

MEDIA RELEASE

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COMMITTEE FOR MELBOURNE 2014 ANNUAL GALA DINNER AND MELBOURNE ACHIEVER AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT

Committee for Melbourne will host its 2014 Annual Gala Dinner tonight on the stage of the State Theatre at Arts Centre Melbourne. Titled 'Melbourne on Stage', the event will bring over 400 of Melbourne's senior business leaders together with some of our incredibly talented emerging artists to celebrate Melbourne.

Thanks to Arts Centre Melbourne, the Committee has been given the rare opportunity to dine on the stage of the State Theatre. With one of the world's largest stages, the Theatre, which normally plays host to musicals, ballet, dance performances and grand opera, will tonight host its largest ever corporate dinner.

During the evening, Committee for Melbourne will award the 2014 Melbourne Achiever Award to the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research.

The Melbourne Achiever Award is awarded to an individual or organisation that has made a significant and sustained contribution to the city that will leave, or has left, a long lasting legacy for Melbourne.

The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute was established in 1915 and is the oldest medical research institute in Australia. In 2014, the institute is home to almost 750 researchers who are working to understand, prevent and treat diseases including blood, breast, bowel, lung and ovarian cancers; immune disorders such as rheumatoid arthritis, type 1 diabetes, lupus and coeliac disease; and infectious diseases such as malaria, HIV and hepatitis B and C. The institute is a cornerstone of Melbourne's internationally renowned medical research sector, and will play a vital role in Melbourne's future positioning as a centre for research and biomedicine.

Committee for Melbourne's Chief Executive Officer, Kate Roffey said "The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute have excelled at placing Melbourne on the health research through its 99-year history. We are incredibly proud to award this year's Melbourne Achiever Award to the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute for the outstanding contribution it has made to Melbourne."

Director of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, Doug Hilton will accept the award on behalf of the institute.

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Contact: Kate Roffey
Chief Executive Officer
Committee for Melbourne – (03) 9650 8800