



Department of Health  
Government of Western Australia



Royal Perth Hospital

## *Media Statement*

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### **Prof Fiona Wood leads new wounds study**

Royal Perth Hospital burns expert Clinical Professor Fiona Wood is leading a new study that looks at the genetic basis of ageing in the skin and how this impacts on wound healing and scarring.

The McComb Research Foundation based at Royal Perth Hospital, in collaboration with the Centre for Comparative Genomics at Murdoch University will explore the genetic changes seen in the aging of skin.

Prof Wood said as the population ages, it will become increasingly important to understand how the skin responds to injury.

She said: "It is clinically observed that the risk of severe scarring reduces with age. Understanding the genetic basis will allow development of therapies to reduce scarring."

It is hoped that the information gathered by this study will contribute to the progress towards scarless healing.

To do the study the Hospital needs 90 healthy Caucasian male volunteers aged upwards of 20.

Volunteers will have a single small (3mm) skin biopsy taken from their back that should heal with no scarring. The procedure takes a few minutes.

The study will be funded by the MBF Living Well Foundation.

*For more information about this media release, please contact RPH Public Relations, 9224 2209 or 9224 3943.*