



MEDICAL ONCOLOGY GROUP OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

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MEDIA RELEASE

Professor Anna Nowak Awarded Professor Martin H. Tattersall AO Heroes Award 2021

The Medical Oncology Group of Australia (MOGA) is pleased to announce that Professor Anna Nowak, Perth has been awarded the inaugural Professor M. Tattersall Heroes Award in 2021. Professor Nowak is a Medical Oncologist at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Pro Vice Chancellor (Health and Medical Research) at The University of Western Australia (UWA) and a Clinical Academic in the UWA Medical School.

This new Award seeks to recognise contributions by Australian medical oncologists that honour the spirit, courage and commitment of the late Professor Martin H. Tattersall AO, and his significant contributions to Medical Oncology in Australia. The Award provides a \$5,000 grant to support the recipient's ongoing professional development and research activities.

Associate Professor Prunella Blinman, the Chair of MOGA said "Professor Martin Tattersall AO was a giant of medical oncology, a founding member and the first chair of MOGA. He was responsible for the establishment and development of medical oncology in Australia. Professor Anna Nowak is an outstanding colleague who embodies the very spirit and intent of this new Award in all her endeavours."

Professor Nowak is a Medical Oncologist at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, and is the Director of the National Centre for Asbestos Related Diseases (NCARD) based at UWA. She has made a significant and lasting impact on the practice of Medical Oncology in Australia and worldwide. Professor Nowak has led transformative research in mesothelioma with profound and far-reaching impacts on people with this fatal condition. Experimental work from her PhD showed that chemotherapy and immunotherapy were synergistic, which has ultimately led to the development of three clinical trials of chemo-immunotherapy in mesothelioma, including the positive DREAM clinical trial and the international DREAM3R trial. She also championed the practice changing CheckMate- 743 trial. She was instrumental in establishing a cross-disciplinary state-wide Western Australian neuro-oncology service. Dr Piyush Grover, who nominated Professor Nowak for the award, commented: "Her approach to patient care embodies respect, transparency, and inclusiveness. She is also a skilled lay language communicator with the ability to inspire consumers about medical research and clinical trials. Professor Nowak is a stand-out mentor and inspires us by her commitment to our profession and patients. She encourages us to collaborate, challenge status-quo and strive for excellence...and offers her unflinching commitment to Medical Oncology to the best of her capacity".

Professor Nowak will be formally presented with the Award at the MOGA 2021 Online Annual Scientific Meeting – ***The Future of Oncology: Improving Outcomes Through Innovation*** and will deliver the Award Address at 4.30pm on 5 August 2021

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