

Leading pain specialists gather for Melbourne meeting

Friday October 16, 2009

More than 200 of Australia's leading specialists in the management of pain will gather in Melbourne from **today (Friday October 16)** until Sunday October 18 for the Duelling with Pain meeting of the Faculty of Pain Medicine, Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists.

Speakers include:

- Dr Roman Jovey is a Canadian expert on addiction and painkillers. Dr Jovey will talk about recognising patients that may have an addiction and how to manage them.
- Dr Malcolm Hogg of the Royal Melbourne Hospital talks about new theories on predicting which patients are at an increased risk of experiencing persistent pain after surgery and managing them in order to reduce that risk. In addition to the severity of their pain, social and psychological factors are considered.
- Mr Damien Finniss, from the University of Sydney Pain Management and Research Institute, talks about new research on placebo effects and how patients and doctors can use self-healing mechanisms that are part of normal care to improve pain symptoms.
- Dr John Maloney gives a fascinating insight into the medical response on Black Saturday and how The Alfred Hospital in Melbourne coped with the influx of major burns.
- Dr Jane Trinca demonstrates how a coordinated approach to treating pain involving anaesthetists, physiotherapists, nurses and other health professionals has reduced the length of stay for orthopaedic patients at the Austin Hospital.

For further information, a copy of the abstract book or to arrange interviews with any of the speakers at the meeting, please contact ANZCA media manager, Clea Hincks on 03 9093 4917 or 0418 583 276.