

John Rasko AO – Gene & Cell Therapy | Regenerative Medicine | Translational Innovation

BSc(Med), MBBS(Hons), PhD, HonDSc (UTAR), FFSc(RCPA), MAICD, MAE, FRCPA, FRACP, FAHMS

Professor John Rasko is a globally recognised leader in gene and cell therapy, regenerative medicine, and molecular biotechnology. As a clinical haematologist, pathologist and scientist, he has shaped the medical translation of advanced therapeutics in Australia and internationally. From 1999 to 2024, he directed the Department of Cell & Molecular Therapies at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and the Gene & Stem Cell Therapy Program at the University of Sydney, building world-class programs bridging discovery and real-world impact.

He has chaired Australia’s Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee (GTTAC) since 2008—overseeing regulation of all genetically modified organisms—and serves on the World Health Organization’s International Nomenclature Committee. He co-founded the Australasian Gene and Cell Therapy Society and served as President of the International Society for Cell and Gene Therapy (2018–20), providing global leadership in developing safe & effective gene-based medicines.

With over 270 publications (h-index 77), Professor Rasko’s research has advanced our understanding of blood cell biology, gene and cell therapies, cancer biology, and rare genetic diseases. He is a founding Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health & Medical Sciences, Member of Academia Europaea, Adjunct Professor at UTAR in Malaysia (2014-) and corresponding Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Building on many years’ commitment to promote empirical ethical human clinical trials, his acclaimed book *Flesh Made New*, published in two languages, explores the promises and pitfalls of regenerative medicine.

An innovator and communicator, he has led interdisciplinary teams across academia, hospital-based manufacturing, and translational R&D. He brings deep insight into **IP creation, licensing strategy, clinical trials of advanced therapeutics, and industry collaboration**, making him a uniquely effective bridge between bench, bedside, and boardroom. He was honoured as an Officer of the Order of Australia and delivered the prestigious 2018 ABC Boyer Lectures.

“I am committed to accelerating precision and regenerative medicine to improve the lives of those with unmet medical needs while mentoring the next generation of clinician-scientists and entrepreneurs.”

