

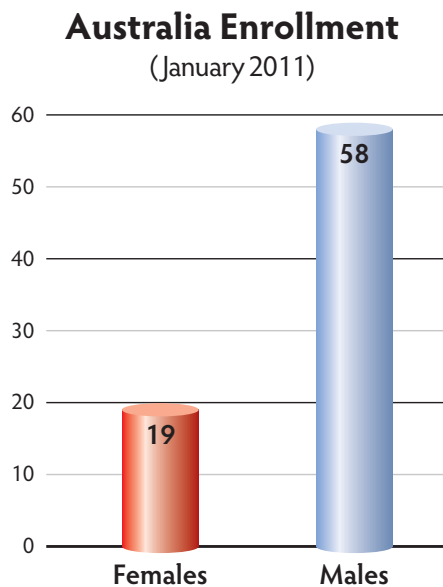
## Australia



VIRGO-Australia has enrolled 77 participants (19 women and 58 men) Down Under. VIRGO-Australia has expanded its influence to include the largest teaching hospital in Adelaide, South Australia – Royal Adelaide Hospital with nearly 700 beds – alongside existing sites at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital (TQEH) and Lyell McEwin Hospitals. Screening commenced at the Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH) in November, as of this month 7 participants have now been enrolled at the RAH. PI, Professor. John Beltrame welcomes an enthusiastic team from the Royal Adelaide Hospital led by Professor Stephen Worthley.

“With 70% of Australian women unaware of their risk of heart disease, our goal is to establish a collaborative team here in South Australia focused on coronary heart disease in young women,” said Professor. Beltrame. The Australian investigators bring expertise in coronary plaque biology, microvascular dysfunction and coronary heart disease outcomes.

To date, the Aussies are on track to reach their enrollment target with 77 participants enrolled. “We are also interested in assessing infarct size and



myocardial viability using cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (CMRI),” said John Beltrame. “Professor Worthley brings years of expertise in CMRI, and will play a major role in our analyses alongside Dr. Mahadevan, who will coordinate the CMRI sub-study at TQEH and Lyell McEwin Hospital”.

Professor. Beltrame and Coordinator, Rachel Dreyer BSc(Hons) welcomed medical student Yang Du to the VIRGO-Australia team (pictured). New to research, Yang’s medical training will be an asset to the team. “It’s exciting to be involved in such an



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– Professor. John Beltrame



**Left: Coordinators Rachel Dreyer and Yang Du**

**Below: PI Professor John Beltrame, Dr. Magaret Arstall, Director of Cardiology at Lyell McEwin Hospital, Dr. Devan Mahadevan, Consultant Cardiologist at TQEH and Lyell McEwin Hospital and Coordinator Rachel Dreyer**



**Above: PI, Professor John Beltrame and VIRGO Coordinator, Gabrielle Douglas at a chance meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark**

international collaborative effort to learn more about this young population affected by heart disease,” said Yang Du. “Our team is appreciative of the support provided by the VIRGO Coordinating Center,” said Rachel Dreyer. “Frequent early morning Skype calls with VIRGO Coordinator and Aussie ex-pat,

Gabrielle Douglas provide a vital link between Yale and South Australia”.

The VIRGO-Australia team remain passionate about increasing awareness and contributing to the body of research that may shed light on mechanistic insights into gender differences in heart disease.