# Video Transcript: 2023-24 Premier Awards for Health and Medical Research Dr Rongbin Xu

## Dr Rongbin Xu

Hi, I’m Ronbin. I’m from Monash University. I currently work in the Climate Air Quality Research Unit, which is a unit in the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine.

Text: 2023-24 Premier’s Awards for Health and Medical Research. Dr Rongbin Xu, Public Health Researcher Award.

Text: Why did you become a health or medical researcher?

## Dr Rongbin Xu

Doing health and medical research work can help many people because you do some public health research and you know what risk factors contributes to people’s health, so we can target on those risk factors to improve the population health and help many people.

Text: What problem is your project addressing?

Vision: View of Rongbin working at computer.

## Dr Rongbin Xu

This addressing the environment health issue, like in the context of climate change, the bushfires are increasing, and heatwaves are increasing and they all harm people’s health. So my topic is addressing to evaluate those impacts and to quantify those impacts and to assess which people and which communities are most vulnerable to those impacts, and we can implement target interventions.

Text: What have the project results been?

## Dr Rongbin Xu

Our recent study we used some mechanical models, many models to model the global air pollution level around the bushfires, because bushfires is a global threat, health threat and air pollution from bushfires can affect more people than the bushfires itself.

Vision? View of Rongbin working in the office with others.

## Dr Rongbin Xu

So we a modelling the air pollution from the bushfires, bushfire smoke, which is an essential part to eradicate the health impacts.

Text: How could this project make a difference to people’s lives?

## Dr Rongbin Xu

With this project we can identify what health impacts those bushfires or heatwaves, for example, our research shows the exposure to bushfire smoke, or exposure to extreme heat, can increase the hospitalisation from respiratory diseases, cardiovascular diseases, or even increased mortality.

Vision: View of Rongbin walking to the Monash University and talking to reception in his office.

## Dr Rongbin Xu

So our results can show which communities are most impacted by those health impacts we can provide that information to the stakeholders such as the governments to develop some early warning systems to help people to take actions where there’s serious bushfire smoke or serious heatwave event so they can be cautious about that exposure and protect their health in advance in those events.

Text: 2023-24 Premier’s Awards for Health and Medical Research. Celebrating the achievements of Victoria’s early career health and medical researchers.

Text: Victoria State Government. Authorised by the Victorian Government, Melbourne.