

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

WINNERS ANNOUNCED IN THE 2018 BHERT AWARDS FOR AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY-UNIVERSITY COLLABORATION.

Melbourne, 14 November 2018. The annual Business Higher Education Round Table (BHERT) Awards, a celebration and recognition of high impact business-university collaborations, were held at the Park Hyatt Melbourne on Tuesday 13 November 2018. Established by BHERT in 1998, the BHERT Awards seek to recognise the best – the highest impact and most innovative – university partnerships in Australia with business and the community.

With author and broadcaster Dr Julia Baird acting as the evening's Master of Ceremonies, the 2018 BHERT Awards Dinner honoured collaborative research projects distinguished by their national impact and the innovation of their partnerships.

The distinguished **Award winners** come from across Australia, and addressed Australia's most important challenges, in the economy and broader society. Spanning enterprises in research and development, higher education and training, community engagement, and national (non-economic) benefit, this year's Award recipients have demonstrated the impact of business-university and community-university collaboration in Australia.

Dr Peter Binks, CEO of BHERT, acknowledged the quality of the Applications and of the Finalists: *"2018 saw the highest number of Applications in BHERT's 21 years, and the 25 Finalists, and 6 Award Winners, were outstanding partnerships. We received 79 Applications, involving over 30 Universities, and well over 200 Australian companies, in just about every sector of the Australian economy and community."*

"Our Panel was impressed by the strength and impact of these partnerships, and the commitment by businesses and universities to work together," Dr Binks continued. *"Many of the partnerships had been in place for several decades, had saved lives, generated millions of dollars in GDP, resulted in new companies, and shaped the way we deal with disadvantaged communities. Australian university-industry and university-community partnerships are growing in number and importance – and are making a vital contribution to our future."*

In 2018, the winners include an academy to assist students on the autism spectrum in securing roles in the IT industry; a major partnership supporting the international competitiveness of Australia's food industries; Australia's largest science and engineering challenge for school students; a powerful collaboration to address disadvantage in Indigenous health; and a revolutionary approach to cancer treatment.

BHERT has also honoured regional Victorian leader and Deakin University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Jane den Hollander AO, for her work in establishing Geelong as one of Australia's most vibrant innovation precincts.

A full list of winners and details of their projects can be viewed below.

To learn more about the event or to arrange an interview with any of the BHERT Award Winners, please contact Peter Binks on pbinks@bhert.com or 0407 364 570.

The 2018 BHERT Awards were sponsored by: Cisco Systems Australia and New Zealand; The University of Queensland; University of Technology Sydney; the Victorian Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources; the Federal Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, and the Westpac Group.

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2018 BHERT AWARD WINNERS

The BHERT Award for Outstanding Collaboration in Research and Development (Industry Partnership)

Project title: The Monash Program of Research for the Food and Dairy Industry

Partners: Monash University, Soochow University, University of Queensland, Bega Cheese, Devondale Murray Goulburn, Fonterra Australia, Gardiner Foundation, COFCO NHRI, Mengniu Dairy, Department of Industry, Innovation, and Science, Food Innovation Centre, Simplot, Dollar Sweets, Lion, Tamu Innovations, Treasury Wine Estates, Meat and Livestock Australia, Agriculture Victoria, Land O'Lakes Inc., South Dakota State University, Dairy Management Inc.

The BHERT Award for Outstanding Collaboration in Research and Development (Technology Development)

Project title: Viralytics: Immunotherapy-Based Cancer Treatment

Partners: The University of Newcastle, Viralytics, MSD Australia, Merck & Co. Inc, the Hunter Medical Research Institute.

The BHERT Award for Outstanding Collaboration for National (Non-Economic) Benefit

Project title: Autism Academy for Software Quality Assurance

Partners: Curtin University, BHP, Bankwest, Deloitte, Planit Testing, rerisk Pty Ltd, ACS Foundation, Department of Training and Workforce Development, Autism Association of Western Australia, Autism West, Therapy Focus, CoderDojo WA, AASQA@Kalgoorlie, Willetton Senior High School, The Ian Potter Foundation, Bennelong Foundation, Rotary Club of Willetton.

The BHERT Award for Outstanding Collaboration in Higher Education and Training

Project title: Indigenous Health Education and Workforce Development

Partners: The University of Queensland and the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health.

The BHERT Award for Outstanding Collaboration in Community Engagement

Project title: The Science and Engineering Challenge

Partners: The University of Newcastle, Rotary, Office of NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer, Google, Defence Force Recruiting, Laing O'Rourke, Port Waratah Coal Services, Yancoal, Australian Gas Infrastructure Group, Port of Newcastle and 27 supporting Australian universities.

The Ashley Goldsworthy Award for Individual Leadership in University-Business Collaboration

Awarded to Professor Jane den Hollander AO, Vice-Chancellor of Deakin University.