

**MEDIA RELEASE - EMBARGOED UNTIL 8:15pm June 2, 2017**

**2017 ASMR Queensland Health & Medical Research Award Winners**

**Queensland Health and Medical Research Awards supported by the Queensland Government**

The Australian Society for Medical Research is delighted to announce the winners in the four categories for the prestigious Queensland Health and Medical Research Awards.

**Announced at the Annual ASMR Medical Research Week® Gala Dinner this evening**

**Clinical Researcher Award:**

**Development of a Precision Medicine Program in Prostate Cancer**

Dr Ian Vela, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre

Dr Vela is a consultant Urologic Oncologist at the Princess Alexandra Hospital and Movember Clinician Scientist Fellow at the Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre Queensland. He is a group head and his lab investigates "Precision Medicine" in Prostate Cancer. Dr Vella said, "*The overall aim of this program is to improve patient outcomes in all stages of prostate cancer through the latest technologic developments, in a clinically meaningful timeframe, in the immediate future*".

**Senior Researcher Award:**

**Understanding the genetic basis of common diseases**

Professor Jian Yang, Institute for Molecular Bioscience, The University of Queensland

Professor Yang's primary research interests are in developing novel methods and software tools to better understand the genetic architecture of complex traits and diseases using high-throughput genetic and genomic data.

**Postdoctoral Researcher:**

**Quantification of metastatic prostate cancer and antiandrogens therapies – Exploiting an in vitro engineered human bone-like microenvironment**

**Dr Nathalie Bock, Queensland University of Technology**

While tumour microenvironment is an important modulator of treatment and resistance, the failure of current treatments comes from a lack of relevant models able to provide the complex features of human bone metastatic PCa. Here we developed a reproducible 3D bone-like matrix in vitro, containing patient-derived osteoblasts and mineralised matrix, and used it to assess whether ADT/ATT were responsible for the resistance of PCa cells in the bone metastatic microenvironment.

**Postgraduate Student Researcher Award:**

**Evidence-based injury prediction data for severe burns from exposure to hot water**

**Ms Christine Andrews, Centre for Children's Burns and Trauma Research, Child Health Research Centre, The University of Queensland**

Christine Andrews is a final year PhD student. Her research endeavours to improve outcomes for children with scald injuries by establishing the burn conditions required for scald injuries to occur; and investigating the pathophysiological processes which occur in the skin after a burn.

**Check out the extraordinary, cutting edge research conducted by our winners and finalists!**

Bio, scientific and lay abstracts are available at <https://asmr.org.au/asmr-mrw/media/>

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