



Media Release

May 28, 2015

On the cusp of a cure for cancer
Professor Ashok Saluja - ASMR Medallist 2015

WHO: Professor Ashok Saluja, ASMR Medalist 2015

WHAT: ASMR Medical Research Week® Dinner

WHERE: The Old Woolstore, Hobart

WHEN: May 28, 2015, 7:30pm

Professor Ashok Saluja from the University of Minnesota is a man on a mission – **to cure pancreatic cancer!**

This disease kills five Australians each day, and has recently claimed the lives of high-profile personalities such as Apple founder Steve Jobs and respected Australian journalist Peter Harvey

After a 10 year quest to find a cure, Professor Saluja has developed a drug called "Minnelide" which has recently commenced clinical trials. Given the remarkable effectiveness of this drug in animal and patient-derived models of the pancreatic cancer, as well as various other cancers, Prof. Saluja is hopeful that this devastating disease will soon be conquered.

The journey from lab discovery to potential treatment for patients is not always an easy one. Saluja has learned many valuable lessons about the obstacles which slow down the translation of knowledge gained at the bench to a patient's bedside.

Professor Saluja is kicking off his national speaking tour as ASMR Medalist 2015 in Hobart tonight.

Editor's Note: Interview and photo opportunities

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Biographical information

Professor Ashok Saluja obtained his B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Punjab, India before moving to the US where he obtained his doctoral degree in Biochemistry from Washington State University and completed his post doc at Cornell. He then spent twenty years at Harvard, after which he joined University of Massachusetts Medical School. In 2006, Dr. Saluja joined the faculty of the Department of Surgery at the University of Minnesota Medical School as Professor and Vice Chair. He also holds the Sit Family Chair in Pancreatic and GI Cancer Research as well as a University of Minnesota McKnight Presidential Endowed Chair.