

# Media Release

## New treatment for Ectopic Pregnancies

31 August 2015

One of Australia's leading obstetric researchers, Professor Stephen Tong from the University of Melbourne and Mercy Hospital for Women, has developed a new treatment that could treat Ectopic pregnancies without the need for surgery.

Ectopic pregnancy is a dangerous complication where the embryo develops outside the womb, typically in a fallopian tube. The condition can be life threatening and usually requires immediate surgery, and in addition can also cause permanent damage to a woman's fallopian tubes which can be problematic for future pregnancies.

"We have recently completed phase two of our trial in Edinburgh treating Ectopic pregnancies with an injection and a course of seven tablets, and so far the results are promising", said Professor Tong, who is progressing the research to a phase three trial next year involving 21 hospitals in the UK.

Professor Tong will be in Perth next week (9<sup>th</sup> September) delivering a lecture at the [Women and Infants Research Foundation's Stars 'Translating Research Outcomes into Clinical Practice' Event](#). His lecture will detail how his research team develops potentially lifesaving new treatments to tackle dangerous complications of pregnancy, like Ectopic pregnancy.

Professor Tong is also developing a blood test to avert stillbirth and a new drug treatment to treat Pre-eclampsia, and will discuss how these ideas were conceived and tested in his laboratory, and the steps taken to move these concepts to international trials.

"These treatments have the potential to save the lives of mothers and babies", said Professor Tong.

Professor Tong will be joined by two local Perth researchers, Dr Kym Guelfi who will be speaking about the Perth-based Cycle Study and its' work toward preventing Gestational Diabetes, and Dr Matthew Kemp who will speak about his preterm birth prevention research.

The Stars event will be held at 6pm at the The University of Western Australia (UWA) Club. To register, visit [www.wirf.com.au/stars2015](http://www.wirf.com.au/stars2015)

**Media contact:** Sarah Cooper, 0416 228 722, [sarah@wirf.com.au](mailto:sarah@wirf.com.au)