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Leading Centenary researcher awarded NHMRC “Golden Ticket” honour

Associate Professor Jodie Ingles has been recognised at a prestigious awards ceremony in Canberra, for achieving the highest-ranked National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Career Development Fellowship in her category.

A/Prof Ingles is Head of the Clinical Cardiac Genetics Group in the Agnes Ginges Centre for Molecular Cardiology at the Centenary Institute in Sydney. She is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Medicine and Health, The University of Sydney, and cardiac genetic counsellor in the Department of Cardiology, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney.

The 38-year-old has been awarded the highest-ranked NHMRC Career Development Fellowship in the Clinical Level 1 Category for her research, which focuses on better understanding the clinical, genetic and psychosocial aspects of inherited heart diseases.

NHMRC Career Development Fellowships are incredibly competitive, with a success rate of just 13 per cent. A/Prof Ingles says she feels incredibly privileged to have not only received a Fellowship, but to also have achieved the highest-ranking in her category.

“It’s like winning a ‘Golden Ticket’. Having this on my track record will hopefully place me in an even stronger position when I apply for grants and funding in future, which is the only way you can succeed as a medical researcher,” says A/Prof Ingles.

A/Prof Ingles admits she was left feeling “devastated” when she unsuccessfully applied for the Fellowship three years ago, but says she worked hard with her mentor, Professor Chris Semsarian AM, to map out what steps she could take to improve her chances.

“As soon as I received the letter telling me I was the top-ranked Clinical Level 1 Career Development Fellowship, Chris was the first person I wanted to call! It’s important to have a mentor who can see the bigger picture, and help guide your career,” says A/Prof Ingles.

Professor Semsarian says it brings him “great joy” to witness A/Prof Ingles’ success in the 15 years they’ve worked together.

“We kind of joked about her one-day achieving the number one ranking, and now it’s happened! Jodie has a lot of things on her plate at any one time both professionally and personally, so it’s really lovely to see a reward of this stature for all the hard work she has put into it,” says Professor Semsarian.

“We are privileged to have had a great team of people over the years. Of course, Jodie has led the research but no one can do this without a good team and a good Institute behind you.”

A/Prof Ingles has received her award at the NHMRC Research Excellence Awards Dinner, held at the National Museum of Australia in Canberra.

To arrange an interview with A/Prof Jodie Ingles, please contact

Karen McBrien, Marketing Manager, Centenary Institute on 0408 601 836.

For more information about Centenary Institute, the Clinical Cardiac Genetics Group and the Agnes Ginges Centre for Molecular Cardiology, visit www.centenary.org.au

About A/Prof Jodie Ingles

A/Prof Ingles has completed a Bachelor of Biomedical Science, a Master of Public Health, a Graduate Diploma in Genetic Counselling and a PhD. As part of her PhD, she co-established the Australian Genetic Heart Disease Registry in 2008.

A/Prof Ingles has been the recipient of many prestigious awards and grants, including:

- NHMRC Career Development Fellowship, Level 1
- NSW Cardiovascular Research Network Rising Star Ministerial Award
- Heart Foundation Future Leader Fellowship
- NSW Health EMCR Fellowship, Cardiovascular Health
- Rita and Cornforth Medal for PhD Achievement, University of Sydney
- Peter Bancroft Prize for Research Work, Sydney Medical School
- CSANZ Affiliate's Prize
- The Centenary Institute's 2017 Bank of Queensland Gender Equity Award

A/Prof Ingles also delivered the prestigious plenary Janus Lecture at the 2018 American National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC) annual conference in Atlanta, US.

About the Centenary Institute

The Centenary Institute is a world-leading independent medical research institute, closely affiliated to the University of Sydney and the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. Our research focuses on three key areas: cancer, inflammation and cardiovascular disease. Our strength lays in uncovering disease mechanisms and applying this knowledge to improve diagnostics and treatments for patients.

About Sydney University

The University of Sydney is Australia's first university, founded in 1850 on the principle of providing higher education for all. It was one of the first universities in the world to admit students on academic merit, and women on the same basis as men. Today the University of Sydney is ranked in the world's top 50 universities, reflecting their reputation for leadership in research and education. The University aims to create a place where the best researchers and academics and most promising students – whatever their background – can achieve their full potential.

About Royal Prince Alfred Hospital

RPA, co-located with the University of Sydney, is an internationally and nationally respected principal referral hospital which provides a broad range of clinical services including highly specialised services. RPA has a leadership role in the state in complex clinical service development and the rapid translation of research and innovation into patient care. RPA's specialty services are numerous and include the Australian Liver Transplant service, kidney transplantation, cardiovascular and cardiothoracic services, genomics, neurosciences, and neuro-intervention including endovascular clot retrieval, molecular imaging, haematology, cancer care, highly complex maximally invasive surgery including advanced GI surgeries such as pelvic exenteration and peritonectomy, intensive care, neonatal care, maternity and gynaecology.