

PROFESSOR TERRY DWYER – 2003 ASMR MEDALLIST

Professor Terry Dwyer

MB BS, MPH, MD

Fellow of the Australian Faculty of Public Health Medicine

The ASMR Medallist for 2003 is one of Australia's most respected and successful medical scientists, Professor Terry Dwyer, of Tasmania.

Professor Dwyer, Director of the Menzies Centre for Population Health Research at the University of Tasmania in Hobart, directed Australia's ground breaking scientific research into the cause of sudden deaths in infants during the 1980s and 1990s. His research findings – which led to a revolution of parents putting their infants to sleep in the prone position – have saved thousands of babies' lives all over the world.

Professor Dwyer's research has been recognised in a National Health and Medical Research Council report published in the Lancet as one of Australia's 13 most significant medical research achievements of the 20th century.

The research database Professor Dwyer and his team collated now comprises comprehensive health details on more than 11,000 Tasmanian babies and their mothers. The data is currently being used to find ways to prevent other significant diseases, including cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes and asthma.

Professor Terry Dwyer arrived in Tasmania in 1985 from Sydney where he worked as a senior lecturer in the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine at the University of Sydney. Previously he had studied at Yale and worked at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston and the CSIRO Division of Human Nutrition, Adelaide.

Professor Dwyer is National Chair of the Gulf War Veterans Study Scientific Advisory Committee, Chair of the CSIRO Health Sector Advisory Committee and a member of the National Health and Medical Research Council's Research Advisory Committee. Professor Dwyer also has international involvement in health and medical research, currently serving as the Chair of the World Health Organisation's Western Pacific Region Advisory Committee on Health Research.

In 1994 he was invited to Oxford as a fellow of Green College and in 2000 he received a Global Health Leadership Fellowship from the World Health Organisation.

In addition, his community roles include the Deputy Chairman of the Royal Automobile Club of Tasmania, Chair of the Premier of Tasmania's Physical Activity Council, and in past years, President of Athletics Tasmania and Athletics Australia and Chairman of the Tasmanian Institute of Sport Board.

