

**MEDIA RELEASE - EMBARGOED UNTIL 04:30pm, WEDNESDAY JUNE 4, 2014**

**OLD AGE – NOT AN IRREVERSIBLE AFFLICTION**  
Professor David Sinclair at the National Press Club today  
**“The science of ageing reversal – impact on Australia’s future”**

David Sinclair is the Australian born medical research scientist who is changing the landscape of ageing!

Working on genes that control ageing, Sinclair and his colleagues are developing molecules that can turn on protective anti-ageing mechanisms and delay the onset of the diseases of ageing. Already successful in mice, the drugs are showing early positive results in human clinical trials.

Recently named by TIME Magazine as one of the 100 most influential people on the planet, David Sinclair has a passionate desire to make the world a healthier place. He foresees a world where it is the norm to be highly productive into your 80’s and believes that the *“world will be a richer place with medicines that delay ageing”*. Professor Sinclair quotes economic evidence which shows that *“a mere 1% reduction in cancer mortality alone would be worth \$500 billion”*.

He said, *“We are about to be hit by a tsunami of changes caused by head-spinning developments in genetics, fertility, stem cells and monitoring devices.”*

On the development of anti-ageing therapies, Professor Sinclair believes the greatest and most immediate significance for all of us will be personal.

*“For instance, what will it feel like to say “I do,” when you know that you could be married for 80 years? What will it mean for a woman to be free to delay parenthood until she’s in her 50s? What will it mean to choose a first career, when you know you’ll have time to build two or three in a lifetime? What would you do differently now if you knew that you’d be playing a vigorous round of tennis before attending the college graduation of your great grandchildren?”*

Australia, Professor Sinclair believes, has a unique opportunity to lead the world and to profit from revolutions occurring in high-technology sectors including genetics and medicine. He believes, *“Australians are rebellious, optimistic and egalitarian – the three traits that foster scientific discovery and innovation”*.

Prof. Sinclair has led landmark work to develop a new class of anti-ageing drugs, which could ultimately prevent cancer, Alzheimer’s disease and type 2 diabetes, work that has led to the formation of six biotechnology companies worth more than US\$1B. His breakthrough research was outlined in an article published in the prestigious journal *Science* on 8 March 2013.

**News Editors/Chiefs of Staff, please note:**

**WHAT:** National Press Club Address

**WHEN:** 5pm, Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2014

**WHERE:** 16 National Court, Barton, Canberra.

**WHO:** ASMR Medallist 2014, Professor David Sinclair

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