



ASMR Queensland Health & Medical Research Award winner recognised with Prime Minister's Prize

The Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR) congratulates all of the recipients of a 2017 Prime Minister's Prize for Science, announced by Malcolm Turnbull last night in Canberra.

Speaking in Sydney today, Dr Dan Johnstone, ASMR President, said:

"These prizes are an important acknowledgement of individuals who have made outstanding contributions to science in Australia and highlight some of the many exceptional, innovative science initiatives happening all around the nation – initiatives that enrich our lives now and into the future."

Dr Johnstone reserved a special congratulations for Professor Jian Yang, who was awarded the Frank Fenner Prize for Life Scientist of the Year.

"Professor Yang is a loyal member of the ASMR and earlier this year was presented with a 2017 ASMR Queensland Health and Medical Research Award. It is wonderful to see his world-class research into genomics recognised by this national honour."

Investing in Australian science returns billions to the Australian economy and inspires millions. Over the last decade, the largest increase in real exports has been in medical instruments and pharmaceutical products - a direct outcome of investment into health and medical research.

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) is the peak funding body for Australian medical research, and recent figures from Deloitte Access Economics show that every \$1 invested into the NHMRC returns \$3.20 in economic, health and social benefits.

Dr Johnstone said: *"Since 2013, static investment has meant a loss of almost a fifth of NHMRC supported researchers, equating to a reduction of \$4.5 billion in net benefits. If this continues, Australia will lose its highly trained research leaders to offshore opportunities or to other industries."*

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