



Prof. Alan Cowman

Announcement of the Sornchai Looareesuwan Medal Winner, 2014

The Sornchai Looareesuwan Medal Committee, chaired by Prof. Dr. Yaowalark Sukthana, was convened on September 1st, 2014 to review the list of nominations for the 2014 Sornchai Looareesuwan Medal. In contention were five highly deserving nominees from five international institutions.

This year, the standard of the nominations was particularly high, making the final decision even more difficult. After extensive review, discussion, and consideration, The Sornchai Looareesuwan Medal Committee, together with the Honorable Advisory Committee, resolved to award the Sornchai Looareesuwan Medal, 2014 to one outstanding nominee.

The 2014 winner is Professor Alan Cowman, from the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI), University of Melbourne, Australia for his distinguished achievements in malaria research. Professor Alan Cowman has an outstanding worldwide reputation for the excellence of his research and his distinguished and sustained contributions to the field of malaria. He has spent the past 30 years studying the parasite *Plasmodium falciparum*, which causes the most deadly form of malaria in humans. His research has led to technological breakthroughs in parasite transfection and a better understanding of malaria pathogenesis including export of virulent surface proteins and red blood cell infection. He has used the technology and knowledge, developed from the basic research that he and his team have performed, to devise novel strategies to rationally design candidate vaccines. One of these vaccines has progressed to clinical trials and another one is now in preclinical development.

Our sincere congratulations to the winner of the Sornchai Looareesuwan Medal, 2014,

Professor Alan Cowman!