

MEDIA RELEASE – Wednesday 16 May 2018

Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt announces winners of Australia's best clinical trials at *Clinical Trials 2018: National Tribute Awards*

- ACTA-hosted event celebrates extraordinary contribution of investigator-led clinical trials to Australians' wellbeing and marks International Clinical Trials Day
- **Winning and finalist clinical trials:**
 - a trial that will lead to significant improvements in premature infant health simply by “waiting a minute” during delivery – *Winner of the Trial of the Year*
 - a trial demonstrating that large doses of omega-3 fish oil, previously thought to protect premature babies against chronic lung disease, does not do so and may be counterproductive – *winner of the ACTA STInG Excellence in Trial Statistics Award*
 - a trial demonstrating that blood transfusions using blood stored for up to the standard maximum of 42 days is just as beneficial or better for patient outcomes as using “fresher” blood – *finalist for the Trial of the Year Award*
 - a trial showing that a common nerve pain medication, pregabalin, prescribed for people suffering from sciatica does not reduce severity of leg pain or improve other health outcomes. It also demonstrated a higher risk of side effects such as dizziness – *finalist for Trial of the Year and Honourable Mention in ACTA STInG Excellence in Trial Statistics Award.*

The Australian Clinical Trials Alliance (ACTA) and the National Health and Medical Research Council hosted Greg Hunt MP, Federal Minister for Health, and Frank McGuire MP, Victorian Parliamentary Secretary for Medical Research to celebrate the extraordinary contribution that investigator-led clinical trials bring to the wellbeing of Australians.

On 16 May the ***Clinical Trials 2018: National Tribute and Awards Ceremony*** took place at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. The event formed part of celebrations marking International Clinical Trials Day.

The winner of the 2018 Trial of the Year Award is the Australian Placental Transfusion (APT) Trial which is the largest ever randomised controlled trial of delayed placental cord-clamping for premature infants.

“ACTA is delighted to honour the APT trial investigators and coordinators with this award. The trial is of exceptional standard, addresses a critical gap in evidence, and will significantly improve premature infant health outcomes,” said ACTA Chair, Professor John Zalberg.

The winner of the ACTA STInG Excellence in Trial Statistics Award is the N3RO Trial (pronounced “NERO”), a clinical trial of omega-3 fish oil in reducing a chronic lung disease in premature babies. It demonstrated that large doses of omega-3 fish oil, previously thought to protect premature babies against chronic lung disease, does not do so and is in fact counterproductive. ACTA congratulated the trial investigators and coordinators on the outstanding work that has been achieved in this trial.

The finalist for both the Trial of the Year Award and ACTA STInG Excellence in Trial Statistics Award is the PRECISE Trial, a trial evaluating the effects of a common nerve pain drug, pregabalin, in people with sciatica. It demonstrated that pregabalin does not reduce severity of leg pain or improve other health outcomes, but leads to a higher risk of side effects such as dizziness.

The finalist for the Trial of the Year Award is the TRANSFUSE Trial, an international, multicentre, randomized, double-blind trial which investigated the age of red blood cells for transfusion and outcomes in critically ill adults. The trial demonstrated that blood transfusions using blood stored for up to the standard maximum of 42 days is just as beneficial or better for patient outcomes as using “fresher” blood stored for shorter period.

Greg Hunt presented the awards and heartfelt congratulations to all winners and finalists. He also announced the *Helping Our Health* campaign to encourage more Australians to participate in ground-breaking clinical trials, opening up access to life-saving new medicines and treatments. The campaign will be led by four-time AFL premiership player and Hawthorn Football Club Captain, Jarryd Roughead

“Clinical trials save lives and protect lives, and Australia can be a global leader in clinical trials,” said Mr Hunt.

ACTA Chair, Professor John Zalcborg commented: “We welcome the Minister’s and the Victorian and Federal Governments’ enthusiastic support and significant financial commitment to clinical trials.” He added: “The Helping Our Health initiative will be of great assistance to investigators recruiting participants into clinical trials and will greatly benefit patients now and in future.”

Also launched at today’s event was Clinical Trials: Impact & Quality, CT:IQ, a new initiative to develop and implement recommendations that will improve the impact, quality and efficiency of clinical trials, leading to more rapid, lower cost and higher quality evaluation of healthcare interventions in Australia.

CT:IQ is modelled on the highly successful US FDA-funded Clinical Trials Transformation Initiative (CTTI). CTTI has been in existence for 10 years and has made great headway in improving the American Clinical Trials Enterprise.

CT:IQ is co-funded by MTPConnect, the Australian Government’s Medtech and Pharmaceuticals Industry Growth Centre, through the MTPConnect Project Fund Program. The program brings together industry stakeholders to fund big, bold ideas to drive growth through collaboration and commercialisation in the medical technology, biotechnology and pharmaceutical sector.

ENDS

Contact

Simone Yendle, CEO, Australian Clinical Trials Alliance

+ 61 423 031 133

simone.yendle@clinicaltrialsalliance.org.au

About the Clinical Trials 2017: National Tribute & Awards Ceremony

The *Clinical Trials 2018: National Tribute & Awards Ceremony* was held at the Royal Melbourne Hospital in Melbourne on Wednesday May 16 as part of Australian celebrations marking International Clinical Trials Day (celebrated around the world on May 20 each year).

The Hon Greg Hunt MP, Minister for Health presented the prestigious ACTA Trial of the Year Award & the ACTA STInG Excellence in Trial Statistics Award.

Event Partners: MTPConnect, Medicines Australia, the National Health and Medical Research Council, AusBiotech, Research Australia, the Medical Technology Association of Australia.

More information: <http://www.clinicaltrialsalliance.org.au/events-forums/acta-trial-year-awards-2018/>

About ACTA

The Australian Clinical Trials Alliance (ACTA) is a national peak alliance supporting high quality investigator-driven clinical trials and clinical quality registries within the Australian health system.

Our mission is to promote effective and cost-effective healthcare in Australia through investigator-driven clinical trials and registries that generate evidence to support decisions made by health practitioners, policymakers and consumers.

ACTA brings together more than 50 clinical trials networks, large trial coordinating centres and clinical quality registries working to generate robust evidence for the effectiveness of treatments and to measure their outcomes for patients treated everyday across Australia.

Collectively, ACTA's represents well over 10,000 senior clinicians and researchers working within the Australian healthcare system to improve outcomes and the quality of care.

Over the last decade, our members have conducted or initiated more than 1,000 studies, involving more than 1 million participants and representing over \$1 billion in total research investment.

These are the types of studies that are designed to influence clinical practice, inform health policy, and most importantly, improve outcomes for patients.

More about ACTA: www.clinicaltrialsalliance.org.au