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### SCIENCE EXCELLENCE AWARDS FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

The contribution our world class scientists make to the state has been highlighted in the naming of the finalists in the 2009 South Australian Science Excellence Awards says Science and Information Economy Minister, Michael O'Brien.

The **South Australian Scientist of the Year** finalists are:

- **Professor Fran Baum**, Flinders University, an internationally recognised researcher into the social and economic determinants of health who has recently completed a term as Commissioner for the World Health Organisation (WHO) Commission on the Social Determinants of Health.
- **Professor Angel Lopez**, SA Pathology, whose cancer research in the last 12 months has solved the structure of a critical hormone receptor and developed a new drug which targets leukaemia cancer stem cell and may possibly lead to a cure for cancer, and
- **Professor Robert Norman**, University of Adelaide, who has produced world class results in fertility and reproductive biology and is one of the world's most respected authorities on reproductive health and science.

"These outstanding scientists epitomise the exceptional talent we have in South Australia and it's through award programs such as the South Australian Science Excellence Awards that we are able to offer recognition and acknowledgement," Mr O'Brien said.

"Science has an increasingly vital role to play in industry development, enhancing our international competitiveness, sustaining our environment and creating a healthier community."

The three Excellence in Research categories also highlight the calibre of South Australian scientists:

- **Excellence in Research Commercialisation Award** where Professor Andrea Gerson (University of South Australia) and Professor Stephen Grano's (University of South Australia) programs bring in millions of dollars to the state and COHDA Wireless have developed ways for cars to 'talk' to each other to avoid accidents and save lives.
- **Excellence in Research for Public Good** where the finalists highlight the extraordinary work being done in our health sector: Dr John Greenwood AM (Royal Adelaide Hospital) through his Skin Engineering Laboratory helping burns victims; Professor Alastair MacLennan (University of Adelaide) improving birth outcomes for women, managing menopause and generating insight into the causes of cerebral palsy; and Professor Howard Morris (SA Pathology) who has developed nutritional strategies to reduce fractures.

- ***Excellence in Research Collaboration Award*** where programs focus on optimal environmental allocations of water to the Lower Murray (CLLAMMecology Research Cluster), developmental health research (Healthy Development Adelaide) and water resources management (International Centre of Excellence in Water Resources Management).

Finalists in the Science Educator of the Year categories are recognised for their contribution to science, technology, engineering and mathematics education:

- ***School Science Educator of the Year***
  - Ms Anita Trenwith, Salisbury High School
- ***Tertiary Science Educator of the Year***
  - Dr Karin Barovich, University of Adelaide
  - Professor Derek Leinweber, University of Adelaide
  - Professor Holger Maier, University of Adelaide
  - Professor Joe Shapter, Flinders University
- ***Community Science Educator of the Year***
  - Professor Barry Brook
  - Northern Advanced Manufacturing Industry Group
  - Ms Rona Sakko

The winners of this year's awards will be announced at the Awards Gala Dinner to be held at the Hilton Adelaide on Thursday 20 August. The South Australian Scientist of the Year will receive \$50,000, while winners from other categories will receive \$10,000 to use within their research project or program.

The South Australian Science Excellence Awards, is a State government initiative through the Department for Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology. The awards are supported by BAE Systems Australia, the Royal Institution of Australia, Channel 9, *in*Business and Temple Bruer Wines.

For further information visit [www.scienceawards.sa.gov.au](http://www.scienceawards.sa.gov.au) or email [scienceawards@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:scienceawards@saugov.sa.gov.au).