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IPCRG World Conference 2004 Hotel Sofitel, Melbourne, Australia - February 19th- 22nd 2004

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Australia and New Zealand (NZ) are the official joint hosts of the International Primary Care Respiratory Group (IPCRG) 2nd World Conference to be held on 19-22 February 2004. Current Co-Presidents of IPCRG are Dr H. John Fardy, chair of the National Asthma Council (Australia) GPs' Asthma Group and Professor Jim Reid of Otago Medical School, Dunedin, New Zealand. They aim to attract local and international delegates to the conference through an innovative and practical program that will provide a mix of keynote plenary sessions, symposia and practical skills workshops.

The IPCRG conference brings together GPs/primary care physicians, respiratory nurses, pharmacists, researchers and educators to present and discuss new developments in respiratory disease research and management.

Themes and speakers

The 2004 conference will showcase primary care respiratory research, new guidelines in respiratory disease, best practice interventions and include clinical and scientific issues presented in an atmosphere of friendly collaboration.

As well as attracting a strong international presence, such as Professor David Price from the UK and Professor Cheong Pak Yean from the College of Primary Care Physicians in Singapore, the 2004 conference will feature a number of Antipodean experts in the respiratory arena. Dr Christine Jenkins, Australia and Professor Richard Beasley, NZ are among the local keynote speakers. There will also be many international and Australasian GPs and other respiratory health professionals involved in the workshop sessions.

In addition to the keynote plenaries and satellite symposia, the conference program has three themes that will be explored through a series of workshops - people and policy, clinical and practical. A broad range of respiratory disease issues will be covered, including asthma, allergy, rhinitis, cough and breathlessness, COPD, CAP, TB, and lung cancer.

There will be workshops on IT in primary care, telemedicine and rural models of care. New medications, smoking cessation, spirometry and other practical issues will be addressed.

Delegates are encouraged to submit abstracts for oral presentations and poster sessions via the conference website. This will be an interactive and varied program with plenty of input from the audience.

Conference highlights

A feature of the conference will be the launch of the International Primary Care Airways Guidelines (IPAG), which bring together the GOLD, GINA and ARIA guidelines in a form distilled for GPs. This is a major international event in primary care respiratory medicine and likely to appeal greatly to the medical media.

There will also be a focus on involving the public through a spirometry event held in the Hotel Sofitel's forecourt during the conference. Members of the public will be invited off the street to a 'spirometry tent', where they can have their lung function tested by a GP and the results discussed with them. This should attract attention from both the medical and consumer media.

Social program highlights

There will be a lively and enjoyable social program, and the opportunity to sample the culinary and shopping delights of Melbourne's city centre and surrounding area, from the conference venue - the 5-star Hotel Sofitel in Collins St. This is in the heart of the city's elegant shopping and restaurant precinct and close to all the main attractions - a quick tram ride will take delegates to museums, galleries, cafes and bars, more shopping (Melbourne is Australia's fashion capital), gardens, parks and of course to the beaches!

The conference dinner features a rural theme and will be held at a beautiful 19th Century 'bush' homestead outside Melbourne for a genuine taste of country Australia and its traditions during our summer.

The Australian Formula One Grand Prix may be a further attraction to those who can stay on for the first week in March!

To see details of the February 2004 conference, check out the conference website at <http://www.ipcrg-melbourne.org>. The provisional program, call for abstracts and registration facilities are available on this site.

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Date submitted: 02/09/03
Date Accepted: 08/09/03

Prim Care Resp J 2003;
12(3):81



Behavioural and lifestyle issues for patients will be discussed, along with medication regimen adherence.