

**Under embargo until:**  
5.00pm, Australian Eastern Standard Time  
Friday 20 May 2022

## Accolades for Australian clinical trials at annual ACTA awards

The spotlight shone brightly on Australia's position as a global leader in clinical trials at the Australian Clinical Trials Alliance (ACTA) 2022 Clinical Trials: National Tribute and Awards Ceremony, held on Friday 20 May 2022.

From a national pool of exceptional collaborative, multicentre, investigator-driven and impactful trial nominations, 4 major awards were presented for trials demonstrating significant and positive impacts for patients. These award winning trials and their subsequent impact on health outcomes successfully highlight the exceptional breadth of trial activity and expertise in Australia.

These awards were established in 2016 to highlight the outstanding Australian achievements that advance clinical practice and save or improve the lives of patients every year.

The 2022 ACTA award winners were:

### Winner - ACTA Trial of the Year Award

**REMAP-CAP: Randomised, Embedded, Multifactorial Adaptive Platform trial for Community-Acquired Pneumonia**

This trial employed a novel design to simultaneously evaluate potential treatments, and efficiently and rapidly generate evidence, which had a significant impact on the care of critical patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Winner - ACTA STInG Excellence in Trial Statistics Award

**The PADDI Trial: The Perioperative Administration of Dexamethasone and Infection - The PADDI Trial**

This trial presented that dexamethasone can be safely administered to patients to prevent nausea and vomiting when undergoing surgery, without concern about wound infections.

### Winner - ACTA Consumer Involvement Award

**EMPOWER-SMS: Text messages to improve women's self-efficacy, quality of life and health outcomes after breast cancer treatment: EMPOWER-SMS randomised clinical trial**

This trial evaluated the reach and usefulness of a lifestyle-focused text message intervention to support women's mental and physical health after breast cancer treatment.

### Winner - ACTA Industry Partnership Award

**Better Knee, Better Me: Effectiveness of two scalable health care interventions supporting self-management for knee osteoarthritis – a randomized controlled trial**

This partnership, between the University of Melbourne and Medibank, saw the design and evaluation of two new programs for people with knee osteoarthritis, which were highly rated by participants and health professionals for their effectiveness, simplicity and convenience.

ACTA CEO, Dr Stewart Hay shared: "The caliber and breadth of our 2022 award winners and nominees illustrates the expertise, experience and enthusiasm for conducting clinical trials in Australia".

"As an industry body, ACTA is committed to supporting and advocating for trial teams to ensure they can continue their great work in providing the community with access to life-changing trials".

“These awards provide yet another reminder of why our work is so important for the sector and patient care,” said Dr Hay.

Prof Steve Webb ACTA’s Board Chair and the lead Investigator of the ACTA 2022 Trial of The Year award echoed these sentiments, “The number of clinical trials being led by Australians, and being undertaken globally, is growing year on year, and the quality of nominations for the 2022 ACTA Awards showed that our nation’s trial efforts have also never been stronger”.

“As an ICU clinician I have seen the lifesaving impact of our own REMAP-CAP Trial firsthand, but it was evident that all trial nominees shared ACTA’s vision of *Better health outcomes through best evidence*”, said Prof Webb.

“It is such a humbling and important time to be involved in clinical trials,” he added.

ACTA announced the winners at their sixth annual awards ceremony in Sydney that coincided with International Clinical Trials Day. The event included esteemed guests The Hon Brad Hazzard, MP Minister for Health (NSW) and Prof Anne Kelso AO, CEO, NHMRC.

Further detail on the awards, winners and finalists is available below and additional information can be provided on request.

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### Additional award winners details:

#### ACTA Trial of the Year Award

##### Winner

##### **REMAP-CAP**

*This trial employed a novel design to simultaneously evaluate potential treatments, and efficiently and rapidly generate evidence, which had a significant impact on the care of critical patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.*

**Scientific name:** Randomised, Embedded, Multifactorial Adaptive Platform trial for Community-Acquired Pneumonia

**Chief Investigator:** Prof Steve Webb

**Network or investigator group:** Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society (ANZICS) Clinical Trials Group and School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University

##### Runner-up

##### **Quartet Study**

*This multi-centre, national trial, found evidence of sustained effectiveness and tolerability of a new hypertension medication that is delivered in a low dose, four in one pill compared to standard single dose therapy*

**Scientific name:** Initial treatment with a single pill containing quadruple combination of quarter doses of blood pressure medicines versus standard dose monotherapy in patients with hypertension (QUARTET): a phase 3, randomised, double-blind, activecontrolled trial

**Chief Investigator:** Prof Clara Chow

**Network or investigator group:** The George Institute for Global Health

##### Runner-up

##### **SSaSS**



*This trial presents evidence that salt substitute is a promising dietary alternative that lowers blood pressure, the risk of stroke and the risk of other cardiovascular events*

**Scientific name:** Salt Substitute and Stroke Study

**Chief Investigator:** Prof Bruce Neal

**Network or investigator group:** The George Institute for Global Health

### **ACTA STInG Excellence in Trial Statistics Award**

#### **Winner**

##### **The PADDI Trial**

*This trial presented that dexamethasone can be safely administered to patients to prevent nausea and vomiting when undergoing surgery, without concern about wound infections*

**Chief Investigator:** Prof Tomás Corcoran

**Network or investigator group:** Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) Clinical Trials Network

#### **Runner-up**

##### **REMAP-CAP**

*Details for this trial are available in the ACTA Trial of the Year Awards nominations list*

### **ACTA Consumer Involvement Award**

#### **Winner**

##### **EMPOWER-SMS**

*This trial evaluated the reach and usefulness of a lifestyle-focused text message intervention to support women's mental and physical health after breast cancer treatment*

**Scientific name:** Text messages to improve women's self-efficacy, quality of life and health outcomes after breast cancer treatment: EMPOWER-SMS randomised clinical trial

**Chief Investigator:** Dr Anna Singleton

**Network or investigator group:** Prof Clara Chow and Prof Julie Redfern, The George Institute for Global Health

#### **Runner-up**

##### **Bee Pain Free**

*Supported by extensive consumer and carer consultation, this trial investigated the use of local honey to reduce pain in children post- tonsillectomy, as well as addressing concerns about the complexities of opioid and non-opioid analgesia treatments in the home environment.*

**Scientific name:** A multi-centre, double-blinded, randomised controlled trial to investigate honey use to reduce pain in children post-tonsillectomy

**Chief Investigator:** Prof Britta von Ungern-Sternberg

**Network or investigator group:** Perth Children's Hospital, Paediatric Trials Network Australia

### **ACTA Industry Partnership Award**

#### **Winner**

##### **Better Knee, Better Me**

*This partnership saw the design and evaluation of two new programs for people with knee osteoarthritis, and were highly rated by participants and health professionals for their effectiveness, simplicity and convenience*

**Scientific name:** Better Knee, Better Me: Effectiveness of two scalable health care interventions supporting self-management for knee osteoarthritis – a randomized controlled trial

**Chief Investigator:** Prof Kim Bennell

**Network or investigator group:** University of Melbourne, in collaboration with Medibank

### Note to editors

- Trial Investigators and participants can be available for interview
- Ceremony attendance (or live zoom webcast) is available.


### About Australian Clinical Trials Alliance

Australian Clinical Trials Alliance (ACTA) is the national peak body supporting and representing networks of clinician-researchers conducting investigator-initiated clinical trials, maintaining clinical quality registries, and operating clinical trial coordinating centres within the Australian healthcare system.

ACTA brings together more than 60 clinical trials networks, large trial coordinating centres and clinical quality registries working towards ***better health through best evidence***. Collectively, ACTA's represents a community of more than 10,000 researchers, clinicians, nurses, volunteers and many others working within the Australian healthcare system to improve outcomes and the quality of care.

ACTA gratefully acknowledges the enormous contributions of the ACTA Members and operational funding from the Australian Government Medical Research Future Fund.

[www.clinicaltrialsalliance.org.au](http://www.clinicaltrialsalliance.org.au)

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