



## **\*\*\*Media release\*\*\***

### **More awards for Austin Health researcher**

Austin Health researcher Dr Radwa Badawy has been awarded two additional prizes for her ground-breaking research into what causes people with epilepsy to have seizures.

Dr Badawy is this year's recipient of both the Chancellor's Prize for Excellence in the PhD Thesis and one of only five students to win the Dean's Award for Excellence in a PhD Thesis from The University of Melbourne.

Both awards recognize Dr Badawy's extensive work investigating the physiology of epilepsy using transcranial magnetic stimulation, a non-invasive and painless technique of looking into the brain.

Dr Badawy's innovative studies enabled her to identify what happens in the brain leading up to a seizure and what happens after a seizure occurs. Dr Badawy examined factors known to exacerbate seizures that were poorly understood before, such as time of day and sleep deprivation.

Her studies also explored what happens when patients start taking medication and why some people respond well to medication while others do not.

Dr Badawy said the hope of her work is to understand more about epilepsy and to be able to apply this understanding clinically as a method to monitor early diagnosis as well as response to medication.

"I'm extremely honored, and I feel very responsible," said Dr Badawy. "Once you have achieved something like this you have to live up to it, so I hope I can always produce the same standards and help the people who I work for."

Epilepsy is a very common disease. It's very distressful for patients and their families. If we can help these patients with our research, then that would be the biggest achievement for me."

Earlier this year, Dr Badawy was a finalist in the 2010 Premier's Award for Health and Medical Research commending her research in epilepsy.