

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- **Erin Rayment - QUT**

Investigation into the proteolytic activity in chronic wound fluid: Development of a remedial strategy.

The issue of chronic non-healing ulcers is a major medical challenge causing significant pain and anxiety for the over sixties and contributing to their lessening mobility, decreased social interactions and overall diminished quality of life. We have shown that it is important to inhibit the proteases present in chronic wound fluid, while not affecting those that show decreased activity in the wound bed. This new data has underpinned a novel strategy to treat these otherwise compromised wounds and should lead to shorter healing times and improved healing outcomes for patients.

Post-Doctoral Award - **Dr Trent Woodruff - University of Queensland**

Anti-inflammatory drug as a treatment of neurodegenerative diseases. In many brain diseases including Alzheimers, Parkinson's, Huntington's and Motor Neuron disease, inflammation is known to play a major role in disease progression. Trent Woodruff and colleagues have developed a new anti-inflammatory drug that was able to reduce the signs of disease in rats with Huntington's Disease and Motor Neuron Disease. These results hold promise for a novel, orally active anti-inflammatory drug to treat these neurological diseases.

Senior Post-Doctoral Award - **Dr Kathy Andrews - QIMR**

A "piggy back" platform for anti-malarial drug discovery. Many of the drugs used to prevent and treat malaria are now failing because of malaria parasite resistance. Time is running out-to save lives we urgently need to identify and develop the next generation of anti-malarial drugs. The research has shown that malaria parasites can be killed By exploiting some HIV/AIDS drugs that are being currently used for disease such as HIV/AIDS malaria parasites can be killed at clinically relevant concentrations. A major strength of the "piggyback" platform is a reduction in time it takes to develop products for potential clinical use.

Runners Up

Postgraduate Student Award

Matthew W A Dixon – QIMR

Nadia Whitelaw - QIMR

Post-Doctoral Award

Jenny Ekberg - Eskitis Institute for Cell and Molecular Therapies, Griffith University.

Michael Piper - Queensland Brain Institute, University of Queensland

Senior Post-Doctoral Award

Ben Goss - IHBI, Queensland University of Technology

Patricia Valery QIMR

The winners will be presented with their awards at the ASMR Medical Research Week® GALA Dinner
Friday May 30th, 2008 at The Brisbane Marriot

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

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