



Media Release

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National award for Clayton scientist

It's a long way from practicing urology in China to undertaking dairy cattle research in Melbourne, but for Clayton doctor and scientist, Dr Zhen Zhang, his change in career path has been recognised with a national award.

Dr Zhang, a scientist at the Monash Institute of Medical research (MIMR) recently took out the Meat and Livestock Award at the national Society for Reproductive Biology conference in Queensland for his groundbreaking research into improving dairy cattle productivity.

"My research focuses on merging the high milk productivity of cows in the southern Australian states, with the more successful reproductive rates in the warmer, northern states," said Dr Zhang.

"To do this, we need to transplant specific cells from bulls in Victoria and South Australian into cows in Queensland. We've been working on this in the lab for some time, and will hopefully be able to test it in cattle soon."

"If this is something we are able to do, my research has the potential to improve both dairy and beef livestock across Australia," he said.

Dr Zhang started his career as a urologist in China. He moved to Australia 11 years ago to further his research interests in male infertility.

As chance would have it, MIMR needed an expert in male infertility for their research in partnership with the dairy industry, and so Dr Zhang's career took an unexpected twist.

"I have only been carrying out my research at MIMR for 12 months, so I'm honoured to have received this recognition from a national research body," Dr Zhang said.

More information:

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About the Monash Institute of Medical Research

MIMR has an international reputation for research into stem cell biology, cancer, reproduction, development, prostate disease, the role of genes and disease, women's health and inflammation.

Since its establishment as the Monash Institute of Reproduction and Development (MIRD) in 1991, the Institute's scientists and clinicians have received international recognition for their work in the vitally important areas of conception, growth, birth and development, in both the human and animal areas. Thousands of Australians have benefited from the scientists' research, including infertile young people, parents of premature babies, and men with prostate cancer.

On 1 February 2005, in recognition of MIRD's evolution beyond reproduction and development, the Monash Institute of Medical Research (MIMR) was born. MIMR's inception cemented the close medical research ties between MIRD, Monash University and Southern Health.

MIMR's Founding Director and newly-appointed Victorian Governor, Professor David de Kretser AC, established a strong legacy of excellence in research and scientific collaboration. This vision is shared by MIMR's new Director, Professor Bryan Williams, one of America's most accomplished cancer experts.

In keeping with this vision, collaboration is high on MIMR's agenda. The Institute is part of the Monash Health Research Precinct; a collaboration with Monash University, Southern Health and Prince Henry's Institute. This partnership between scientists and clinicians has become a strong union of scientific and clinical expertise, experience and resources.



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