

Distinguished health researchers converge on Darwin for Scientific Colloquium

25 October 2012

Leading health researchers from around Australia will join more than 100 participants to discuss ways to bridge the gap between scientific discovery and delivery at a Menzies School of Health Scientific Colloquium 2012 to be held tomorrow (Friday, 26 Oct).

The event will bring together a raft of nationally and internationally renowned researchers, health professionals and educators to discuss the science of translating health research into large-scale change.

Key note speaker, Professor Alison Kitson said the ultimate purpose of knowledge translation was to improve outcomes for patients.

“In the past, it was usually assumed that research results would somehow trickle down in a process known as passive diffusion without much attention given to the exact mechanisms or the intended target audience,” Prof Kitson said.

Over the past two decades Prof Kitson’s research has focused on understanding the mechanisms that enable new knowledge to be introduced into clinical practice.

A leader in the science of knowledge translation and implementation, Kitson is Professor of Nursing and Head of School of Nursing at the University of Adelaide, Co-Director of the Centre for Evidence Based Practice South Australia, and an Associate Fellow at the University of Oxford.

The Colloquium will also showcase four innovative research programs that have achieved world-class success in translating research into significant change in health care and health outcomes:

- Director Menzies, Professor Alan Cass: Addressing the excess burden of chronic disease amongst Indigenous Australians
- Professor of Global Health, Ric Price: Reducing the burden of malaria in the Asia-Pacific region
- Senior Principal Research Fellow, Professor Ross Bailie: Quality improvement in Indigenous primary health care
- Director, Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, Professor Jonathan Carapetis: Rheumatic heart disease control

Media Opportunity:

Keynote speaker Prof Alison Kitson is available for pre-interviews. Media are welcome to attend the Menzies Scientific Colloquium 2012 on Friday, 26 October 2012 from 9am-1pm at the Mal Nairn Auditorium, Charles Darwin University. For a full program and map go to:

<http://www.menzies.edu.au/colloquium2012>

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Background

Menzies School of Health Research is a national and Asia-Pacific leader in tropical health research. It is the only medical research institute in the Northern Territory. Menzies has more than 300 staff and students working in central northern and central Australia, as well as low and middle-income countries across the Asia-Pacific region. Menzies is also a significant contributor to health education and research training in tropical Australia and neighbouring countries.