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Media Statement

**NEW MEDICAL DIRECTOR AT MELANOMA RESEARCH CENTRE**

The Nedlands-based Scott Kirkbride Melanoma Research Centre has appointed Professor Leedman to the newly-created role of Medical Director.

Mt Claremont's Professor Leedman has firm aspirations for WA's only dedicated research centre for melanoma, based at the Western Australian Institute for Medical Research (WAIMR), to help put the Centre on the world map.

Professor Leedman said he was enjoying his new position at the Centre as he has always had a real passion for its work and a great connection with the staff, and looked forward to developing important research projects.

"I have always been an advocate for the Centre from the beginning, so it's very exciting for me to be able to step into this role and get involved in the important work being done there," he said.

"I'm looking forward to helping the researchers continue laying down a fantastic resource in the WA Melanoma Health Study that will not only help open opportunities to pinpoint genes linked to melanoma, but also establish a solid platform for research well into the future."

Professor Leedman said he also planned to expand the Centre's scope in the future to include a more therapeutic approach and clinical trials in its search for better treatment and cure for melanoma.

The Scott Kirkbride Melanoma Research Centre was established in March 2005 in memory of Scott Kirkbride, a young Mt Claremont man who died from melanoma at the age of 27, and aims to pinpoint genetic causes of the disease and develop improved treatment, prevention and possible cure.

Scott's mother and centre founder, Yvonne Kirkbride said she was thrilled to welcome Professor Leedman to a leadership role at the Centre.

"I believe Peter's drive and infectious enthusiasm will deliver a bright future in the development of research and treatment of melanoma in Western Australia. I will be working closely with Peter and look forward to the months ahead as we strengthen our Centre and the important research we're dedicated to," she said.

With a background in clinical medicine and several years experience as the current Deputy Director of WAIMR, Professor Leedman's wealth of experience and will help take the Centre into a groundbreaking future

As well as his new position, Professor Leedman is Deputy Director of WAIMR and Director of Research at Royal Perth Hospital where he also consults patients at his Endocrinology clinic, treating people with a range of hormone disorders such as thyroid problems and diabetes.

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