

MEDIA RELEASE

Award winners advance health

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Last night in Alice Springs, researchers and educators behind improvements to health in Australia were honoured in the annual CAPHIA Awards. The Awards showcase the critical role of Australian universities in undertaking ground-breaking research into health. Award winners also developed innovative ways to educate the next generation of public health professionals, doctors and other health care providers to promote health and worked with government and other partners to improve the way that health care delivered.

Dr Lee Nedkoff from the University of Western Australia won the Award for PhD Excellence. Her research focuses on people with coronary heart disease and diabetes, and how to improve their health.

“Unfortunately, people with diabetes are two to four times more likely to develop cardiovascular disease than those without. Once they have cardiovascular disease, they are more likely to die after five years” said Prof Colleen Fisher, president of CAPHIA.

“Dr Nedkoff’s research shows that we need to improve the way we provide long-term care to patients with diabetes and cardiovascular disease” said Prof Fisher.

The team from the Institute for Physical Activity and Nutrition (IPAN) at Deakin University behind the Melbourne Infant Feeding Activity and Nutrition Trial (InFANT) Program were awarded for Excellence and Innovation in Public Health Team Research. Their program supports parents to get healthy eating and active play in place right from the start of life.

“The children of parents who received the intervention had improved diets and watched less television. The InFANT program has been trialled and in turn embedded into a range of health services across Victoria” said Prof Fisher.

The Public Health Medicine team at Deakin University was awarded for Excellence and Innovation in Public Health Teaching.

“This team is changing the way that doctors are trained in public health, and will improve the health of Australians in future years” said Prof Fisher.

Ms Michelle Dickson from the University of Sydney won the President’s Award for outstanding contribution to Indigenous Public Health Teaching and Learning.

“Indigenous people have much worse health than other Australians. Work like that of Ms Dickson in training Indigenous and other health professionals in Indigenous health promotion is an essential step in closing the health gap” said Prof Fisher.

TO ARRANGE AN INTERVIEW WITH PROF GREGORY KOLT, VICE-PRESIDENT OF CAPHIA, PLEASE CONTACT: GREGORY KOLT – 0420 303 879

About CAPHIA:

The Council of Academic Public Health Institutions Australia (CAPHIA) is the peak body representing all major Australian tertiary education institutions teaching and researching public health. CAPHIA’s mission is to improve the public’s health by advancing public health education, research and service.

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