



MEDIA RELEASE

Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science (IMVS) Professor awarded 'Excellence in Research for Public Good Outcomes' at the 2007 South Australian Science Excellence Awards

Professor Timothy Hughes is a world-leader in research and treatments of Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML) and was awarded the Excellence in Research for Public Good Outcomes.

Professor Hughes has been at the forefront of clinical development for Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors for CML and has made important contributions to refining the way drugs are used to maximize their effectiveness. As well as having a major impact on the way CML patients around the world are monitored to ensure their response is optimal, the paradigms developed by Professor Hughes and collaborators in CML are now being more widely applied to other targeted therapies used in cancer treatments.

The IMVS is collaborating individually with Novartis, Bristol-Myers Squibb and Merck Sharp and Dohme in relation to the development and monitoring of newly developed drugs and these collaborations with IMVS and the Hanson Institute is of great benefit to this campus.

Working in the Division of Haematology at the IMVS, Hanson Institute and Royal Adelaide Hospital, Professor Hughes' research has provided international recognition for the IMVS in the field of Leukemia Biology and in the Molecular Monitoring of Leukemia. This is reflected in the recent selection of his laboratory as one of three international laboratories to conduct the molecular monitoring studies for key international clinical trials.

The award, presented by Minister for Science and Information Economy, Paul Caica, was presented as part of the 2007 South Australian Science Excellence Awards ceremony and recognises and rewards excellence in science and acknowledges commitment and skill in raising public awareness of science.

Professor Hughes said "I congratulate the South Australian Government for strongly supporting science in this way, and recognising that science and innovation are the keys to our future success".

"I came to Adelaide, and remain here, because of the unique opportunity to work at the IMVS and Hanson Institute. This is one of the few places in Australia where work at the interface between clinical care and research is so strongly supported. It has attracted many excellent scientists from overseas and interstate over the years and continues to do so."

Director of the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science, Professor Brendon Kearney added “The award recognises the hard work and dedication of Professor Hughes and his team and also reflects on all staff that work at the IMVS and Hanson Institute - the culture of innovation and good research in line with a vision to improve the health of the South Australian Community, are a key driver of staff on this campus”.

The relevance and impact of Dr Hughes’ work was again recently recognised by the Royal Australasian College of Physicians when he was awarded the 2006 Eric Susman Prize for the most outstanding contribution to the knowledge of any branch of internal medicine by a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians

Professor Timothy Hughes is available for interview to talk about the award and his research, on (08) 8222 3330.

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