

MEDIA RELEASE – Friday June 9th 2006

**ASMR WA Symposium
FRIDAY JUNE 9 2006
FJ Clarke Lecture Theatre Complex**

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Professor Alan Bittles

Genomics, a sex-free science?

The Human Genome Project has had an enormous positive impact on our understanding of genetic variation and provided invaluable information on causes of genetic disorders. It promises to revolutionise the treatment of diseases for which only palliative options are currently available. Surprisingly, the transmission of genes from generation to generation is rarely mentioned or considered. Does the hoped for revolution in treatment of crippling and lethal disease require a healthier interest in sex among 'genomicists'?

Dr Ricardo L. Mancera

Just add water! Towards a 'theory of everything' in biomolecular interactions.

Water has unique properties that make it the universal solvent in which all biology takes place. Water is the most studied substance in the history of science... but still probably the least understood. Biological phenomena involve interactions between molecules, small and large, our understanding at the molecular level of why and how these processes take place often neglect the overarching importance of the aqueous environment. Without water, life would not have originated and evolved in the way we know it!

Blood test for skin cancer.. melanoma accounts for the majority of skin cancer related deaths. Sandra Medic, School of Exercise, Biomedical and Health Sciences, Edith Cowan University.

Tennis Elbow, is it all in your head? Chronic pain may be linked with persistent sensitization. Helen Slater, Centre for Sensory-Motor Interaction, Aalborg University Denmark.

Tired, listless, worn out? Fatigue resulting from chronic illness is lessened by leisure and exercise participation. Supalek Kehthong, Centre for Research into Disability and Society, School of Occupational Therapy, Curtin University of Technology.

Keeping your knees new! Tissue regeneration may improve traditional treatments for cartilage injury. Craig Willers, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, UWA

Hypnosis and Visual Imagery in the treatment of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus: a pilot study

Results suggest hypnosis intervention produced significant positive trends in the pain, body activity, household activity and fatigue self report data. Jillian Horton, Anne Iverson, Klaus Helmke, Ulla Mitzdorf

ABSTRACTS AVAILABLE INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES

**Contact: Jennifer Walsh on 0402 033 483
Or Catherine West 0415 928 211**

ASMR Medical Research Week®
Friday June 9, 2006

Professor William (Bill) Brinkley, ASMR Medallist 2006

"Celebrating Health and Medical Research in Australia: A Renaissance for Discovery and Opportunity"

Professor William (Bill) Brinkley is Distinguished Service Professor, Department of Molecular & Cellular Biology, Baylor College of Medicine, Texas, USA.

A former President of The Federation of American Societies of Experimental Biology (FASEB), a 60,000 member federation that supports and promotes America's leadership in basic and clinical research, Brinkley feels that it is important for every scientist to become involved in establishing government science policy.

Professor Brinkley is touring Australia as the ASMR Medallist Lecturer.

His message is about the opportunities created by the recent increases in Australian Government funding for Health and Medical Research and what Australians should expect from the future of the health research endeavour.

"America is poised to lose it's pre-eminent position as the worlds leader in health and medical research", Professor Brinkley said. He urged Australian researchers to make the most of the current opportunities. "The USA", Professor Brinkley said, "will suffer a continuing decline in medical research output if our leaders do not follow the example of the Australian Government by increasing funding to appropriate levels".

Biographical information from <http://www.asmr.org.au/media/index.html>

For interviews with Professor Brinkley, contact:

Dr Sarah Meachem on 0412 640 774
or Catherine West on 0415 928 211

Professor Brinkley will be speaking at the ASMR Medical Research Week® Dinner, Argyle Room, Parmelia Hilton Hotel, Perth.