



Under the Microscope

Associate Professor Andrew Redfern

Royal Perth Hospital Associate Professor Andrew Redfern is among nine recipients of Targeted Research Fund (TRF) grants across Western Australia. He will share in \$1.7 million worth of research funding.

Associate Professor Redfern's research project '*Assessment of breast density as a potential surrogate for efficacy of adjuvant endocrine therapy in early breast cancer*' uses Mammographic Breast Density (MBD) to predict the success of anti-estrogen breast cancer treatments.

"Two thirds of early breast cancer patients receive anti-estrogen treatments, which equates to 10,000 new patients in Australia each year," Mr Redfern said.

"Our study examines whether MBD can be used to predict whether an anti-estrogen treatment is likely to successfully prevent the return of breast cancer".

Should a correlation be identified, the potential benefits for effective breast cancer treatment alternatives are immense.

"There is potential to identify a drug that will be ineffective much earlier in the treatment phase, meaning patients could receive effective breast cancer treatment much sooner." Mr Redfern said.

The TRF is a Department of Health initiative, established in 2011 to fund short term research projects that address issues impacting the health of West Australians.

TRF recipients are selected based on a number of criteria which focus on the ability of the research to translate research findings into more effective health policy and practice in WA Health.

Mr Redfern's project has received more than \$93,000 in funding and is set to take about two years to complete. The research will increase the capacity of WA Health to address health issues impacting on Western Australians.