



Recognising the outstanding contribution of Australian-Lebanese to the health sector

Dr Daniel Johnstone, President of The Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR), said in Sydney today,

“With the sole exception of our Indigenous peoples, Australia is a nation of immigrants. The procession of new arrivals to this land over the past 228 years has shaped our multicultural society, and with it our values, ideals and aspirations”.

ASMR would like to acknowledge the important contribution of immigrants from all countries, including Lebanon, to Australian society and in particular the health sector. Just a few examples of Australian-Lebanese who have made outstanding contributions to health include:

Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO – Former Governor of NSW, renowned psychiatrist, reformer of adolescent mental health service delivery, champion for Indigenous mental health and recipient of the 2001 Centenary Medal.

Professor Mohamed Khadra – Professor and Head of Surgery at Sydney Medical School, leading urologist, author and playwright and exporter of Australian education to developing countries.

Dr Jamal Rifi – Beloved GP in western Sydney, *The Australian* newspaper’s 2015 Australian of the Year and 2015 Australian Father of the Year.

Dr Johnstone said,

“Our diverse, multicultural, collaborative Australian health and medical research (HMR) sector contributes enormously to the both the health and economic wellbeing of all Australians”.

Australian health and medical research supported by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has generated health gains in the order of \$23 billion between 2000 and 2015.

Contact: Dr Daniel Johnstone 0422 074 503