News_

Graduates shaping the world: Alumni Awards winners 2020

13 May 2020

Share

Meet the 2020 Alumni Award winners who are dedicated to helping others and driving positive change everywhere.

Honouring the exceptional achievements of our alumni, the University of Sydney's annual Alumni Awards [https://www.sydney.edu.au/engage/alumni/awards.html] , acknowledge alumni at the height of their careers, and those just starting to make their mark.

The 2020 winners include researchers, clinicians, entrepreneurs, global leaders and artists. They make the impossible possible through IVF. Fight against repression and for journalistic freedom. Make childbirth safer for women in developing countries. And develop software to help detect COVID-19 in lungs.

Each of these remarkable people has chosen the path of leadership, innovation and compassion.

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, sadly, the Awards cannot be the usual celebratory gathering in the University's Great Hall. Instead we asked our winners and Graduate Medallists [#gradmedal] to reflect upon their time and influential figures at the University and share the best piece of advice they've ever received.

Alumni Achievement Awards

Dr Alex Abrahams

Alumni Award for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Dr Alex Abrahams (BDS '82) transformed dental practice in Australia by establishing the largest branded dental network, Pacific Smiles [https://www.pacificsmilesdental.com.au/] , which has over 95 dental centres across the country and engages more than 600 dentists. A philanthropist and investor in start-ups for the greater good, he has provided: seed funding and mentorship for Group Homes Australia, an innovative dementia care model where residents live in suburban homes with 24-hour care; the blood testing group, Haemokinesis, which develops products for emergency and transfusion medicine; and established the Rosebrook Foundation to fund the arts and healthcare research in Australia. Through the Rosebrook Foundation, Dr Abrahams donated $3.6 million [https://www.sydney.edu.au/news-opinion/news/2015/11/14/gift-empowers-research-linking-oral-health-and-chronic-diseases.html] to the University of Sydney's Chair of Lifespan Oral Health. Together with his wife, Sue, he also funds an Indigenous scholarship [https://www.sydney.edu.au/news-opinion/news/2017/08/25/a-life-changing-scholarship.html] at the University.