

## Media Coverage

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CoverStory

# AusBiotech-GSK Award for breast milk research

**M**s Foteini Hassiotou of the University of Western Australia was the recipient of the national prize of the AusBiotech-GSK Student Excellence Award for her research in stem cell therapies. Ms Hassiotou's research has identified that the human breast milk contains embryonic-like stem cells, which are able to differentiate towards various body cell types, including bone, fat, liver and brain cells. The national winner will receive a \$7,000 travel grant to be used to present her research at an

tem. This potentially offers a superior means to treat acute respiratory viral infections.

**Jing Jing Wang** from Flinders University, South Australia was the winner for research into 'In vitro anti-skin cancer properties and

**AusBiotech 2011**  
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mechanisms of action of xanthones from the mangosteen pericarp'. This

international conference. In addition, the national winner's principal supervisor will receive a \$2,000 research grant. She was presented with this Award at the AusBiotech 2011 in Adelaide.

## Winners from states

The AusBiotech-GSK Student Excellence Awards also recognised state recipients. The winners are: **Ms Vidya Perera** from the University of Sydney won the New South Wales award for research into 'CYP1A2 activity in South Asians and Europeans'. Ms Perera is a student of the Peter Coates Postgraduate Scholarship in Ethnopharmacology, which is supported by GSK.

**Ms Jana McCaskill** from the University of Queensland won Queensland state's award for research in developing a new drug delivery system that achieves efficient delivery of an anti-viral drug to the infected cells in the respiratory sys-

research has revealed a possibility for novel treatment of skin cancers, a cancer that now represents 30 percent of newly diagnosed cancers worldwide and is the most common cancer in Australia.

**Mr Ramez Alhazzaa** from the University of Tasmania won the Tasmania award for research into 'Alternative sources of omega-3 in aquaculture'. Plant oils and plant-derived ingredients are renewable sources and can be included in our diet and have a great potential in replacing fish oil, which is finite.

**Ms Lina Happo** from Walter and Eliza Hall Institute and the University of Melbourne, Victoria won the award for research into why certain cancers do not respond to conventional chemotherapy, highlighting the potential to predict treatment success or failure in patients with tumours by identifying genetic alterations.