

Pathology Update & International World Congress of Pathology begins this Friday

Pathologists from around the world will be converging on Sydney this weekend for one of the medical profession's most important global gatherings.

The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) Pathology Update, being held in conjunction with the 25th Congress of the World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (WASPaLM), runs from March 13th – 15th.

The three day Congress will feature a powerful scientific and educational program, with presentations from many renowned international and Australian pathologists and scientists.

President of the RCPA, Dr Bev Rowbotham, says the Congress offers not only exposure to the latest in groundbreaking research and thinking across all disciplines of pathology, but also highlights current international trends in the profession.

"Pathology is the medical specialty that underpins all medicine," says Dr Rowbotham.

"The exciting line up of renowned speakers includes Nobel Laureates and some of the most respected minds in the field, including Professor Stephen Schneider, Associate Professor Ona Marie Faye-Petersen and Professor David Holt. "

To set the tone of the Conference, the weekend program commences with an Innovations Program on the Friday, and includes highly informative and topical talks such as well-known US genetics expert, Dr Michael Watson's '*Translation of Genetic Information into Healthcare Use*'.

The David Rothfield Memorial Oration will be delivered by internationally recognized climate change expert and 2007 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Professor Stephen Schneider, from Stanford University in the US.

Other discipline-based program highlights include:

- *The impact of pharmacogenetics on Therapeutic Drug Monitoring* by WASPaLM President-elect, Prof Michael Oellerich from the Georg-August-University Göttingen, Germany;
- A genetics session that bears testimony to the fact that genetics is influencing and impacting all areas of pathology, with a number of cross-discipline sessions; and
- An expert panel session on desirability and liability of a \$1000 genome lead by Associate Professor Jonsson, from the University of Iceland, who

has long been involved with international discussions on the ethics of human genetics research. This session is expected to generate considerable debate.

The full program is available for download from the RCPA website, at <http://www.rcpa.edu.au/Continuing/PathologyUpdate/FinalProgram.htm>

The RCPA is the leading organisation representing pathologists in Australasia. Its mission is to train and support pathologists and to improve the use of pathology testing to achieve better healthcare.

11 March 2009

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