are distinguished members of the Neurosurgery Research Foundation.

B. The first Clinical Fellow was expected to start in September 2006.

C. The Abbie Simpson Clinical Research Fellowship endowments are not spent but rather are invested by the University and the interest obtained from those endowments used to attract outstanding neurosurgical researchers to the University of Adelaide.

D. In 1979 (approx), Mrs Audrey Abbie donated to the University of Adelaide the sum of $10,000 for the purpose of establishing a fund for a memorial lecture in memory of her late husband, Emeritus Professor Andrew Arthur Abbie, Elder Professor of Anatomy and Histology from 1945 to 1970, for the promotion and advancement of studies in neuro-anatomy and related fields.

E. Professor Abbie was born on 8 February 1905 at Gillingham, Kent, England and his family migrated to New South Wales in 1924. He studied Medicine and Science at the University of Sydney where he won the Collie Prize for Botany, the Haswell Prize for Zoology, the Renwick Scholarship and the Harris Scholarship, graduating B. Sc. and M.B.,B.S. with Honours in 1929.

F. From 1929 to 1932 he was a resident medical officer at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney, and then from 1932 to 1935 was a Walter and Eliza Hall Travelling Medical Research Fellow, working mainly at University College, London, and also at the Central Institute for Brain Research, Amsterdam, and the Museum of Comparative Anatomy, Paris. He won the Johnson Symington Prize of the Anatomical Society of Great Britain and Ireland in 1934, in which year he graduated Ph.D. from the University of London.

G. In 1935 Abbie was appointed Senior Lecturer in Anatomy at the University of Sydney, where he graduated M.D. (with the Ethel Talbot Prize) in 1936 and D.Sc. in 1941.

H. In 2006 it was agreed with Mrs Abbie that the funds from Mrs Abbie and the Neurosurgical Research Foundation be consolidated into a single account for the purpose of supporting both the Abbie Memorial Lecture and the Abbie-Simpson Neurosurgical Clinical Fellowship.

I. The University accepted the donations upon the trusts specified by the donors 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 ‘Abbie Simpson Clinical Fellowship and Abbie Memorial Lecture Fund’ (‘fund’).

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 wishes of 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(s); and

   (b) to establish a fellowship according to the directions of the donor and to give a lecture in neuro-anatomy and related fields from time to time as per the following rules.

Rules – Abbie Memorial Lecture

2. The Abbie Memorial Lecture is administered according to the following Rules:-

   (1) A lecture in neuro-anatomy and related fields to be known as ‘The Abbie Memorial Lecture’ shall be given from time to time in the University of Adelaide in accordance with the provisions of these rules.

   (2) Each lecturer shall be appointed by the Executive Dean of Health Sciences from time to time on the recommendation of a Selection Committee consisting of the Chair of Neurosurgery Research and two senior neurologists or neurosurgeons from teaching hospitals associated with the University of Adelaide. Appointment of the Selection Committee shall be approved by the Executive Dean of Health Sciences for five year periods on the nomination of the Chair of Neurosurgery Research.

   (3) The lecture shall be given at intervals conditioned by money available and other factors as recommended by the Selection Committee.

   (4) The annual income arising from the fund shall accumulate during the intervals between each lecture. After allowance for any appropriate augmentation of the capital sum, the income thus accumulated shall be used to pay the honorarium of
the lecturer, the costs of travel to and from Adelaide of the lecturer, and any other costs associated with presentation of the lecture as the Executive Dean of Health Sciences may from time to time approve. The honorarium shall be determined from time to time by the Executive Dean of Health Sciences on the recommendation of the Selection Committee. Each lecturer shall be presented with a suitably inscribed memento.

(5) Admission to the lectures shall be free to the public.

(6) These rules may be varied from time to time, but the title and object of the lectures shall not be changed.