

UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 6AM ON WEDNESDAY 6 APRIL 2011

RECENT EPIDEMICS FEATURE ON FINAL DAY OF CONFERENCE

Public health experts and practitioners from around the country and eminent overseas visitors have come together for the Public Health Association of Australia's (PHAA) Communicable Disease Control Conference in Canberra. The three day conference concludes today, with an emphasis on re-emerging infectious diseases and recent epidemics.

"Speakers will discuss old and re-emerging diseases - including tuberculosis, malaria and dengue fever - and resultant challenges for disease control. Afternoon sessions will focus on respiratory, vaccine preventable and mosquito borne diseases, as well as diseases spread via contact with animals. An afternoon panel session will also discuss some of the key lessons learned from the H1N1 (swine flu) epidemic," said Michael Moore, Chief Executive Officer of PHAA.

"Among the experts speaking on the final day of the conference will be: Associate Professor Vicki Krause, Director of the Northern Territory (NT) Centre for Disease Control and Head of the Tuberculosis/Leprosy and NonTuberculosis Mycobacteria Unit for the NT Department of Health and Families; Professor Ric Price, Principal Research Fellow at the Menzies School of Health Research in Darwin, and a Senior Lecturer at the Centre of Tropical Medicine at Oxford University in the UK; and Professor John McBride, Infectious Diseases Physician and Clinical Microbiologist at James Cook University in Cairns," said Dr Frank Beard, public health physician and representative of the Conference Organising Committee.

"The biennial conference is being held by PHAA in association with the Communicable Diseases Network Australia and the Public Health Laboratory Network, with around 300 delegates attending this year's event," said Mr Moore.

What: PHAA Communicable Disease Control Conference
Where: Hotel Realm, 18 National Circuit, Barton ACT
When: Wednesday 6 April 2011
Time: 9am – 3:15pm

For general comment on the conference:

Michael Moore, CEO, Public Health Association of Australia:

0417 249 731

For access to presenters for comment/interviews; copies of presentation abstracts; and/or further information on the conference:

Melanie Walker, Conference Media Contact:

0438 430 963

An outline of the conference program is available on the PHAA website at:

http://www.phaa.net.au/documents/CDC_Program2011.pdf .

Sponsors of the Communicable Disease Control Conference include: the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing; Baxter; CSL Biotherapies; GlaxoSmithKline; Sanofi Pasteur Pty Ltd; and Wyeth Vaccines – Australia.