

LEADING MEDICAL SCIENTISTS MEET IN DARWIN FOR THE FIRST TIME

17 October 2012

The Australian Institute of Medical Scientists (AIMS) is the professional association representing medical scientists in all disciplines of pathology working predominantly in Australian hospital and private medical laboratories.

In the last week of September, AIMS held its 2012 National Scientific Meeting in Darwin for the first time. As such, organisers were very pleasantly surprised by the attendance of almost 350 delegates from Australia and the Asia-Pacific Region.

The theme for the meeting of "Wet to Dry" not only reflected the seasons of the "Top End" but the program was planned to focus on the tropical diseases and conditions common to the region with a top level line-up of leading national and international scientists presenting on a range of medical topics from Hendra virus and tuberculosis to blood disorders and indigenous health. The Conference reflected the wide scope and many specialisations of the profession, offering 39 discipline-specific workshops and a dozen plenary sessions.

The Conference was officially opened by Dr Len Notaras AM, Executive Director National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre.

Topics of other plenary sessions included "Travel Medicine: Diagnosis and management of tropical infections in travellers and expatriates"; "Tropical Microbiology"; "Hendra, horses and hysteria"; "Zoonotic infections in Asia" and "The curious career of a curious medical scientist - 48 years of excitement".

The final plenary session featured two presentations. Professor Michael Kimlin, widely known for his work on the damaging effects of sun exposure in the skin and his appearances on the ABC Catalyst program, spoke on Vitamin D and human health.

Dr Jacqueline Boyd then spoke of her experiences with Doctors Without Borders in 2011 in the very troubled situation in Sudan.

AIMS President, Professor Tony Woods was fulsome in his compliments for the performance standards of the Convention Centre's attention to the meeting's requirements, the general service and staff performance, the AV support and "outstanding catering".

"It is a great venue which set the tone for the satisfaction of delegates and certainly contributed to the high standard and acknowledged success of the entire conference. The staff did a fantastic job, they were responsive to everything and nothing was a problem for them."

Professor Woods was particularly impressed by his own personal experience when, having arrived in Darwin two days prior to the conference, he and the CE of AIMS, Ms Meredith Liddy, made an unheralded visit to the Centre. They were met by and introduced themselves to a staff member who gave them a tour of the areas the conference would be using.

Darwin Convention Centre General Manager Malu Barrios said it had been a privilege to welcome a professional group of medical specialists of such high achievement and to contribute to their very satisfying experience in Darwin.

“The President’s comments are very much appreciated and I certainly hope we will be able to welcome a return visit from AIMS,” said Mrs Barrios.

For further media information or comment, please contact:

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