

MEDIA RELEASE

August 2019

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL HEALTH LEADERS COME TOGETHER TO SOLVE AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST HEALTHCARE PROBLEMS

[Maridulu Budyari Gumal](#) - The Sydney Partnership for Health, Education, Research & Enterprise (SPHERE) will host the 2019 Partnerships for Better Health International Symposium on 29-30 August 2019

Health professionals from Australia and around the world will come together in Sydney's Darling Harbour from 29-30 August, 2019 for the Maridulu Budyari Gumal – the Sydney Partnership for Health, Education, Research & Enterprise (SPHERE) Partnerships for Better Health International Symposium, to discuss the future of healthcare, innovation and the biggest challenges facing the Australian healthcare system.

The symposium brings together more than 30 prominent global health leaders to shine a light on how the Australian healthcare system can benefit from learnings and partnerships from around the world. A major theme at the symposium includes how technology and innovation is changing the industry and enabling more research and discovery to be carried out and translated into positive outcomes for patients. In New South Wales, SPHERE is leading the way by providing the means and platform for research findings, ideas, stories and best practices to be shared and implemented.

"I am very pleased to be able to host the two-day event for the second time," said Dr Norman Swan.

"On the world stage, Australia falls behind when it comes to translating the results of medical research into practice and products and forums like this provide an opportunity for leaders around the world to collaborate and find ways to do this better."

Australian-born speaker Prof. Sam Hawgood, now with The University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), as the Chancellor and Arthur and Toni Rembe Rock Distinguished Professor, will deliver a keynote address on academic health partnerships with a focus on innovation, technology, scientific discovery and data science.

"Our industry is at a defining moment in history and we're at a major point of convergence for technology in particular, with regards to supercomputing, advanced data science and artificial intelligence," said Prof. Hawgood. "Technology is driving scientific discovery at a pace that happens every two or three generations and Australia has a chance to be at the forefront of these discoveries."

“The opportunities are so great right now and it is the responsibility of academic institutions to think about new ways of working together in ways we haven’t before, especially with regards to data collection. Australia is in a lucky position as it is on a scale that is big enough, but not overwhelmingly too large to address key issues, for example chronic disease in Indigenous populations.”

The conference will also debut a new evidence-based research method called ‘brokered dialogue’, a film-based method, which looks at controversial health and social issues and is a strategy for promoting respectful interactions with those who have different or opposing views. This will be the first brokered dialogue study to take place in Australia and will explore youth mental health and addiction.

Alongside insightful talks, panel discussions and storytelling, the symposium will also showcase ‘The Hive’, an immersive art installation. Artists-in-residence collaborated with academics, health professionals and consumers associated with eight exemplary SPHERE initiatives. Together, they explored how art can be used to communicate complex community and social issues, such as the wellbeing of children from refugee backgrounds, palliative care, and mental health and addiction. For example, photography, film and multimedia artist Kate Disher-Quill worked closely with families and clinicians to create an artwork that demonstrates how children with complex feeding difficulties are supported. Each of the projects featured in the installation will draw upon different art forms such as textiles, sculpture, poetry and video, highlighting the many ways that the arts can enrich conversations around health research and practice.

“The Maridulu Budyari Gumal - SPHERE is pleased to host these incredible speakers from the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia.” said Dr Sonu Bhaskar, Convenor, Executive Officer with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC) Enterprise/MBG SPHERE, at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) Sydney. “There is a lot that can be gained by examining what is working in other countries and how this can be translated and used to address significant healthcare issues here in Australia. Partnerships are integral to solving these problems and whether these partnerships are transcontinental or local, they are absolutely key to changing our patients’ lives and improving health outcomes.”

Australian speakers include Prof. Stephen Duckett, Grattan Institute who will talk on the issue of primary care and key issues around private health insurance; Prof. Katherine Boydell, Professor of Mental Health at the Black Dog Institute who, together with Prof. Jill Bennett, UNSW Art & Design, will unveil the brokered dialogue project on youth mental health. Boydell, along with A/Prof Ann Dadich, Western Sydney University, will also host immersion sessions on ‘the Hive’ installation and discuss the importance of bringing together the arts and science to solve health problems; Prof. Aunty Kerrie Doyle, Western Sydney University and RMIT University will discuss partnerships in communities and challenges facing Indigenous Australians and the importance of connection and Prof Lisa Jackson Pulver AM, Vice- Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Indigenous Strategy and Services, The University of Sydney, who will talk about the successes and failures of Indigenous healthcare and explore the importance of data, including how it is managed and utilised.



“Success of Indigenous healthcare comes down to critical success factors that enable things to happen in a way that’s truly meaningful,” said Prof. Jackson Pulver AM. “This means having proper evaluation, sustained funding, co-creation, no one-off pilot programs or year-to- year or intermittent funding. These are still some of the current roadblocks inhibiting success.”

Other International speakers include:

- Prof Jackie Oldham, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Oxford Road Corridor Health Innovation, Manchester will present on the Manchester model for innovation partnership and insights and technology innovation in healthcare
- Dr Michele Connolly, enrolled member of the Blackfoot Nation in Montana and Co-Chair of the International Group for Indigenous Health Measurement (IGIHM), who will shed light on the current issues facing American Indians and discuss International Indigenous collaboration to address global Indigenous health issues.

The conference is hosted by Maridulu Budyari Gumal - Sydney Partnership for Health, Education, Research & Enterprise (SPHERE), in partnership with Sydney Health Partners (SHP) and NSW Regional Health Partners (NSWRHP) alongside the Association of Academic Health Centers International (AAHCI). The symposium will take place 29-30 August 2019 at the International Convention Centre, Sydney, Australia and is open to members of the public.

To register and purchase tickets, visit <https://www.healthpartnerships.net.au/registration/> or for the complete list of International and local speakers visit <https://www.healthpartnerships.net.au/speakers/>.

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About Maridulu Budyari Gumal

Maridulu Budyari Gumal is an academic health science partnership. We are the Sydney Partnership for Health, Education, Research and Enterprise (SPHERE). We have an ambitious purpose: to change the future of healthcare.

We believe that healthcare in Australia should and can be better. That waiting two decades for medical discoveries to become regular practice is unacceptable. And that every person, in every community, should have access to world-class healthcare. Healthcare that combines research,



innovation, education and knowledge translation, to drive better health outcomes for our communities.

That's why we created Maridulu Budyari Gumal: to move healthcare from where it is, to where we imagine it to be.