

Professor Michael Stowasser receives prestigious Paul Korner Medal

9 December 2024

Professor Michael Stowasser has been awarded the prestigious Paul Korner Medal in recognition of his exceptional career spanning over 30 years in scientific and clinical research with outstanding contributions to the field of hypertension, including services to Hypertension Australia and the mentoring of researchers in the field.

Professor Markus Schlaich, the President of Hypertension Australia, presented the award to Professor Stowasser at the 2024 Hypertension Australia meeting in Sydney.



L-R: Professor Michael Stowasser, Professor Markus Schlaich

With 34 years of clinical research experience in the pathogenesis and management of hypertension, including primary aldosteronism (PA), Professor Stowasser assisted his mentor, Professor Richard Gordon, in demonstrating that PA is 10 times more prevalent than previously recognised, accounting for approximately 10% of hypertension and representing the most common treatable, potentially curable form. Furthermore, he identified a new familial form (FH-II) of PA, subsequently elucidating its genetic basis and marking a ground-breaking advancement in our understanding of this condition.

In the clinic, he spearheaded the clinical development and validation of the seated saline suppression test, which is now the most common method for confirming the diagnosis of PA in Australia and internationally. Under his leadership, his hospital department also manages possibly the largest case series worldwide, with over 2400 patients with PA.

Professor Stowasser has held critical leadership roles, as President (2017-19) and Treasurer (2020-3) of the High Blood Pressure Research Council of Australia, and has participated in the US Endocrine Society's international Task Force, developing the first PA diagnostic and management guidelines.

His outstanding achievements, unwavering commitment to hypertension research, and exceptional mentorship have positioned him as a globally recognised authority on the pathogenesis, genetics, diagnostic workup, and management of PA.

Congratulations Professor Stowasser on being awarded the Paul Korner Medal.

The Medal is named in honour of Emeritus Professor Paul Korner who was one of the founders and a former president of the High Blood Pressure Research Council of Australia (1987-1989). Throughout his decorated career, Professor Korner made invaluable contributions to cardiovascular research through his work on essential hypertension, and its underlying neural and cardiovascular mechanisms.