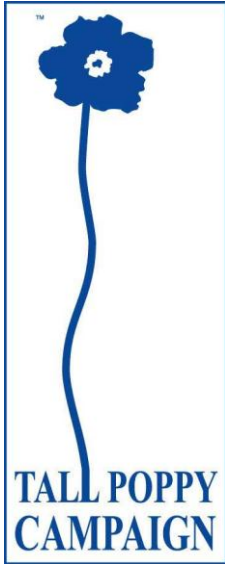


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MEDIA RELEASE

2011 TALL POPPY AWARD FINALISTS NAMED – THE FUTURE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE

Researchers of childhood obesity, stem cell therapy and quieter transport solutions have been named among the finalists for the 2011 South Australian Tall Poppy Awards.

Science and Information Economy Minister Jay Weatherill said the Tall Poppy Awards highlight the achievements of young scientists and the high levels of success to which others can aspire.

“The awards promote the State’s science and technology sector which will continue to play a critical role in developing the economy and expanding new job opportunities for the future,” Mr Weatherill said.

“The State Government is encouraging more young South Australians to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) at school and to seriously consider the future career options available in science.”

To improve public understanding of the value of STEM skills, the Tall Poppy Campaign champions the brightest young local researchers who are leading the charge to inspire the next generations of skilled South Australians.

Fifteen researchers, who were selected as finalists from a large pool of nominees, will attend the 2011 Tall Poppy Awards reception at Government House on 25 August, hosted by His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR, Governor of South Australia.

The 2011 Tall Poppy Awards Reception will be attended by key representatives of government, industry and education sectors.

Eight winners will be announced, one of whom will go on to win the 2011 South Australian Tall Poppy of the Year Award at the SA Science Excellence Awards in November, with its prize of \$5000.

2011 South Australian Tall Poppy Award Finalists – alphabetical order (with research topic)

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Dr Stuart Brierley | Neuroscience, gastroenterology (Irritable Bowel Syndrome) |
| Dr Laura Brooks | Acoustics (Quieter transport and energy technologies) |
| Dr Lisa Ebert | Cell Biology (Stem cell therapies) |
| Dr Philip Gregory | Medical Research (Breast cancer) |
| Dr Alison Hill | Nutrition & Exercise (Cardiovascular disease) |
| Dr Claire Jessup | Diabetes & Transplantation (Diabetes) |
| Dr Michelle McDonnell | Neuroscience (Stroke victim recovery) |
| Dr Lisa Moran | Women's Health (Obesity treatment in women) |
| Dr Rachel Popelka-Filcoff | Analytical Chemistry/ Archaeological Science (Aboriginal history) |
| Dr Craig Priest | Microfluidics and Interfacial Chemistry (Disease detection) |
| Dr Tara Pukala | Biological Chemistry (Parkinson's disease) |
| Dr Erin Symonds | Gastroenterology & Nutritional research (Obesity treatment) |
| Dr Mark Tingay | Geoscience & Petroleum Engineering (Mining & natural disasters) |
| Dr Grant Tomkinson | Health Sciences (Obesity treatment in children) |
| Dr Roger Yazbek | Gastrointestinal Health (Inflammatory bowel diseases) |

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The Tall Poppy is a metaphor for excellence and endeavour and symbolises Australia's pride in its outstanding achievers – in all fields.

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