

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## Foundation Awards Dinner celebrates outstanding grads

Two UTAS alumni have won awards for their outstanding careers at the Annual UTAS Foundation Awards Dinner which was held last night.

Dr Emily Hilder, from the UTAS School of Chemistry was awarded the Foundation Graduate Award for 2010.

Professor Edward Byrne AO was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award.

UTAS Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew said UTAS is immensely proud of its part in nurturing the talent of the award recipients.

“It is wonderful when a world-respected researcher such as Dr Emily Hilder gets her start here,” Prof Le Grew said.

“UTAS is the fortunate beneficiary of Dr Hilder’s choice to reside here in Tasmania and to teach and research in our School of Chemistry.”

Prof Le Grew said Prof Byrne was a world-respected academic and neuroscientist and an extremely worthy recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award.

“Prof Byrne’s career achievements span many spheres and are outstanding by any measure- to know that he began his academic career here at UTAS is an inspiration.”

### ***About the award winners:***

#### **Dr Emily Hilder:**

Dr Hilder was born and educated in Tasmania. She first graduated from the University of Tasmania with a Bachelor of Science in 1996, after which she was awarded a Bachelor of Science with First Class Honours in Chemistry a year later and a PhD in analytical chemistry in 2000, both from UTAS.

Dr Hilder gained international experience with postdoctoral appointments in Austria and California before taking up her first academic position at UTAS in 2004. She is now Senior Lecturer in Chemistry and an Assistant Dean of Graduate Research.

Since completing her PhD, Dr Hilder has established herself as one of Australia's most talented and productive young researchers in analytical chemistry, with an excellent national and international reputation for her ability to perform high quality research in separation science.

Her expertise has been recognised by the award of two highly competitive Australian Research Council research fellowships – an Australian Postdoctoral Fellowship in 2004 and a Future Fellowship in 2010.

Dr Hilder regularly visits schools and community groups to speak about chemistry and science in general, and she has organised and contributed to numerous activities including open days and youth lectures.

### **Professor Edward Byrne AO:**

Prof Byrne obtained a First Class MBBS Honours degree from UTAS in 1974. He is an Officer of the Order of Australia, the Vice-Chancellor of Monash University, a highly eminent neuroscientist and has made an outstanding contribution to research into degenerative neurological diseases.

Prof Byrne first went to Monash University as the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine Nursing and Health Sciences, a role he held from 2003 to 2007.

Another move to England followed with his appointment as the Vice Provost (Health) at University College London from 2007. In July last year he became the eighth Vice-Chancellor of Monash University.

Apart from his dedication to clinical neurology, Prof Byrne has made an outstanding contribution to the field of research into degenerative neurological diseases, particularly as they relate to progressive muscular disease such as muscular dystrophy.

Prof Byrne has also served on a number of charitable trusts and provided advice in the neurology area to several community-based organisations.

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