



# CHRONIC BREATHLESSNESS



**INSTITUTION NAME:** Flinders University

**CATEGORIES:** Health, Science

**TITLE:** Helping people to breathe easy

---

Imagine trying to go about your day not being able to breathe properly. That's the case for 300,000 Australians who suffer breathlessness at rest or on minimal exertion. 70,000 of these sufferers are so breathless that they cannot leave their home. Chronic breathlessness is a prominent symptom amongst patients with advanced lung or heart disease and is currently unable to be treated.

David Currow, Professor of Palliative and Supportive Services at Flinders University, is tackling this problem and has demonstrated the benefit of slow-release morphine in Phase II clinical trials of patients with chronic breathlessness.

To progress the research further, a collaboration with an industry partner was entered into. With the support of Flinders Partners, discussion were held with Mayne Pharma, an Australian pharmaceutical company who manufactures and distributes Kapanol, a slow-release morphine product globally. These were successfully concluded in 2015 and Flinders Partners granted Mayne Pharma an exclusive worldwide license to past, present and key future clinical studies conducted by Flinders University on the treatment of breathlessness. Flinders and Mayne Pharma are now working collaboratively on Phase III clinical studies. These studies will support regulatory filings in key global markets.



Once the drug is approved for use, we hope that it will be life changing for many people, significantly increasing their quality of life.

**Related Media:**

<http://www.flinders.edu.au/people/david.currow>

<https://www.flinders.edu.au/clinical-change/research/palliative-care-clinical-studies-collaborative-paccsc.cfm>

<https://www.maynepharma.com/>