

ASMR MEDICAL RESEARCH WEEK® Gala Dinner Features ASMR Medalist 2016

Professor Theodore Berger – Neuroprosthetics Pioneer

This evening we host the annual ASMR Medical Research Week® Gala Dinner which celebrates health and medical research in Australia, and today, particularly in Perth

Our Keynote Speaker at the dinner, is Theodore (Ted) Berger, Professor of Biomedical Engineering at the Viterbi School of Engineering at the University of Southern California and the ASMR Medalist 2016.

He could be described as a 'neuroprosthetics pioneer', leading a multi-disciplinary collaboration to develop a microchip-based neural prosthesis for the hippocampus, a region of the brain responsible for long-term memory.

Memory prosthetics have come under the scrutiny of ethicists who accept that helping those with brain injuries is a noble cause but worry about misuse of the technology. Berger said, *The goal is to improve the quality of life for somebody who has a severe memory deficit. If I can give them the ability to form new long-term memories for half the conditions that most people live in, I'll be happy as hell, and so will be most patients*".

He and his trans-disciplinary colleagues have developed a brain prosthesis designed to help people suffering from memory loss. The device implanted into the brain has performed well in animal tests and is currently being evaluated in human patients.

Professor Berger was named as one of "The 100 Leading Global Thinkers of 2013" by Foreign Policy Magazine. He is that rare embodiment of bold vision, brilliance, courage and tenacity; the attributes which expand the boundaries of science and create the future.

Professor Berger has said, *"If you want to accomplish something extraordinary in science, you need to be unrelentingly courageous"*

Professor Berger's work has led to the formation of eight biotechnology companies, four from within his own laboratory and funded by private foundations belonging to Elon Musk (SpaceX, Tesla Motors, PayPal) and Bryan Johnson (Braintree, OS Fund).

Where: Duxton Hotel
When: June 10, 7pm

Media contacts: **Dr Matt Dun** 0413 113 352
Catherine West: 0415 928 211