

Media Release – Embargoed until 5 pm Friday June 3

***“We have a moral obligation to treat and prevent disease”***

International ethics expert, and ASMR Medallist 2005, **Professor Julian Savulescu** says that we are morally obliged to enhance our children’s health and well-being and that rapidly developing genetic technologies could be a way to achieve this.

**“Genetic technology is a rapidly developing reality. If this can provide us with the ability to enhance more effectively our children’s well-being, to give them better opportunities of a better life, to fail to do so will be to be responsible for the consequences, including their unhappiness,”** Professor Savulescu said.

*“Our future is in our hands. By not allowing ethical genetic enhancement using emerging technologies, we are choosing to enter Nature’s lottery rather than utilising safe and cost-effective interventions which may radically improve our health and well-being,”* said Professor Savulescu.

Professor Savulescu is the Uehiro Chair in Practical Ethics, University of Oxford and Director, Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, Oxford UK.

**Julian Savulescu will be speaking tonight, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, at the 2005 ASMR Medical Research Week® Dinner, Marriot Hotel, 515 Queen Street, Brisbane**

For interviews with Professor Savulescu, contact: Dr Sarah Meachem on 0412 640 774  
or Catherine West on 0415 928 211

Media materials available from [www.asmr.org.au/media/](http://www.asmr.org.au/media/)

The Hon. Julie Attwood MP, will present the  
**Queensland Premier’s Awards for Medical Research**  
on behalf of the Minister for Health at the ASMR MRW® Dinner

Finalists are:

Grant A. Challen, Jennifer A. Kricker, Daniel Lee Timms (Postgraduate Student Awards)  
Becky L. Conway-Campbell, Masa Cemazar Chung Fai Wong (Postdoctoral Awards)  
Daniel F. Wallace, Katherine T. Andrews, Dagmar Wilhelm (Senior-Postdoctoral Award)