



MEDIA RELEASE
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Deans congratulate outstanding medical researchers

Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand (Medical Deans) congratulates the 116 inaugural Fellows admitted to the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Science (AAHMS) on Wednesday 25th March, 2015 in Canberra.

The Hon Sussan Ley, Minister for Health congratulated Fellows Professor Nicholas Fisk, Executive Dean of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at University of Queensland, Professor Bruce Robinson, Dean of Sydney Medical School at University of Sydney and Professor Michael Kidd, Executive Dean Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Science, all members of Medical Deans at the award ceremony last week.

Professor Ian Frazer, President of the Academy, also thanked his foundation Council which includes Medical Dean's member Professor Christina Mitchell, Executive Dean of Health at Monash University.

'Establishment of the new Academy and its founding Fellows is an essential step toward making Australia the leading nation in medical research', said the President of Medical Deans, Professor Peter Smith.

'These are the best of the best medical researchers in Australia and will help deliver the medical break throughs we all hope for.'

Professor Smith said this initiative will also support the development of tomorrow's medical research stars through a dedicated mentoring program for junior researchers and clinical scientists.

The Academy, through its Fellows and initiatives, will have strong links with Australian medical schools and universities that currently administer nearly 80% of the National Health and Medical Research Council grants.

With significant communities of clinical scientists medical schools are well placed to undertake translational research that takes key discoveries from the bench to the patient bedside.

Professor Smith said medical schools capacity to work with our doctor scientists in the hospitals and medical researchers in the University means medical research is always directed at what is best for the patient.

Professor Smith said building on these essential research collaborations between universities and health service providers in the public and private sector will improve our health system overall.

Medical Deans is made up of the Deans of Australia's 18 university medical schools and the two New Zealand schools.

More information, President – Professor Peter Smith: 02 9385 2451 or CEO – Professor Judy Searle 0498 138 035