



Welcome to the first edition of the National Research Centre for Asbestos Related Diseases (NRCARD) newsletter!

This is our way of staying in touch with all our researchers and other stakeholders and keeping you all informed about our Centre's work.

This will be a quarterly newsletter we would love to include your news, so encourage all NRCARD members to send us details of research news, results, awards and endeavours.

Please send any news you would like to share to mtilbrook@meddent.uwa.edu.au(.)

PROFESSOR BRUCE ROBINSON AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS MEDAL

NRCARD Scientific Director Professor Bruce Robinson has been recognised for his lifetime achievement in researching respiratory disease, awarded the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand Research Medal, 23 years on from receiving the Society's Young Investigator Award in 1985.

Professor Robinson received the medal in March, which is an annual prize for outstanding contribution to the advancement of knowledge in respiratory medicine.

Professor Robinson, who was introduced as the head of the world's leading research group in asbestos related

disease, said he was proud to accept the award which he hoped would help encourage young doctors to consider entering the field of medical research.

"It's both amazing and humbling to be recognised for doing what I love to do, but this award really recognizes our terrific NRCARD team, not just me," he said.

"I was drawn to medical research by my curious nature and to this day, I'm still driven by those 'eureka' moments, uncovering something that no one else in the world has ever known.

"For me, research is exciting and important because of its potential to help so many people, which is why I hope this medal will encourage young doctors to try their hand at medical research – I believe people with ability and skill should use their talent to help the world."

Professor Robinson was awarded the prestigious medal at the Society's annual scientific meeting in Melbourne where he presented his ideas on future directions of mesothelioma treatment as well as personal journey in the field.

WAIMR Director Professor Peter Klinken said the recognition Professor Robinson had received was well-earned and particularly topical given the new wave of asbestos victims predicted to occur over the next few years.

A member of the Thoracic Society for 24 years, Professor Robinson is also respiratory physician at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital as well as his commitment to research work.



AN INTERNATIONAL SUMMARY

Professor Robinson has recently returned from a business trip to the UK and Canada.

While overseas, Professor Robinson addressed the UK Houses of Parliament's All Party Parliamentary Group on Occupational Safety and Health and spoke to the Asbestos Sub-Committee group about asbestos research in Australia as part of a seminar about the impact of asbestos in the UK.

From there, Professor Robinson headed to the American

Thoracic Society Conference in Toronto, Canada.

Professor Robinson said the trip presented a fantastic opportunity to represent NRCARD on an international level and to show to the world the vital asbestos research that is being undertaken in Western Australia.



A NEW MEMBER FOR THE GROWING TEAM

In February, Matthew Tilbrook was appointed to the newly created role of Business Manager at NRCARD.

Matthew brings a diverse range of experience including management as well as an understanding of the medical research environment.

"My focus within NRCARD is to facilitate the collaboration between the researchers and collaborators," Matthew said.



Since joining the team, Matthew has spent most of his time learning about the history and staff of the organisation, and has begun meeting with NRCARD chief investigators to find out how to help streamline their projects.

"We are in the process of renewing and expanding the NRCARD Board, so it's an exciting time of expansion," he said.

"I'm looking forward to being involved with some valuable research and am delighted to be part of the NRCARD team."

ADD YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO ASBESTOS STORIES

Asbestos Stories is a Perth-based project run by a group of journalists and historians at Murdoch University.

It is part of a larger National Health and Medical Research Council-funded project that also involves medical and public health researchers from The University of Western Australia and Curtin University.

The group are creating a website to document the use of asbestos in Australia, and sharing everyday stories, which can help to understand something that is so commonplace

but at the same time so potentially dangerous as asbestos.

The group are calling for help gathering stories and encourage you to tell them about your experiences with asbestos, which could include stories about work or home life, long ago or just the other day.

To download the brochure, visit the NRCARD website at www.nrcard.org.au and click on the link to Asbestos Stories, or call Murdoch University on 1300 725 925 with any queries.

DIARY DATES - NRCARD ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

This year, the NRCARD's Annual Scientific Meeting will be held at the University of Melbourne on December 4 and 5.

This is an important event for our Centre and a great opportunity to meet your colleagues, share information, renew friendships and have a good time.

Details of the program and accommodation will be sent out closer to the date.

If you have any suggestions of possible speakers, outside NRCARD, please send them to Matthew Tilbrook.

Many thanks go out to Deborah Vallance for her assistance.

CONTACT DETAILS

Our researchers and collaborators are located throughout Australia and indeed the world.

NRCARD is based within the Western Australian Institute for Medical Research (WAIMR) whose corporate support assists NRCARD in its day to day operations.

If you have any questions or require more information about NRCARD, please contact us.

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