



Professor Steve Wilton

Director – Perron Institute

Director – Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics (a joint venture between the Perron Institute and Murdoch University).

Professor Steve Wilton is the Perron Institute's Director and the Director of the Centre for Molecular Medicine and Innovative Therapeutics at Murdoch University. With Professor Sue Fletcher, he also leads the Molecular Therapies Laboratory at Murdoch University.

Professor Wilton joined the institute in 1991 and with his colleague Professor Sue Fletcher pioneered the development of a radically new therapy for the devastating childhood disorder, Duchenne muscular dystrophy. In September 2016, a drug developed in the Perron Institute's Perth laboratories (Exondys-51) received accelerated approval by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the clinical trials continuing to produce highly positive outcomes. In December 2019, the FDA granted Vyondys-53 accelerated approval, to treat another subset of Duchenne.

Professor Wilton's research on Duchenne has been acknowledged through several awards, including the 2012 WA Innovator of the Year Award, the 2013 Eureka Prize for Medical Research Translation, the 2014 Labgear Australia Discovery Science Award, and in 2016 he was nominated Western Australian of the Year in the Professions category. Current research explores the use of similar drug strategies in other diseases, including spinal muscular atrophy, cystic fibrosis and Pompe's disease to name a few.