

**PRESENTATION OF THE
2022 AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH AWARDS
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE BALL ROOM, FRIDAY 10 JUNE 2022**

[VICE-REGAL SALUTE]

Good evening and welcome to this presentation for Tasmanian recipients of our Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR) Awards for 2022.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community. I recognise a history of truth, which acknowledges the impacts of colonisation upon our First People. I stand for a future that respects and acknowledges Aboriginal stories, culture, language and history.

I acknowledge here today:

- Winthrop Professor Fiona Wood, ASMR touring medalist
- Distinguished Professor Alison Venn, Director of our Menzies Institute for Medical Research
- Professor Tony Kenna, President ASMR
- Dr Lila Landowski, Director, ASMR
- Award recipients, symposium speakers and supporters

Your symposium this year coincides with ASMR Medical Research week. I am sure you have had an informative, quite tiring day. You have had papers presented on a wide range of topics that represent the breadth of research interests of our Tasmanian scientists. For those competing for the awards being presented this evening, I am sure that, for the awardees, there was an additional level of pressure to the usual process of presenting a paper, as the judging for the awards included a component based on the presentations to the symposium. I shall, therefore, keep my remarks relatively brief so that we can move to the important formalities of the award presentations and refreshments.

We are all delighted to have with us, Winthrop Professor Fiona Wood. Don and I have had the privilege of meeting Professor Wood and hearing about her extraordinary career some years ago at a UTAS function. She will, of course, be forgiven if she can't recall this. She is, of course, best known to us all for her leadership response to the 2002 Bali bombing and the medical care of severely

burned patients who were flown to Perth for treatment. Her research led to the development of a novel treatment for burns using aerosol delivered cell-clusters widely known as 'spray on skin'.

Professor Wood's research is just one example of the absolutely vital work in which you are all involved. Advances in medicine have the potential to significantly improve the lives of patients with all sorts of diseases. Such advances are fundamentally reliant on well-crafted research programs that attract innovative, respected and highly qualified researchers, and critically that are well funded.

Tasmania and Hobart are at the forefront of medical research in Australia with numerous programs conducted by or associated with the Menzies Institute for Medical Research just down the road. Under Director Distinguished Professor Alison Venn, our Menzies Institute has 'improved human health and well-being by performing excellent basic, clinical and population health research that focuses on the major diseases affecting the Tasmanian community.'¹ Our Menzies Institute also has a key role in training our future scientists, clinicians and other health professionals. As you may gather, we are very proud of our Menzies Institute and its impact to improve medical outcomes for the entire community.

This evening, I look forward to presenting three research awards. Two winners of the ASMR Medical Research Week Postgraduate Research Award, and one winner of the ASMR Medical Research Week Early Career Researcher Award, will be presented with their certificates. You will hear more of their achievements shortly when Tasmanian neuroscientist and ASMR director, Dr Lila Landowski, reads their citations.

My congratulations to you all. Your dedication and hard work has been recognised and I wish you every success in your careers.

David ...[David introduces Lila, who reads citations]

After the awards, Lila invites Distinguished Professor Alison Venn to the stage to receive a Certificate of Appreciation.

Prof Venn short response

¹ <https://www.menzies.utas.edu.au/research/overview> accessed 3 June 22