

MEDIA RELEASE

Centenary Institute's Professor Chris Semsarian AM receives prestigious national recognition for world-first studies.

The Centenary Institute is proud to announce Professor Chris Semsarian AM, Head of Molecular Cardiology Program, has been awarded an honorary fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA). The prestigious RCPA Award recognises the key role of forensic pathologists, working with clinicians and researchers, with the ultimate goal of preventing sudden cardiac death in our communities. The honour acknowledges two of Professor Semsarian's ground-breaking studies into sudden cardiac death in the young, across Australia and New Zealand.

"This is a tremendous honour which reflects a real team effort, with contributions from my team, pathologists around Australia, and most importantly, the families in which sudden death has occurred," said Professor Chris Semsarian AM.

Professor Semsarian AM, who leads a top-quality research program at the Centenary Institute, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and the University of Sydney, is at the interface of basic and fundamental research, clinical research and public health, with the ultimate goal of preventing the complications of genetic heart diseases in our community, and decreasing the numbers of those affected.

He has an extensive track record, publishing over 150 peer-reviewed scientific publications in some of the highest-ranking cardiovascular and general medical journals, as well as playing the key role as primary supervisor of over 30 PhD, honours, and medical honours students since 2003, and is an active member of the mentoring program at the University of Sydney.

His most recent advancements in this area of vital research into sudden cardiac death in the young has been a game-changer, identifying a possible genetic link associated with the condition. The two studies significantly increase understanding of this devastating disease, and brings scientists closer to developing more effective treatments and preventive measures – ultimately saving the lives of thousands of Australians and protecting future generations.

For many people with this condition, the first hint that something is wrong, is a fatal heart attack. Currently, many families are left behind wondering why their young loved one died so suddenly without warning and if siblings, families or future generations could be affected by this devastating condition.

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For further information about the Molecular Cardiology Program, visit www.centenary.org.au