



15th World Congress on Public Health

3-7 April 2017 Melbourne Australia www.wcph2017.com

A global pandemic experience – cross sectoral lessons

Monday 3 April 2017, 1600 - 1800, Plenary Hall 3

Lead Professor Raina Macintyre

Speakers Professor Raina Macintyre, University of New South Wales
Professor Obi Aginam, United Nations University International Institute for Global Health
Professor Sahotra Sakar, University of Texas
Professor Michael Baker, University of Otago
Professor Archie Clements, Australian National University
Associate Professor Martyn Kirk, Australian National University
Professor Bill Rawlinson, Prince of Wales Hospital
Associate Professor David Heslop, University of New South Wales

The urgent and unpredictable nature of emerging infectious diseases brings unique challenges to the fields of public health policy and strategy. Travel and globalisation mean that infections spread rapidly around the world, causing immediate social, health, and economic impacts, meaning complex cross-sectoral global solutions are required for effective control. Recent developments in artificially engineered pathogens pose an added complexity to global biosecurity. The integration of global systems thinking and capacity in epidemic response has lagged behind the quantum changes in science, leaving us more vulnerable than ever. Vertical systems mean first responders are not well prepared to work together when required.

Our panel, from the NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence in Epidemic Response (ISER) will present these challenges in an interactive, unique and engaging hypothetical which will draw the audience into the experience.

The panel of eight experts from four countries will present a scenario-based hypothetical epidemic disaster of an unknown infectious disease with complex and ongoing complications. The presentation will involve a role-play simulation, where each speaker assumes a character involved in the epidemic response, one who is uniquely aligned to their own area of expertise – spanning public health, international health law, defence forces, emergency response and rapid diagnostics. The narrative will begin with disease emergence in a hypothetical country, and progress





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through to local importation, the beginnings of an early outbreak, establishment of an epidemic, and finally outbreak resolution.

The session will focus on the epidemic response, and touch on a variety of issues such as prevention, mitigation, response and unforeseen consequences, but also aspects of International health law, global governance, ethics and, cross-sectoral collaboration. We will provide participants with unique insights into the various challenges, risks, and costs associated with global emerging infectious diseases, while exploring lessons learnt using real world examples, addressing how these key lessons can be applied to epidemic disaster scenarios and integrated into public health policy and strategy in the future. The panel will remain responsive, enabling discussion and debate throughout the session, while also allowing time for questions and answers during a comprehensive summary and conclusion.

Through this panel presentation, the audience will gain a renewed appreciation of the simultaneous urgency and unpredictability of emerging infectious diseases, and the overwhelming challenges faced at systems levels internationally.

