

**Professor Michael Berk** MBBCH, MMed FF(Psych) SA, FRANZCP, PhD  
**Professor of Psychiatry, School of Medicine, Deakin University & Barwon Health &  
Director, IMPACT Strategic Research Centre, GEELONG**

Professor Michael Berk is the Alfred Deakin Chair of Psychiatry at Deakin University and Barwon Health, where he heads up the IMPACT Strategic Research Centre. He is also a Senior Principal Research Fellow for the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

Prof Berk is an Honorary Professorial Research Fellow in the Department of Psychiatry, the Florey Institute for Neuroscience and Mental Health and Orygen Youth Health at the University of Melbourne, as well as at the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University.

He has published more than 900 research papers and is the second highest cited bipolar disorder researcher in the world, according to Scopus. Furthermore, he is listed by Thompson Reuters to be among the world's most influential scientific minds.

Data from SciVal shows Prof Berk was Australia's most highly cited researcher in the categories of neurosciences, and psychology and cognitive sciences between 2012 and 2017.

Prof Berk is a past president of the International Society for Bipolar Disorders and the Australasian Society for Bipolar and Depressive Disorders. His major interests are in the discovery and implementation of novel therapies, and the risk factors and prevention of psychiatric disorders.

He is the recipient of numerous national and international awards including the Brain and Behaviour Foundation's Colvin Award for Mood Disorders in 2015 and he holds grants from the NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence (CRE) and beyondblue in Australia, as well as the National Institutes of Health, Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative and the Stanley Medical Research Institute in the USA.

Prof Berk is supporting the *Australian Genetics of Bipolar Disorder Study* – a ground-breaking international collaboration exploring the genetic risk factors associated with the illness, and how genes influence one's response to treatment.

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**To coordinate an interview with Professor Michael Berk, please contact Kirsten Bruce or Holly Hamilton from VIVA! Communications on 0401 717 566 / 0434 799 839.**

