



EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE
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Alison Yung receives the SIRS 2020 Outstanding Translational Research Award



The Schizophrenia International Research Society has named Alison Yung, M.D. the 2020 Outstanding Translational Research Awardee. Prof. Alison Yung is a Principal Research Fellow, Consultant Psychiatrist and Professor at the Centre for Youth Mental Health (CYMH) and Orygen, University of Melbourne and Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Manchester, UK. She is the Director of Graduate Research at the CYMH. In this role, she has oversight of all Research Higher Degree students at the CYMH. Prof. Yung serves on the editorial boards of Schizophrenia Research, npj Schizophrenia, Psychopathology, and Clinical Schizophrenia and Related Psychoses. She is Head of Early Psychosis research at CYMH and sits on the Research Leadership Team at Orygen. In July of 2019, she was appointed as Chair of the Research Committee of the Psychosis Australia Trust, an initiative of the Mental Illness

Fellowship of Australia. Prof. Yung has authored over 350 publications, and in 2014 and 2015 was named as “one of the world’s most influential scientific minds” by Thomson Reuters. In 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 she was named as a Highly Cited Researcher by Clarivate Analytics.

Prof Yung is acknowledged internationally as an authority in early psychosis. Her research has resulted in reform in the delivery of mental health services for young people thought to be at a high risk of psychotic disorders. In 1994 in Melbourne, Australia, she established the first clinic for individuals identified as being at imminent high risk of psychotic disorder (“Ultra High Risk” - UHR) in the world. Similar services have been established internationally, including Europe, North and South America and Asia based on this service model and the UHR criteria. Prof Yung developed a scale for the assessment of UHR status, the Comprehensive Assessment of At Risk Mental States (CAARMS), that is now used internationally and translated into 18 languages. She has been awarded the Lilly Oration Award for prominence in Australian and New Zealand psychiatric research at the 2009 Australasian Society of Psychiatric Research, the Richard J. Wyatt Award at the 2010 International Early Psychosis Association. In 2018, she was awarded a National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Senior Investigator Award and in 2019 she was awarded the Founders’ Medal by the Society for Mental Health Research. Together with colleagues, her submission to the Australian Federal Government helped her to secure funding in the May 2011 federal budget to establish 16 early psychosis services across Australia. Her work in the UK led to the inclusion of identification and management of UHR/ARMS individuals in the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidelines. The CAARMS instrument is now used throughout the

NHS in England to detect and monitor the ARMS, NHS England fund training in its use and it is included in the electronic medical record of Early Psychosis services in England. Her research has resulted in major reform in the delivery of mental health services for people thought to be at high risk of schizophrenia throughout the world.

Prof. Alison Yung will receive the 2020 Outstanding Translational Research Award at the 2021 Congress of the Schizophrenia International Research Society in Toronto, Canada.

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The Schizophrenia International Research Society (SIRS) was founded in 2005 with the goal of bringing together scientists from around the world to exchange the latest advances in biological and psychosocial research in schizophrenia. The Society is dedicated to facilitating international collaboration to discover the causes of, and better treatments for, schizophrenia and related disorders. Part of the mission of the Society is to promote educational programs about the latest findings in schizophrenia research, to effectively disseminate them worldwide, and to expedite the publication of new research.