



Smiles all round at the ACHSE National Conference.

Canada's Minister for Health and Wellness, the Hon. Iris Evans, keynote speaker at the ACHSE National Congress.



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Clown doctors got plenty of laughs from health execs during program breaks.

the Medical Science and Research Affiliation



Adelaide Convention Centre
www.adelaidecc.com.au

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Convention Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2006

You're invited!

On Wednesday, March 15, be our guest for breakfast at the Adelaide Convention Centre.

It's been a while since we brought together members of our Medical Science and Research Affiliation, so here's your chance to catch up with people in allied fields and also find out what's happening down here on North Terrace.

As you'll see from the list of upcoming medical and science events (overleaf), we're busily preparing for some fascinating conferences, meetings and exhibitions. But remember that we're not just a conference venue – we can provide expert advice on how to stage an event and are always happy to help you prepare a persuasive bid.

If you can't make it on March 15 but you or a colleague would like a look around our facilities, don't hesitate to contact me by telephone on (08) 8212 4099 or by email - darren.sparks@adelaidecc.com.au.

Hope to see you in March.
Ring and book your place now!



Darren Sparks

Darren Sparks
Business Development Manager
MS&R Affiliation Manager



Ultrasound equipment worth millions of dollars was on show at the ASUM annual meeting.

Ultra smart ultrasound

The day will come when ultrasound machines will be "as common as the stethoscope" in emergency departments and the medical rooms of General Practitioners.

"That's the view of Dr Caroline Hong, CEO of the Australasian Society of Ultrasound in Medicine (ASUM) which held its annual scientific meeting recently at the Adelaide Convention Centre.

"Medical ultrasound has advanced at a rapid pace over the last few years," says Dr Hong. "With advances in 3D and 4D ultrasound images now available in the latest medical equipment, it means the medical specialist can read more into the images for accurate and timely diagnosis and interventional procedures.

"ASUM promotes very high standards to ensure that ultrasound technology is used by people who are appropriately trained to use it safely for diagnosis.

Like anything new, without proper educational updates and training, the full potential for its application cannot be achieved.

"Smaller, portable equipment is now available and this means that the use of medical ultrasound is increasing in many more aspects of medicine. Computer technology advances also means that reports can be done remotely over the internet between cities and even countries.

"Our conference meetings are becoming increasingly popular because they create an ideal opportunity for sharing information, exchanging ideas and knowledge."

The ASUM meeting was complemented by an exhibition of state-of-the art equipment and technology, worth many millions of dollars, displayed next door to the main conference area.

"It was a great venue," Dr Hong said. "Everything worked well – plenary sessions, concurrent sessions, break-out rooms for workshops, audio visual, catering and the exhibition area... And the wine tasting during our welcome was a highlight for our international and interstate delegates."

A mental health 'journey'

"Dancing to the beat of a different drum" was the theme. And in this case, the "drum" represented the heartbeat of an inclusive society, where citizenship for people with mental illness is valued.

Over four days last Spring, more than 1000 delegates from Australia and across the Tasman joined what organisers termed "a journey" to consider how they and their mental health service could contribute to the beating of that drum. The event was the Mental Health Services of Australia Annual Conference, an international forum which regularly attracts the full gamut of involved people, from clinicians and researchers to families and educators.

"We presented a diverse, in-depth program, including a total of 250 speakers and keynotes from the UK and Italy," said Conference Organiser Vivienne Miller. "We looked at how everyone who came could help foster an understanding of the diversity of beliefs, values and attitudes that enhance and encourage citizenship for people with mental illness and mental disorder."

ACC Future events

2006

International Society of the Disease of the Esophagus (ISDE) Conference

Reproductive Health International Congress

XVII Symposium Neuroradiologicum

Australian and NZ College of Anaesthetists Annual Scientific Meeting

Children, Youth and Women's Health Service National Parenting Conference

Health Technology Assessment International Annual Scientific Meeting

Australian Institute of Food, Science and Technology Convention and Exhibition

Cancer Nurses Society of Australia National Conference

International Society of Plant and Molecular Biology Conference

Australasian Aquaculture Conference

Australian Gastroenterological Week Congress

Global Windpower

Asthma Foundation National Conference

Australian College of Ambulance Professionals Conference

2007

Urological Society of Australia Annual Scientific Meeting

Australian Society of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery Conference

Australian Pain Society Conference

Australian and NZ Society of Nuclear Medicine Annual Scientific Meeting

Australasian College of Dermatologists ASM

Australian Society of Microbiology Annual Scientific Meeting

Australasian Menopause Society Annual Scientific Meeting

Australasian Plant Pathology Society Conference

Australian Society of Cytology Scientific Conference

Sports Medicine Conference

Clinical Oncological Society of Australia Conference

Health execs focus on reform

By Carolyn Marsh

Acting National Director, Australian College of Health Services Executives



L to R:
Bill Lawrence, National Director ACHSE, the Hon Iris Evans, Minister for Health and Wellness, Alberta Canada, Rod Vawdrey, CEO, Fujitsu Australia and New Zealand, Trevor Canning, ACHSE Federal President and Robert Grima, Congress Chair.

The 2005 Australian College of Health Services Executives National Congress blended the serious business of health reform with a touch of fun.

Our theme, "Partnerships – The Synergy for Reform", looked at structural arrangements, service priorities, financing, workforce, the health/aged care interface, the role of IT and linkages to the community. National and international experts discussed the challenges facing Australia's health system and the ways forward.

Media personality Julie McCrossin generated intense discussion and debate with a hypothetical scenario on the design of new health and aged care services.

The ABC's Dr Norman Swan facilitated a unique forum for State and Territory Directors General and CEOs which addressed the reform challenges for Australian health managers.

To balance the serious side of the program, a group of "clown doctors" from the Humour Foundation took time out from attending to the psycho-social needs of children in hospital to stir up some fun with delegates during refreshment breaks.

ACHSE rotates its National Congress each year and the Adelaide Convention Centre was the only facility which could comfortably accommodate our numbers and concurrent session arrangements. Staff were particularly helpful during a real medical crisis and ensured that events were handled smoothly.

A large trade exhibition complemented the Scientific Program. With registrations nudging the 500 mark, it was one of the biggest turnouts for the past 10 years.

From climate change to Tsunami surgery

The implications of global climate changes on health may seem a little removed from adult and paediatric critical care.

But a captivating presentation by Adelaide-based Professor Tim Flannery, the 2005 Australian Humanist of the Year, set the scene for focusing on other global health issues at the highly successful 30th Annual Scientific Meeting of Intensive Care held at the Adelaide Convention Centre in October.

Joy Booth, an experienced Operating Room nurse from the Royal Adelaide Hospital, was part of a team deployed to Banda Aceh to provide a surgical service for the injured. She spoke about the logistical and cultural issues faced by the team and the challenges of providing surgical care within a disorganised and chaotic local infrastructure.

Dr Cathryn Murphy, the Manager of Healthcare Associated Infections at Department of Health, spoke about global infectious disease pandemics, such as SARS, Avian influenza and Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease. She looked at the day-to-day infection control challenges and risks faced by intensive care staff and patients exposed to these pandemic diseases.

The conference presentations were not all focused on gloom and doom issues in health. Several advancements in critical care medical research were highlighted, including promising findings emerging in relation to outcome prediction tools that assist in providing information about intensive care patient morbidity.

Our social program was a highlight, particularly the 30th birthday celebrations at Adelaide Oval and the masquerade ball at the Convention Centre.

Dr Tina Jones

Convenor, 30th Annual Scientific Meeting of Intensive Care

