



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

### **Research Week entertains and inspires**

Research Week officially started on Monday 19 October, with new event Professors Professing attracting approximately 150 people to the John Lindell Lecture Theatre.

The event, which featured recent Distinguished Scientist Award winners, Professors Rinaldo Bellomo and Ego Seeman, was as entertaining as it promised to be, with jokes, youtube videos and references to popular culture included alongside wisdom and advice for young people entering the medical research field.

The two professors lived up to their reputations as skilled orators, and clearly enjoyed the opportunity to impart their wisdom.

After the presentation, both spoke of having a very similar motivation of wanting to share their passion for research with younger people.

"I think that research is very important," said Professor Seeman.

"Nothing is more important than nurturing someone's career. Nothing that we do lasts – not our discoveries – but the difference you can make to someone's career is lasting," he said.

Professor Bellomo agreed, saying that one of the most satisfying things about his work was the opportunity to mentor young and enthusiastic people.

"They become like family and you really feel like you have to look after them," he said.

Research Week co-ordinator Geraldine Richards said that the rest of the week's festivities should be equally entertaining.

"The first round of posters are already on display in the Education Centre for those who are interested in viewing them – although the best time to come will be during the poster defence sessions on Tuesday and Thursday afternoon when the researchers will be there to discuss their research," Ms Richards said.

"This year we've had a record number of participants in the poster competition, and have lunchtime events on every day for the first time, so there should be something on to appeal to everyone – researchers and non-researchers alike," she said.

Tuesday's lunchtime session discussed the importance of strengthening Austin Health's research partnerships and reputation for research, and events later in the week include presentations from young researchers, visit from plenary speaker Professor Fred Mendelsohn and the inaugural R J Pierce Symposium on respiratory and sleep medicine.

Lunchtime sessions are in the John Lindell Lecture Theatre at 12pm every day until Friday. Visit the Research Week website to see the full program.