## GlaxoSmithKline Australia

**Award for Research Excellence Timeline**

In 1980 the Wellcome Australia Medal, now the GlaxoSmithKline Award for Research Excellence was presented for the first time. Of the 34 winners, 15 are physician/scientists and 19 are scientists.

### 1980

**Professor Tony Basten**  
Immunology

His work has led to significant advances in our understanding and management of diseases ranging from cancer and infections, to rheumatoid arthritis and deep vein thrombosis.

**Future achievements**  
Winning the ARE helped Professor Basten secure a grant under the Commonwealth Research Centres for Excellence scheme.

### 1989

**Professor Murray Esler**  
Hypertension and the sympathetic nervous system

Among his many findings, Professor Esler has uncovered that over-stimulation of the kidneys by sympathetic nerves in patients with high blood pressure can start and sustain blood-pressure elevation.

**Future achievements**  
Since winning the ARE he has gone onto develop a new device – a renal artery catheter – which uses radio waves to destroy the kidney nerves that commonly cause high blood pressure.

### 1994

**Professor Robert Baxter**  
Regulation of cell and tissue growth, particularly the growth of cancer cells

As a pioneer in understanding how a key human protein family called insulin-like growth factors (IGF) are regulated in the body, Professor Baxter has helped clarify the role of IGFS and their binding proteins in normal body growth, as well as the uncontrolled growth of cancer.

**Future achievements**  
The same year he received the award, he was appointed as the Kolling Institute of Medical Research’s third director since 1928.

### 1998

**Professor Alan Cowman**  
Malaria

He has explained mechanisms of drug resistance against major anti-malarials medications and also identified key information on how the malaria parasite invades red blood cells.

**Future achievements**  
He is the head of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute’s Infection and Immunity Division. He is a recipient of the Royal Society of Victoria Research medal.

### 2011

**Professor Kathryn North**  
Neuromuscular and neurogenetics

She made the world-first discovery of a common genetic variant in the ACTN3 gene, which influences muscle function and performance in elite athletes and the general population.

**Future achievements**  
Since receiving the award, professor North was made a Member of the Order of Australia and has recently been appointed Chair of the NHMRC Research Committee.

### 2013

**Professor Ingrid Scheffer**  
Epilepsy

She made the world-first discovery of a common genetic variant in the ACTN3 gene, which influences muscle function and performance in elite athletes and the general population.

**Future achievements**  
Since receiving the award, professor North was made a Member of the Order of Australia and has recently been appointed Chair of the NHMRC Research Committee.

Her collaborative work led directly to the identification of the first gene for epilepsy in 1995 and since, more than half of the 30 or so known genes.

Her clinical research has led to recognition and diagnosis of specific epilepsy syndromes and appropriate therapies, enabling genetic counselling and improved outcomes for individuals with epilepsy.