



Australian Government



## THE PRIME MINISTER'S PRIZES FOR SCIENCE

# Associate Professor Michael Bowen

University of Sydney, New South Wales

### 2021 PRIZE FOR NEW INNOVATORS

- Associate Professor Michael Bowen has been instrumental in driving scientific discoveries relating to serious brain disorders that lack effective treatments.
- His research has been critical in the discovery and development of KNX100, a novel molecule that has considerable potential to treat addiction and other disorders of the brain and mind.
- KNX100 is now being developed to treat opioid-use disorder, which kills more people in Australia each year than car accidents. Previously, there were no novel compounds in clinical development for opioid-use disorder.
- KNX100 is being commercialised by Kinosis Therapeutics, a company he co-founded in 2018. Associate Professor Bowen leads the company's scientific program as the Chief Scientific Officer.
- Through a partnership between Associate Professor Bowen's team at the University of Sydney's Brain and Mind Centre, the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Kinosis Therapeutics, he discovered KNX100's enormous potential to help tackle the opioid epidemic.
- Associate Professor Bowen discovered that KNX100 has the potential to provide a breakthrough in the treatment for opioid-use disorder. The molecule reduces the severity of extreme emotional disturbances during withdrawal.
- The first-in-human clinical trial for KNX100 (funded by the US NIH) is scheduled to commence in early 2022, and will be run in Australia.
- Kinosis Therapeutics has attracted more than \$10 million in funding from some of Australia's most notable investors. Under Associate Professor Bowen's scientific leadership, Kinosis Therapeutics' valuation has increased by more than 20-fold since 2018.
- Associate Professor Bowen's work on KNX100 is supported by funding from Australia's longest running venture fund, Uniseed, and was awarded a highly competitive USD \$4.6 million grant from the US NIH under the Helping to End Addiction Long-term (HEAL) Initiative.
- His world-class research and commercialisation model has survived rigorous due diligence by Uniseed and several notable sophisticated investors.
- He is also a co-inventor on seven different patent families with the company.
- Associate Professor Bowen's work is a demonstration of the innovation and all-round impact that can be achieved through research partnerships between universities, industry and government.





## THE PRIME MINISTER'S PRIZES FOR SCIENCE

### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2020 Chair of the Executive of the Early- and Mid-Career Researcher Forum, Australian Academy of Science
- 2018 Co-founded Kinaxis Therapeutics Pty Ltd
- 2018 Editor's Choice, Best Review from 2017, Trends in Neurosciences
- 2018 Featured in exhibition 'Leadership for good starts here', University of Sydney
- 2017 Keynote Address, Challis Bequest Lunch, University of Sydney
- 2017 Sydney Science Forum Public Lecture, University of Sydney
- 2016 Eureka Prize for Outstanding Early Career Researcher, Australian Museum
- 2016 Inducted into World Economic Forum Young Scientists Community
- 2016 Occasional Address at Graduation Ceremony, University of Sydney
- 2016 Runner-up, Lawrence Creative Prize, Centenary Institute
- 2016 Day of Biosciences Public Lecture, University of Regensburg
- 2016 Early Career Award, International Behavioural Neuroscience Society
- 2015 Early Career Researcher of the Year, NSW Premier's Prizes for Science & Engineering
- 2015 Editor's Choice paper for Science Signalling, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (USA)
- 2015 Australian Psychological Society Award for Excellent PhD Thesis
- 2015 Runner-up, Science Leadership Award, Young Achiever Awards, Awards Australia
- 2015 Rita and John Cornforth Medal for PhD Achievement, University of Sydney Alumni Awards
- 2014 Postdoctoral Travel Award, International Behavioural Neuroscience Society
- 2014 H. Tasman Lovell Medal for best PhD Thesis, School of Psychology, University of Sydney
- 2014 Postgraduate Publication Prize, University of Sydney
- 2013 Glenn I. Hatton Memorial Award, International Neuroendocrine Federation
- 2012 Postgraduate Publication Prize, University of Sydney
- 2012 Graduate Student Travel Award, International Behavioural Neuroscience Society
- 2011 Campbell Perry International Research Award, University of Sydney
- 2011 Young Investigator Award, 9th World Congress on Neurohypophysial Hormones