



Healthy Development Adelaide (HDA) 13th Annual Oration

Professor Jozef Gécz

NHMRC Senior Principal Research Fellow and Chair for the Prevention of Childhood Disability, University of Adelaide and SAHMRI

Not born equal, when DNA is in charge

In ~1 in 50 individuals world-wide the healthy development of the central nervous system is affected by a genetic alteration. These, so-called neurodevelopmental disabilities (NDDs), are a group of primarily intellectual disabilities, epilepsies, autisms and cerebral palsies. They are amongst the most clinically and genetically heterogeneous disorders which pose a considerable challenge to medicine and our society. In 30 years of my research in this field more than 1000 different NDD genes have been identified, yet we have answers for less than 50% of the sufferers. There is a considerable excess of affected males over affected females although the sex chromosome X contribution is only 10-15%. Whilst finding the causes of NDDs have been rewarding, understanding the disease mechanisms and finding effective treatments remains the major challenge.



Jozef Gécz RNDr, PhD, FAA, FAHMS, FFSc (RCPA) is NHMRC Senior Principal Research Fellow and Chair for the Prevention of Childhood Disability at the University of Adelaide and SAHMRI.

Graduating from the Comenius University in Czechoslovakia in 1986 and completing PhD at the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Jozef spent two years as INSERM fellow at the La Timone Hospital in Marseille, France and the last 23 years at the Women's and Children's Hospital in Adelaide.

Jozef is a scientist, geneticist with a drive and career motivation to transform the understanding of the causes and underlying mechanisms of neurodevelopmental disabilities.

Wednesday 20 September 2017

5.45 - 7.30pm, doors open from 5.15pm

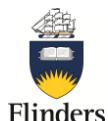
Elder Hall, University of Adelaide, North Terrace

Chaired by HDA Co-Convenor Professor Michael Sawyer
Head, Research & Evaluation Unit, Women's and Children's Health Network
Professor, Discipline of Paediatrics, University of Adelaide

Professor Gécz will be presented with the Healthy Development Adelaide Award for 2017

All welcome - FREE admission: food and drink following event
RSVPs essential for catering by Thursday 14 September to anne.jurisevic@adelaide.edu.au

HDA Partners



Healthy Mothers,
Babies and Children



Government of
South Australia

Department for Education and Child Development
Women's and Children's Health Network