



BRISBANE WELCOMES ASMR MEDALIST 2017

PROFESSOR RICHARD WILKINSON

Scientist, Author, Advocate

Arriving in Brisbane this afternoon, Professor **Richard Wilkinson**, ASMR Medalist 2017.

Professor Wilkinson has played a formative role in international research on the social determinants of health and on the societal effects of income inequality.

His bestselling book “The Spirit Level: Why more equal societies almost always do better”, authored with Kate Pickett encouraged 75 British Members of Parliament to sign the Equality Trust's 'Equality Pledge' prior to the UK's 2010 general election, promising to "actively support the case for policies designed to narrow the gap between rich and poor”.

The Spirit Level won the 2011 UK Political Studies Association Publication of the Year Award and inspired a documentary film, “The Divide” in 2016.

Professor Wilkinson will give the Keynote Address at the ASMR Medical Research Week® Gala Dinner in Brisbane this evening.

Throughout a distinguished career examining the social determinants of health, Professor Wilkinson's research has uncovered that economic inequality is the key driver for numerous health (and social) problems in developed countries such as Australia.

The identification of this strong causal relationship has commanded a re-think of policy development, with a renewed focus on addressing the underlying problem rather than treating specific health and social problems as unrelated phenomena.

Professor Wilkinson's research shows us that in rich countries, measures of quality of life for both adults and children are not correlated with national income per head but are closely related to the level of equality in each country.

The winners of the prestigious Queensland Health and Medical Research Awards will also be announced at the dinner.

Professor Wilkinson arrives in Brisbane this afternoon - photo and interview opportunities

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Queensland Health and Medical Research Awards supported by the Queensland Government