



# Media release

**The Hon Louise Asher MP**

Minister for Innovation, Services and Small Business  
Minister for Tourism and Major Events

Wednesday 9 November 2011

## Victorian doctor wins UNESCO award

Minister for Innovation, Services and Small Business Louise Asher today congratulated Victorian paediatric neurologist Professor Ingrid Scheffer on being named the Asia-Pacific L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Laureate for 2012, announced in Paris last night.

"I am delighted that Professor Scheffer has been honoured internationally for her work with children and epilepsy," Ms Asher said.

Professor Scheffer is a paediatric neurologist at the Florey Neuroscience Institutes and Chair of Paediatric Neurology Research at the Melbourne Brain Centre at the University of Melbourne.

"Victoria is recognised for innovative excellence and we have world-leading medical research institutes to support our researchers. The University of Melbourne campus of the Melbourne Brain Centre was officially opened in October by the Premier, and the Florey Neuroscience Institutes represents the largest brain research group in the southern hemisphere," Ms Asher said.

"Professor Scheffer's research has benefited from support to the Florey Neuroscience Institutes through the State Government's Operational Infrastructure Support program and from new imaging technologies at the Austin campus of the Melbourne Brain Centre, which have been developed with significant state investment.

"Our researchers, such as Professor Scheffer, are transforming the world we live in, finding solutions to global issues, and participating on the world stage.

"Professor Scheffer's research has revealed that genes play a major role in epilepsy. This understanding will allow improved diagnosis, treatment, counselling, and the possibility of curing this condition in the future.

"Professor Scheffer is an outstanding model to young women entering science."

Professor Scheffer is one of five international winners who will each receive US\$100,000 in recognition of their contribution to the advancement of science at the awards ceremony on 22 March 2012 at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

Professor Scheffer is Australia's fifth L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Laureate. Past recipients include Elizabeth Blackburn (who went on to win a Nobel Prize), Suzanne Cory (now president of the Australian Academy of Science), Jenny Graves, and Jillian Banfield.

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