

Fighting the War of Infection
Commonwealth Health Ministers Award for Excellence
in Health and Medical Research
Melbourne researcher wins \$50,000 prize

Understanding the molecular machines which drive our bodies!

Melbourne medical research scientist Professor Jamie Rossjohn from the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, School of Biomedical Sciences, Monash University is at the cutting edge of protein crystallography and has provided an insight into how bacteria cause disease and how our body can fight off viruses.

Professor Rossjohn has been recognized for this outstanding research and his remarkable track record by winning the coveted national award for research excellence - the Commonwealth Health Ministers Award for Excellence in Health and Medical Research. The award was judged by an independent panel of experts.

The award will be presented to Professor Rossjohn at the ASMR Medical Research Week® Gala dinner tonight in Melbourne.

Professor Rossjohn's research has focused on determining the mechanisms of infection by bacteria causing infectious diseases including **tuberculosis, gas gangrene and listeria**. More recently Professor Rossjohn has worked to understand how our body fights off infection by viruses such as the **Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV), which infects 90% of the human population and influenza**.

Professor Rossjohn has now forged a link with the biotechnology sector to translate his basic research outcomes into potential treatments for both immune-based and infection-based diseases.

He believes protein crystallography is the major tool providing detailed information on the structure and function of proteins and a platform for rationally designing therapeutics

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