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THE BAIRD INSTITUTE
PATRON'S MESSAGE

The Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG

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I am glad, once again, to offer congratulations and good wishes to the Baird Institute at RPAH and to the University of Sydney. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Institute has continued to support people in need of cardiovascular advice and surgery. Led by Professor Paul Bannon, it has continued to pioneer research on aortic surgery, valvular surgery and myomectomy surgery. It has established Australia's first comprehensive cardiovascular surgery biobanking program. This utilises tissues procured from aortic and other surgery. Those tissues are then utilised for research into various forms of heart disease.

One patient, Alan Pope, has written about his family's experience with aortic surgery. It began with his great-grand-father, included his father and just recently he himself has undergone surgery at 40 years of age. All members of the family had aortic aneurysms. He speaks openly and proudly of the work of the Baird Institute. This is a case of helping three generations in need.

The past year has been dominated by the COVID-19 crisis in Australia and the world. The pandemic has prevented the usual friendly meetings of supporters of the Baird Institute, when they can learn of the medical and surgical miracles and take pride in the engagement with scholarship

recipients and friendly gatherings with surgeons and researchers. We all hope that next year we will return us to a normal world. COVID-19 has shown how we are all susceptible to disease and infection. But we are also susceptible to cardiovascular disorders. They go on happening. And they need the vigilant work of “the Baird”.

The work of the Baird Institute goes on relentlessly and has not been interrupted by COVID. We who are the beneficiaries of Doug Baird and his successors must continue to support the Baird Institute. It is a bright jewel of Australian medical and surgical intervention and research. And it has shone even more brightly during the dark months of COVID.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Kirby". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "M".

MICHAEL KIRBY

Patron of the Baird Institute