

Media Release

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National award for Windsor sperm expert

Sperm expert and Windsor resident, Dr Moira O'Bryan, is used to raising non-scientific eyebrows when she describes her profession, but a prestigious award at a recent national conference highlighted the clout her research has with her peers.

Dr O'Bryan, a scientist from the Monash Institute of Medical Research (MIMR) received the inaugural Award for Excellence in Reproductive Biology Research from the Society for Reproductive Biology, in recognition of her sixteen years of research into sperm biology.

"At this midpoint in my career, my standout highlights have been playing a key role in discovering genetic causes of male infertility and working towards effective infertility diagnoses and treatments," said Dr O'Bryan. "My current challenge is to use my research to hopefully develop a male contraceptive pill in the near future."

"Recognition of any kind is always appreciated, but to be honoured by the pre-eminent society in my field of research is fantastic. It's like a tick of approval from the scientific community," she said.

Dr O'Bryan was a long-time protégée of Emeritus Professor David de Kretser AC, MIMR's Founding Director and the current Governor of Victoria, who is recognised internationally as one of the leading male infertility experts.

"I've been very fortunate to have David as my mentor throughout my career. Learning from David's experience, it really isn't surprising I've received an excellent grounding in the mechanisms of male fertility, and an ambition to solve these problems.

The next stop for Dr O'Bryan is the International Spermatology Meeting in Madrid in mid-September, where spermatologists from around the world will meet and share their latest research into sperm biology and male infertility.

"In Australia, one in 25 men suffers from poor fertility, and one in 35 has no sperm at all. By the time my young sons' generation are in their 20s, I hope my research will mean male infertility is a treatable condition that no longer causes families the distress it does today," Dr O'Bryan said.

More information / interview opportunity:

Dr O'Bryan is available for interviews Friday 8 September and Monday 11 September
Julie Jacobs, Public Relations Manager: 9594 7109 or 0408 135 256.
