

Media release – Tuesday 4th JUNE 2019

Sydney Welcomes

Dr Elizabeth Finkel the 2019 ASMR Medallist

Recognised for her ability to communicate science, Dr Elizabeth Finkel is an award winning Australian science journalist with a background in laboratory research.

She said “The values of journalism – to report without fear or favour, to drill down till you find the complex and difficult truth of a story – are familiar to anyone hammered by the rigours of the scientific method. And there has never been a more important time to broadcast the scientific method to the general public. We have entered the post-truth era. We’re back to a dark age, where people seem unable to differentiate between fanatical hype and the evidence of experts. Witness the victory for the anti-vaxxers in the US measles epidemic - currently at 970 cases. Measles was declared eliminated in the US in 2000. As a science journalist I feel a particular sense of mission to do my bit to blow away the dark, dangerous fog of our times.”

Dr Finkel is the author of ‘Stem Cells: Controversy at the Frontiers of Science’ which not only provides a clear lay explanation of just what stem cells are, but why they are important for medical research and how Australia found itself in the forefront of stem cell research. She has also authored ‘The Genome Generation’ which covers genetic developments in diverse areas such as medicine, agriculture, and evolution, clearly contextualising their relevant applications to our society.

A gifted story teller and communicator, Dr Finkel is the recipient of numerous awards for journalism and also co-founder of Cosmos Magazine.

“The sort of things I used to do to fruit flies at USCF – supply them with new genes – are now being done in people to achieve ‘biblical’ results. Toddlers born with SMA (spinal muscular atrophy), who should be crippled or dead, are walking.

Dr Finkel brings a human face to the science of gene therapy, that bold and amazing idea of treating inherited diseases by replacing the missing gene.

WHO: Dr Elizabeth Finkel, ASMR Medalist 2019
WHAT: Speaking at the ASMR MRW® Gala Dinner Sydney
WHERE: Shangri-La Hotel, 176 Cumberland Street, The Rocks, Sydney
WHEN: 6:30pm

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Interview opportunities