



The Australian Society for Medical Research  
ASMR Medical Research Week® June 2-10, 2011



Queensland Health & Medical Research Awards  
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Media Alert – Embargoed until 8:30pm June 3

## QUEENSLAND HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH AWARDS

WHO: Queensland Health and Medical Research Award Winners  
WHAT: Announcement and Presentation of Awards  
WHERE: Sebel & Citigate Hotel, St George Square  
WHEN: June 3, 2011 – 8:15 to 8:45pm

Announced this evening at the ASMR Medical Research Week® Dinner in Brisbane

### JOINT WINNERS - Clinical Researcher Award

**A/Prof Michael Breakspear** from Queensland Institute of Medical Research has developed a protocol for early and accurate diagnosis of schizophrenia. Early diagnosis is the key to effective intervention and this novel test captures complex brain activity during visual and auditory perception while subjects view popular film clips.

**Prof Suzanne Chambers**, Griffith Health Institute, Griffith University. Results from the first large scale population-based assessment of *cancer survivor* identity will inform the design of clinical and community support interventions for cancer patients in the future. The survey found almost half of colorectal cancer patients did not see themselves as a survivor; but that those who did reported more personal growth as a result of their illness experience.

### WINNER - Senior Researcher Award

**Dr Susan Woods** (Queensland Institute for Medical Research), studies a childhood cancer of the nervous system called neuroblastoma. These cancers disable one of the main natural defences against cancer by overproducing a microRNA and allowing tumour growth. Dr Woods and colleagues have been able to block microRNA and the growth of a primary tumour opening the way for a new therapeutic target for these patients.

### WINNER - Post-Doctoral Researcher Award

**Dr Kelly Anne Smith** from Institute of Molecular Bioscience, The University of Queensland, has identified a zebrafish with a genetic mutation causing a valve defect. The gene responsible for this defect has never been identified previously and understanding its function may give us insight into the diagnosis and treatment of congenital heart disease.

### WINNER - Post-Graduate Researcher Award

**Dr Kylie Alexander** from University of Queensland Centre for Clinical Research. Bone disease and injury cost Australians physical and financial pain (over \$10B annually). Current treatments don't restore lost bone but *Kylie Alexander* has found that a population of immune cells are present in specialized tissues lining bones. These cells promote normal bone formation and are pivotal for bone repair. This discovery opens the door for new avenues in the development of bone building therapies.

Editors Note: Winners will be announced at the ASMR Medical Research Week® Dinner on Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June, 2011 (Sebel and Citigate Hotel, King Georges Square) between 8:15 and 8:45pm

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