

# The Medical Journal of Australia • MJA

# MEDIA RELEASE

## MJA Editor-In-Chief is Australia's most cited academic

Australia's leading medical journal – with a 5-year impact factor of 4.1 – is headed by the country's top researcher from the University of Newcastle, according to a new report from [Google Scholar](#).

The *Medical Journal of Australia's* Editor-in-Chief Laureate Professor Nicholas Talley is the highest ranking in a list of the [top 1,000 scientists from Australian institutions](#) according to their [Google Scholar Citations profiles](#). The researchers are ranked by *h*-index, which combines measures of both their productivity and citation impact.

Professor Talley is a global authority in neurogastroenterology and incurable functional gut disorders that affect more than one in five Australians. His recent work [linking the gut as a major driver of anxiety and other changes in the brain](#) has contributed to a paradigm shift in the way we understand how the gut interacts with the brain. This new approach may eventually unlock new therapies not just for gut conditions, but also for intractable neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's.

Professor Talley's groundbreaking work with Professor Marjorie Walker at the University of Newcastle has led to the discovery of two new gut diseases in conditions that were previously thought to have no known cause: [duodenal eosinophilia](#) in dyspepsia, and large [bowel eosinophilia linked to colonic bacteria](#) in irritable bowel syndrome (IBS).

His other major work has identified [a link between autoimmune and unexplained gut disease](#), which could lead to new treatment approaches. His team is investigating the role of environmental and dietary factors including wheat in causing these gut problems.

"Science shapes our world and the contributions of Australian researchers are exceptional," Professor Talley said.

"Most research is incremental, but without the small gains the big discoveries will never happen. I'm lucky to work with a great multidisciplinary team – we take observations made in the clinic back to the laboratory to help define new disease pathways that then have the potential to lead to new tests or therapies. We're working hard to rapidly turn our research discoveries into better treatments for patients".

"The Nobel laureate and physicist Richard Feynman beautifully described the scientific method and his description remains a guiding principle for me: 'If it disagrees with experiment, it's wrong. And that simple statement is the key to science. It doesn't make a difference how beautiful your guess is, it doesn't matter how smart you are, who made the guess, or what his name is. If it disagrees with experiment, it's wrong. That's all there is to it.'"

Professor Talley is currently Pro Vice-Chancellor, Global Research at the University of Newcastle in Australia. He works as a staff specialist and gastroenterologist at John Hunter Hospital and is the author of two highly regarded medical textbooks. He holds research appointments as Professor at Mayo Clinic in the United States and the Karolinska Institute in Sweden. He was appointed Editor-In-Chief of the *Medical Journal of Australia* in 2015. According to data collected by Google Scholar in May 2017, Professor Talley has an *h*-index of 155. His published work has clocked up an impressive 78,943 citations in the medical literature and his [2006 paper on functional gastroduodenal disorders](#), published in *Gastroenterology*, has been cited 2,297 times since publication.

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