



Media release

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E-Health tabled for discussion at HGM2012

With Australia's first Personally Controlled Electronic Health Records (PCEHR) program set to launch on 1 July, e-health is hot on the agenda for government, businesses and the medical industry, as well as the aptly-timed 16th Annual Human Genome Meeting (HGM2012) being held in Sydney this week.

E-health has been a long-debated and much anticipated addition to the Australian health system. Its launch, which enables consumers across the nation to access their own electronically-held health card with current medical information – anywhere and anytime, will undoubtedly be a discussion point for the 750 leading practitioners, researchers and educators in the field of human genome research who are attending this week's conference.

Taking place at Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre from Sunday 11 March to Wednesday 14 March, HGM2012 was secured for the city with the assistance of Australia's leading convention bureau, Business Events Sydney (BESydney). The event features a comprehensive program spanning a host of topics that could impact local research, reform and clinical treatment including e-health, the measure of economic value in science, and population medicine.

As Lyn Lewis-Smith, Chief Executive Officer of BESydney explains, the meeting of minds in Sydney could deliver significant flow-on effects to our local health industry. "Medical science research and discoveries continue to march ahead at an unprecedented speed. As more doors open, many more questions arise around the future of best medical practice. HGM2012 provides the perfect forum for such key conversations between experts in the field. There truly is no better place for this event to be held this year, other than Australia's global city, Sydney.

"Our New South Wales and national health communities are destined to benefit from exposure to world's best practice, international networking opportunities and the profiling of their local knowledge, expertise and facilities generated throughout this conference. Looking beyond the conference doors, considering the approaching launch of the e-health system, the insight and research agendas that result from the focus on 'Genetics and Genomics in Personalised Medicine' can also have a substantial impact on the greater Australian community through health reform and practice in years to come."

Also anticipating the outcomes of HGM2012 is Chair of the local organising committee, Professor Ronald Trent. "Personalised medicine is slowly but surely becoming a reality in clinical practice in Australia, which is great to see because it allows health professionals to provide the most accurate treatment to exactly the right person with better results – rather than a 'one size fits all' solution. With more and more medical practices in Australia making the switch to e-health systems, the organising committee and I could not be happier with the sequence of sessions covering such relevant topics for Australians in the current climate," comments Professor Trent.

To further promote the knowledge-exchange and connections that are fostered in the harbour city during the conference, the HGM2012 organising committee is launching a digital poster format; a first for the annual event. As opposed to traditional poster formats that allow delegates to browse posters during the event only, this innovative digital format allows presenters to showcase their innovations, research and

insights to delegates online for a period of 12 months, encouraging valuable ongoing industry connections.

About HGM2012

The 16th HGM2012 was secured by BESydney and the local organising committee for Sydney in 2009 and has been organised by professional conference organiser, ICMS Australasia. This year, HGM2012 coincides with the annual scientific conference Pathology Update 2012, held by The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) and, for the first time, will collaborate with the RCPA to host a list of joint sessions on Day 1 of the conference.

Among the many Australian and international presenters at HGM2012 will be Professor Ronald Trent, Sydney Local Organising Committee of HGM2012 and Chair of the Human Genetics Advisory Committee (HGAC) – the equivalent of the UK’s Human Genetics Commission – a committee established by the Australian Government to provide continuing high-level advice on current and emerging issues in human genetics. Professor Edison Liu, President of HUGO and Executive Director of the Genome Institute of Singapore will lead the delegation and conference.

[For further information or to request an interview with BESydney CEO Lyn Lewis-Smith Chair of the local organising committee, Professor Ronald Trent:](#)

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About BESydney