

Issue

1

National Centre for Asbestos Related Diseases



Special Newsletter

Professor Bruce Robinson AM named West Australian of the Year



PROFESSOR ROBINSON RECEIVES HIS AWARD AT THE CELEBRATE WA GALA DINNER

Photo: Rob Duncan reproduced with kind permission of *The West Australian*

2013 is proving to be an extraordinary year for Bruce Robinson. On Saturday 1 June at the Celebrate WA Awards Dinner, he not only won his nominated category of Business and Professions, but was named West Australian of the Year, receiving his award to a standing ovation of 500 guests.

This of course follows being made a Member of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Honours List in January.

In his acceptance speech at the WAOTY Awards, and media interviews since, Bruce has said:

"I was deeply honoured, especially because it gave me a chance to talk in my acceptance speech about our research work and the wonderful team that does that work here at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. My award

honours them also. In fact, just in the past two weeks we have made exciting discoveries that have given me a 'skip in my step' each day. These are around our capacity to obtain the DNA sequence of mesothelioma cells, discover the mutations that are associated with the cancer and use that information to make vaccines to force the immune system to attack those mutations. This means we are making the immune system see the cancer cell 'like a virus' – that is why it will attack it and that is why it is an exciting prospect for treatment.

I also feel moved when I think about how my ancestors, who came out to help start WA as the Swan River Colony and struggled on the land, would feel about my being named West Australian of the Year in 2013."

As we know, Bruce is a man of many hats and many roles: doctor, scientist, researcher, author, teacher, emergency aid specialist, family man and parenting advocate. While this nomination was primarily for his work on The Fathering Project, it both recognises, and puts the spotlight on the many other spheres in which he works.

In research, in particular, he always notes the team effort that this involves. Thus Bruce's wins are a win for NCARD.

Tracy Hayward