



Marfan Syndrome Researcher Profile Maria Nataatmadja: Dept. Medicine UQ; Prince Charles Hospital

Maria is currently undertaking research into aneurysms and has a close and longstanding relationship, as a member, with the Marfan Association Qld Inc. Maria was born in Indonesia, moved to Melbourne, Australia in 1983. She has a degree in Dentistry but her move to Australia has given her the opportunity to be actively involved in dental and medical research. She started working in research in the field of Dentistry and obtained her Masters of Dental Science degree with the University of Melbourne. After working for a while she progressed to cardiovascular research in the field of hypertension in association with the Baker Medical Research Institute. After obtaining her Phd in 2000, she moved to Brisbane with her husband and two children and joined the Department of Medicine, University Queensland. She has been working in aneurysm research since then. The department has a close and long standing relationship with the Marfan Assoc. Qld. Inc and by knowing the group personally, it has encouraged her to work further in this field of research.

As a Cell Biologist, she has a particular interest in investigating how genetic conditions might be involved in the development of aortic aneurysm. She is studying the role of stem cells in vascular disease and repair, and trying to understand the behaviour of these cells and how to direct them to replace tissue damage. Using an animal model, she is currently testing possible drug intervention in preventing and/or repairing the development of aortic aneurysm. She is testing 2 drugs: firstly the long term implication of an antihypertensive drug which has been shown to be able to prevent aortic aneurysm development in an animal model; secondly, she is also testing the implication of an antagonist of a growth factor which has been reported to have some controversial effects in the development of aortic aneurysm.

Maria's research has been the recipient of money donated to Marfan Association Qld. Inc and we thank her for her continued support as a member of the Association and wish her well in her further research to which we hope to continue donating.