

**PRESENTATION OF THE
2023 AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH AWARDS
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE BALL ROOM, FRIDAY 30 JUNE 2023**

VICE-REGAL SALUTE

Good evening. I warmly welcome you all to this presentation for Tasmanian recipients of Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR) Awards for 2023.

I pay my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community and recognise their enduring culture and continued connection to land, sea and waters.

During ASMR Research week, earlier this month, your Society engaged in public outreach, career events, school visits, an online quiz, as well as scientific meetings for medical researchers, across Australia.

This year, our Tasmanian Committee again organised the ASMR Tasmania Annual Symposium. It was held over four weeks ago to coincide with Medical Research Week. As well as presentations of papers by established researchers, a number of young Tasmanian researchers competed for awards. May I congratulate everyone who participated in these events.

Two weeks ago, we hosted a reception for the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists. Amongst other things, I learned from their program that cataract surgery is a relatively recent advance and that new techniques have improved both the efficacy of such surgery and also allowed for it to be used in a wide range of clinical settings. That is just one example of the vital work that medical researchers are involved in.

I note one researcher here this evening has been studying paediatric cataracts. Other research involves the use of cannabis extracts to treat osteoarthritis, ways

to manage stroke, multiple sclerosis and dementia, as well as genetics in modern medicine. All this research has the potential to significantly improve the lives of patients with all sorts of diseases. We thank you for all your well considered research programs.

We all know how important medical research is for our Nation. Our State is at the forefront of many research programs conducted by or associated with our Menzies Institute for Medical Research where most of you study and work.

This evening, I look forward to presenting research awards. There are three ASMR Medical Research Week Postgraduate Research Awards, and three ASMR Medical Research Week Early Career Researcher Awards to be presented to recipients here this evening.

You will hear more of their achievements shortly when Director of the Australian Society for Medical Research, Dr Lila Landowski, reads a synopsis of their research presentations.

Congratulations to you all. May your hard work continue to pay dividends for our community.

David ... [introduces Dr Lila Landowski]

On conclusion:

HE invites all to applaud and enjoy the Reception...