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**Institute of Respiratory Medicine Re-Named**

From today, the Institute of Respiratory Medicine will be known as the Woolcock Institute of Medical Research to reflect the central role, both nationally and internationally, it plays in respiratory research.

Professor Norbert Berend, Director, Woolcock Institute of Medical Research, said, “Initially we focussed our research purely on asthma, but we came to realise that by working in a range of respiratory areas, such as allergies, sleep, cystic fibrosis and emphysema, we are able to network research technology across many aspects of respiratory health.

“Medical research is like doing a giant jigsaw, with many disciplines like genetics, molecular biology, pharmacology, physiology and epidemiology contributing to filling out the picture until we solve the problem,” Professor Berend explained.

The Woolcock Institute of Medical Research is Australia’s leading respiratory research organisation. Its mission is to improve the respiratory health of all Australians through research, education, prevention and care

The new name is in recognition of Prof. Ann Woolcock AO, the founder of the Institute of Respiratory Medicine and a world-leading expert in the field of asthma. Her early research completely revised the prevailing understanding of mechanisms and consequences of acute asthma. Ann’s life came to premature end in February 2001 when she died of breast cancer.