



NEWS RELEASE

Australian Divisions of General Practice Ltd.

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International expert talks pan flu

The largest primary health care conference in Australia will hear from leading world flu expert Dr Lance Jennings. The Australian Divisions of General Practice (ADGP) Forum being held on the Gold Coast next week will hear Dr Jennings speak on pandemic flu.

ADGP Chair Dr Tony Hobbs said Dr Jennings has dedicated more than 30 years to the study of respiratory viruses. It is an excellent opportunity to use his knowledge and add to our existing planning.

"GPs and Divisions of General Practice are an integral part in managing and planning for a possible pandemic.

"GPs are the first port of call for most patients when they have a health concern. This would also be the case if a pandemic was to occur.

"We need to do everything we can to ensure we are well prepared," Dr Hobbs said

A journal article in the latest *Medical Journal of Australia* (MJA) explains the important and critical role GPs and divisions of general practice will play should an outbreak occur. Central Sydney Division of General Practice CEO Dr Michael Moore is one of the MJA authors highlighting the role of these parties.

"I believe that Divisions of General Practice are well positioned to carry out workforce surveillance as they have established local networks of all GP support organisations.

"There are 21,426 GPs working within the divisions network and it's this workforce that manages seasonal influenza, along with community pharmacists.

"I am delighted that Dr Lance Jennings will be addressing the Forum. Some of the nation's most influential and well respected health representatives will be present and contributing to the session." Dr Moore said.

For more information please call Kate Carnell, ADGP Chief Executive Officer, on 0415 662 266 or Dr Michael Moore on 0427 702 231

WHAT IS ADGP?

- ADGP is the peak body representing 119 Divisions of General Practice and eight State-based organisations (SBOs) around Australia. The Divisions Network supports general practice and their practice teams and drives the implementation of innovative health strategies.
- ADGP, through the Divisions Network, works to integrate general practice with other sectors of the health system, both government and non-government, to deliver high quality care to the Australian community.
- ADGP is committed to promoting the health of all Australians by supporting the role of Divisions in the nation's primary health care system.



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