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# MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release



## A doctor for all seasons

### GP'09 – The Conference for General Practice in Western Australia begins this week

Where do you want general practice heading in the next decade? Come and join the debate at GP'09 – The Conference for General Practice – in Perth.

Over 700 delegates will congregate in Perth this week for the annual conference of The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP), during which time they will discuss the challenges facing primary health care delivery in Australia.

The conference is being held at the Burswood Entertainment Complex and runs from Thursday 1 October to Sunday 4 October. A full conference program, registration, accommodation and social program details are available at [www.gpevents.com.au](http://www.gpevents.com.au).

We are delighted to announce that the Minister for Health and Ageing, The Hon Nicola Roxon, will provide the opening address at College Day on Thursday 1 October at 9.00 am, followed by question and answer time to hear the views of GPs.

The conference, following the theme of 'A doctor for all seasons', will host a range of prestigious speakers from Australia and overseas who are experts in the field of general practice.

Subjects under discussion will include:

- Continuity of care
- The generalist approach
- Access to health care
- Managing multiple morbidities
- GPs important coordinating and filtering roll

All these subjects will be discussed and debated with views presented by experts from Australia and around the world.

"Australia's GPs face a range of challenges from the health needs of an ageing population to tackling the issues of preventative health care," said RACGP President Dr Chris Mitchell.

"This conference is an important opportunity for Australia's general practitioners and their peers from overseas to share their experiences and learn from one another."

"This is a unique opportunity to attend the conference in Western Australia and we look forward to seeing you in Perth for our new look and renamed annual convention," said Dr Mitchell.

Key speakers at the conference will include:

**Dr John Radunovich** – Dr Radunovich will deliver the William Arnold Conolly Oration. Dr Radunovich's distinguished career includes working in a remote practice northeast of Perth where he raised the standards of care for Aboriginal and older people. He has received an award for outstanding service to medicine and was inducted into the Royal Agricultural Society of WA Hall of Fame in 2007 for his services to rural Western Australia.

**Professor Jane Gunn** – Professor Gunn is on the editorial board of *Mental Health in Family Medicine* and *Asia Pacific Family Medicine* and a member of the Primary Care Advisory Panel of the *British Medical Journal*. She serves on professional committees with a focus on general practice including beyondblue and the Victorian Centre of Excellence in Depression and Related Disorders. Professor Gunn will deliver the Stuart Patterson Lecture. Professor Gunn was recently appointed as a member of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Research Committee.

**Dr Bruce Guthrie** – Dr Guthrie is an academic general practitioner who splits his time between the Centre for Primary Care and Population Research at the University of Dundee and his practice in Newport-on-Tay, both in the UK.

**Dr Mukesh Haikerwal** – Dr Haikerwal is a practising GP, commissioner to the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission and Professor in the School of Medicine in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Flinders University in Adelaide. He is currently working with the National e-Health Transition Authority (NEHTA) as the National Clinical Lead. Dr Haikerwal also chairs the General Practice Data Governance Council. Internationally, he is the Chair of the World Medical Association Finance and Planning Committee.

**Professor Claire Jackson** – Professor Jackson is a part time GP in Brisbane and Professor in General Practice and Primary Health Care and Head of Discipline at the University of Queensland.

**Professor Campbell Murdoch** – Professor Murdoch holds a professorial post at the Rural Clinical School of Western Australia, Bunbury. He has a particular interest in the benefits of general practice to people who live and work in rural, regional and remote locations.

**Professor Bonnie Sibbald** – Professor Sibbald is Professor of Health Services Research at the University of Manchester in the UK. She is also Chair of the National Health Services Research Network which represents health service researchers.

**Professor Kurt C Stange** – Professor Stange is a practising family physician and epidemiologist, the Gertrude Donnelly Hess MD Professor of Oncology Research and Professor of Family Medicine, Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Oncology and Sociology at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio.

This conference has been approved by the RACGP QA&CPD Program for 30 category 2 points. GPs will need to complete an online evaluation and attendance verification for correct point allocation.

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#### **Media contacts**

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#### **About the RACGP**

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) sets and maintains the standards for quality clinical practice, education and training, and research in Australian general practice, and represents Australia's urban and rural general practitioners. Visit [www.racgp.org.au](http://www.racgp.org.au).