



MEDIA STATEMENT

June 11, 2014

WA medical profession honours Professor Ian Constable.

The Australian Medical Association (WA) has honoured the founder of the Lions Eye Institute, Professor Ian Constable, for his extraordinary contribution to medicine in Western Australia.

The 2014 AMA (WA) Award – also known as the Hippocrates Award or “Hippo” - was presented at the Association’s annual dinner in Perth on Saturday, June 7.

The award recognised Professor Constable’s world-renowned research into some of the leading causes of blindness and his founding of the Lions Eye Institute (LEI) more than 30 years ago.

Previous winners of the prestigious award include Australian of the Year Dr Fiona Wood, WA Citizen of the Year Professor Bruce Robinson and Nobel Laureates Professor Barry Marshall and Professor Robin Warren.

LEI Managing Director Professor David Mackey said Professor Constable’s contribution to ophthalmology in Western Australia was tremendous.

“Ian’s approach has always been innovative and bold,” he said.

“Under his guidance, the LEI spearheaded the development of lasers, the artificial cornea, retinal vein bypass surgery and more recently, gene therapy for wet Age-Related Macular Degeneration.”

In his acceptance speech Professor Constable noted that another AMA award winner on the night, Dr John van Bockxmeer, has family ties to the LEI.

Dr van Bockxmeer was named Junior Doctor of the Year and his father Frank was one of Professor Constable's earliest recruits.

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Pictures of Professor Ian Constable with his award are available