

The Australian Society for Medical Research ASMR Medical Research Week® June 2016

MEDIA ALERT- EMBARGOED UNTIL 5:00pm Tuesday June 7, 2016

Professor Theodore Berger ASMR Medallist 2016

Space-age science to repair broken memories - boldly going where no prostheses has gone before

Professor Ted Berger is pushing the envelope of convergence science to repair memory function in the development of a microchip-based neural prosthesis capable of reversing the memory loss associated with chronic diseases such as dementia (Alzheimer's), stroke and epilepsy, and losses associated with trauma. This is a feat akin to walking on the moon.

At the National Press Club today, Professor Berger will speak about the developments he and his team have made in restoring the memory function associated with many chronic diseases and the realistic possibilities the 'cyborg technology' or 'neural-mechatronic body parts' bring to our doorstep.

This is truly spectacular science which seeks to replace damaged tissue with computer hardware to do the work of neurons. Professor Berger said, "We are on the brink of stretching the capabilities of the human race. I believe we will soon be able to connect the brain to computers or other devices".

Developing a neural prosthesis to correct neurological disorders requires interdisciplinary and convergent science. "Coordinated effort between neuroscientists, biomedical engineers, materials scientists, electrical engineers, computer scientists, neurologists, and neurosurgeons, to identify just the major disciplines". Prof Berger believes "interdisciplinary teams are becoming more typical as global scientific issues of greater social consequence are more frequently becoming the targets of scientific efforts".

The pioneering work of Professor Berger who is Professor of Biomedical Engineering & Neuroscience at the University of Southern Californian, has been recognised by the "10 Breakthrough Technologies" of the MIT Technology Review the world's longest-running technology magazine, and by "The 100 Leading Global Thinkers of 2013", of the Foreign Policy Magazine. He is that rare embodiment of bold vision, brilliance, courage and tenacity; the attributes which expand the boundaries of science to create the future.

Prof Berger will present his unique perspectives on the health and medical landscape, and the possibilities for academic based collaboration with industry for development of new products and technologies.

News Editors/Chiefs of Staff, please note:

WHAT: National Press Club Address

WHEN: Tuesday 7th June 2016, 5pm to 7pm

WHERE: 16 National Court, Barton, Canberra.

WHO: ASMR Medallist 2016, Professor Theodore Berger

Media contacts: Dr Matt Dun 0413 113 352

Catherine West: 0415 928 211

Media resource material available from: http://www.asmr.org.au/MRWMedia

Major National Supporter of ASMR MRW®

Australian Government

National Health and Medical Research Council