

Infectious diseases specialist honoured with prestigious Academy Award

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One of Australia's leading infectious diseases specialists has been recognised with a prestigious national award for his contributions in tackling the global burden of malaria.

Head of the Menzies School of Health Research's Global and Tropical Health Division, Professor Nick Anstey was today announced as the recipient of the inaugural Gustav Nossal Medal for Global Health by the Australian Academy of Science.

The Gustav Nossal Medal recognises research of the highest standing in the field of global health, and is awarded by Australia's peak scientific body.

Over 200 million children and adults fall ill with malaria each year, and it remains a significant cause of death worldwide.

Professor Anstey works with clinical research partners in Papua, Indonesia and Sabah, Malaysia; and with malaria networks across the Asia-Pacific and Africa. The goal of his research program is the reduction in disease and death from malaria and other tropical diseases.

"Through improved knowledge of how patients become ill from the different species of malaria parasites, we are identifying better ways to prevent and treat all types of malaria" Professor Anstey said.

"We are undertaking clinical trials with partners in Asia to determine best treatments. We also work with our partners in the region to facilitate policy change and then monitor the impact of such change in the health of communities."

Professor Anstey said he was honoured to be named the recipient of the inaugural Gustav Nossal Medal.

"Sir Gustav Nossal is an internationally renowned scientist whose ground-breaking work in immunology and global health have made him one of the most significant figures in Australia's medical and scientific community," Professor Anstey said.

"I would like to thank the Australian Academy of Science awards committee and our research team at Menzies for this recognition."

The Australian Academy of Science will formally present Professor Anstey with his medal at their Academy Awards Event in Canberra next May.

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Media note

Professor Nick Anstey is an infectious diseases physician and NHMRC Practitioner Fellow at Darwin's Menzies School of Health Research and Royal Darwin Hospital. View his researcher profile here: http://www.menzies.edu.au/page/Our_People/Researchers/Nick_Anstey/

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Menzies Background

Menzies School of Health Research is Australia's leading Medical Research Institute dedicated to improving Indigenous, global and tropical health. We have a 29-year history of scientific discovery and public health achievement. Menzies works at the frontline, joining with partners across the Asia-Pacific as well as Indigenous communities across Northern and Central Australia. We collaborate to create new knowledge, grow local skills and find enduring solutions to problems that matter.