

Announcing the Winners of the Queensland Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research

The Australian Society for Medical Research and Queensland Health would like to congratulate all winners and finalists in these prestigious awards which showcase the high standard of medical research performed throughout Queensland.

Postgraduate Student Award

Dr Teong Chuah-University of Queensland

Gene therapy for Glioblastoma Multiforme: a novel treatment for a fatal disease. Dr. Chuah and colleagues have successfully engineered a virus that has the ability to infect Glioblastoma Multiforme tumor cells changing them from being radiation resistant to radiation sensitive. It is hoped that making tumor cells sensitive to radiation therapy, in combination with surgery, will provide a novel and exciting treatment strategy, increasing the survival rate of patients.

Post-Doctoral Award

Dr Christine Wells-Griffith University

Identification of novel repressors of inflammation. Chronic inflammation is a serious clinical, social and financial burden on the Australian community, affecting millions of Australians from all age-groups and walks of life. A healthy immune system requires both activation and resolution of inflammatory pathways. We are studying the network of events engaged by macrophages - important cellular mediators of inflammation - in response to early inflammatory events, in an effort to identify the molecular mechanisms normally engaged to switch-off inflammation.

Senior Post-Doctoral Award

Dr Suyinn Chong-Queensland Institute of Medical Research

You inherit more than just DNA from your father. It is commonly believed that the combination of genes inherited from your mother and father and environment are responsible for your physical appearance. Dr. Chong and colleagues have found that modifications on the genes inherited from your father can affect the stability of your sex chromosomes as seen in the genetic disease Turner Syndrome. This work provides new insight into the molecular mechanisms that determine your physical appearance and the possible origins of reduced fertility and chromosome loss in humans.

The winners will be presented with their awards at the ASMR Medical Research Week® GALA Dinner Friday June 1, 2007 at The Brisbane Marriot

ABSTRACTS AVAILABLE BY REQUEST OR ONLINE AT www.asmr.org.au/media/

For Interviews with Winners please contact Marnie Nichols on 0403 501 627