

# Experts to probe stinger treatments

By Siobhan Barry

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Far north Queensland researchers will use a \$40,000 grant to investigate just how lethal irukandji and box jellyfish venom is and to look for treatments.

The Queensland Emergency Medicine Research Foundation awarded the grant to a joint research project between Queensland Health and James Cook University.

Cairns Base Hospital's director of emergency medicine, Dr Peter Pereira, says the project will be a first.

"Once we've established the toxicity of the venom, we can try a variety of treatments," he said.

"One of the research angles that we'll be using is trying to heat the venom up to a reasonable degree of 40 degrees and see whether or not that heat will inactivate the venom.

"We've done that previously with bluebottle venoms and found it to be quite effective."

ABC News

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/12/02/2759286.htm>