

Groundbreaking cancer researcher wins leadership award

Changing the scientific understanding of development of many forms of human cancer has earned Professor Joseph Sambrook a national award for his groundbreaking work.

Professor Sambrook, a Distinguished Fellow at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute and the Scientific Director of the Australian Stem Cell Centre, will be awarded the Leadership and Innovation Award at tonight's (Friday 20 November) Research Australia "Thank You" Day Awards in Melbourne.

Professor Sambrook is internationally renowned for his studies on viruses and the molecular biology of normal and cancerous cells.

Also well known for his ability to build world-class research institutions, Professor Sambrook was integral in the establishment of the Kathleen Cunningham Consortium for Familial Breast Cancer Research. More than 44 projects nationally and internationally are now using research from this resource.

Professor Sambrook has also led a team of experts from all research disciplines to develop Australia's first ever National Action Plan for Breast Cancer Research and Funding.

Among six awards, the Victorian Government Leadership and Innovation Award recognises an individual or organisation that shows exceptional leadership or innovation in making health and medical research a key national priority.

Previous recipients of this award include The Hon. Bob Carr, The Hon. John Brumby and Professor Fiona Stanley.

The Awards celebrate the achievements of organisations and individuals who have helped advance medical and health research in Australia. They are a highlight of Research Australia's "Thank You" Day campaign to raise public awareness about the benefits of health and medical research to the community.

The "Thank You" Day awards will be held tonight (Friday 20 November) at BMW Edge, Federation Square, Melbourne. This year's winners are:

- Macquarie Group Foundation Great Australian Philanthropy Award: **Clive Berghofer AM**
- Victorian Government Leadership and Innovation Award: **Professor Joseph Sambrook**
- Griffith University Discovery Award: **Dr Sarah Whittle**
- Advocacy Award: Professor **Ian Hickie AM FASSA**
- Leadership in Corporate Giving Award: **Macquarie Group Foundation**
- Research Australia Lifetime Achievement Award: **Elaine Henry OAM**

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About Research Australia

Research Australia is the peak not-for-profit body for health and medical research. It is a national alliance of more than 180 member and supporting organisations working together to promote health and medical research in Australia. For more information please visit www.researchaustralia.org.

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