



**Geelong Advertiser**  
**Tuesday 25/10/2011**  
 Page: 3  
 Section: General News  
 Region: Geelong VIC, AU  
 Circulation: 28186  
 Type: Regional  
 Size: 197.75 sq.cms.



press clip

# Exciting Geelong drug treatment could help millions

## Deakin diabetes hope

MANDY SQUIRES

A NEW drug treatment being developed in Geelong could help millions of diabetes sufferers across the world.

Deakin researcher and Jan Juc resident, Fred Pfeffer, is working with the Deakin School of Medicine and Verva Pharmaceuticals to develop the therapy, which is expected to be trialled in animals as early as next year.

Dr Pfeffer, a former Oberon High School student, yesterday said a team of six Deakin

researchers had identified three compounds which could limit glucose production in people with diabetes.

This knowledge could be used to develop a drug which was effective for diabetes sufferers who had not responded well to traditional therapies, he said.

The team started work on the project at the start of 2010, after receiving a grant from the Australian Research Council. Dr Pfeffer said.

“Ultimately, if it works, this could prove to be a really handy treatment for people who haven’t had luck with other treatments... it could be a very valuable addition to the current arsenal of pharmaceuticals available for diabetes.”

Dr Pfeffer won Geelong’s Researcher of the Year award with colleague Luke Henderson in 2009 for groundbreaking research into ‘superbugs’.

The pair are trying to de-

velop alternative antibiotics which will be successful in combating the rise of antibiotic-resistant superbugs.

Dr Pfeffer said his work on superbugs was continuing.

The annual Researcher of the Year awards will be held this Friday night, at a gala dinner at Truffleduck in Fyansford.

The night will also mark the end of this week’s Smart Geelong Network Research and Innovation Expo.

**‘Ultimately, if it works, this could prove to be a really handy treatment for people who haven’t had luck with other treatments.’ – Dr FRED PFEFFER**



Dr Fred Pfeffer