



[What's On](#) > [Ambassadors](#)

what's on

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AUSTRALIA DAY AMBASSADORS



Vasso Apostolopoulos

Professor Apostolopoulos has worked tirelessly on the cancer vaccine project since 1992 and completed her PhD in 1995. Her work has been at the forefront of scientific research into the development of a vaccine for cancer and clinical trials on her research work have been conducted since 1994. In the last 12 years Professor Apostolopoulos has received over eighty awards and honours in recognition of her achievements.

In 1996, at only 26 years of age, she received the Premier's Award for medical research and was named Victorian Young Australian of the Year and was a finalist for the National Young Australian of the year awards. In the same year she also received the Channel 10 / Herald Sun Young Achiever of the Year award as well as awarded the Order of Brigadier General Medal by the Greek President. In 1998 Professor Apostolopoulos received the prestigious NHMRC C.J. Martin Research Fellowship and undertook research at the Scripps Research Institute in California USA until 2001. In 2001 she returned to the Austin Research Institute where she heads the Immunology and Vaccine Laboratory which is an extraordinary achievement for such a young woman. In 2002 she received the Victorian Tall Poppy Award for her research achievements, the Bodossaki Foundation Academic Prize in Molecular Bio-Medicine in 2003 and in 2004 was Inducted into the Victorian Honour roll of Women, was a torchbearer for the Melbourne leg of the International Athens 2004 Olympic Torch Relay and was named Woman of the Year.

She is currently, a Professor, an NHMRC RD Wright Research Fellow and Head of the Immunology and Vaccine Laboratory. Her contribution into cancer research has been remarkable - publishing over 110 scientific papers, an inventor on 11 patents and collaborates with over 30 national and international research institutes.

Professor Apostolopoulos is a woman of extraordinary vision, focus and determination. Her commitment to finding a vaccine for cancer gives hope to everyone. She is an inspiration, a role model and a truly great Australian.

[Back](#)

[Home](#) | [About Us](#) | [History](#) | [What's On](#) | [Awards](#) | [School Room](#) | [Media Room](#) | [Contact](#)
[FAQS](#) | [Sitemap](#) | [Privacy](#)

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