



Friday 28 April, 2022

Migraines, opioids and spinal surgery key topics for pain meeting

Migraines and their causes and treatments, and opioid prescribing, are some of the topical issues to be explored by Australia and New Zealand's leading pain specialty body at its annual pain medicine symposium this week.

The Faculty of Pain Medicine of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) is holding its annual symposium on Friday April 29 as a virtual meeting.

The meeting features Australian, New Zealand and international speakers presenting on a wide range of topics including migraines, pain following spinal cord injury and opioid addiction.

International speakers include Professor Claudia Sommer, President of the International Association for the Study of Pain and Professor of Neurology at the University of Würzburg, Germany, who will discuss the latest international research findings on migraines and migraine treatment.

The Perth-based clinical director of Next Step Drug and Alcohol Services, Dr Richard O'Regan, will present an addiction medicine perspective on 20 years of opioids in Australia.

He says Western Australia has some of the highest rates of opioid related deaths in Australia, including the highest increase in the rate of opioid related deaths per 100,000 population at 5.12 compared to the national average of 3.64.

The Dean of the Faculty of Pain Medicine, Associate Professor Michael Vagg said the COVID-19 pandemic had been challenging for many of the estimated one in five people across both Australia and New Zealand who live with chronic pain.

"Specialist pain medicine physicians work closely with other specialties to ensure those patients with chronic pain patients get the best available treatment and care," he explained.

"The complexities of chronic pain and the latest in pain research initiatives will all be discussed and debated at this important one day meeting. The Faculty of Pain is Australia and New Zealand's leading pain specialty body and we're pleased to be able to host a variety of speakers on a diverse range of topics."

Pain medicine is a two year post-specialty qualification for doctors, including GPs, psychiatrists, rehabilitation specialists, physicians, anaesthetists and surgeons.

For more information or to request interviews please contact Media Manager Carolyn Jones on +61 408 259 369 or cjones@anzca.edu.au.