

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 18 February, 2009

BEST CHANCES FOR BREAKTHROUGHS IN PREVENTION OF CEREBRAL PALSY

There are many possible approaches to a breakthrough in the prevention of cerebral palsy, according to a keynote speaker at the 3rd International Cerebral Palsy Conference to be held in Sydney from today 18 February through to Saturday 21 February 2009.

Dr Karin Nelson, from the US National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, says the best hope lies in epidemiology, which is the study of large populations to understand the causes of health conditions.

Another method is to increase linkages between previously discrete specialist fields.

A third strategy would be to study the placenta and examine the results of biological sampling.

A number of different approaches were needed, she said, because cerebral palsy research needed new ideas to stimulate new research directions.

As it has for intellectual impairment, prevention will proceed by the recognition and investigation of specific sub-syndromes, and the differences between those babies who do and do not develop cerebral palsy sub-syndromes, she said. The biological mechanisms underlying these distinctions may enable new understanding of the causes of Cerebral Palsy, and allow for better prevention.

*****ENDS*****

MEDIA ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE

What: 3rd International Cerebral Palsy Conference (the largest of its kind in the world)
When: Wednesday 18th to Saturday 21st February 2009
Where: Sydney Convention Centre, Darling Harbour, Sydney

Presentation: Thursday 19th February 2009
9.05am
Parkside Ballroom

FOR FURTHER DETAILS, MEDIA ACCREDITATION, ABSTRACTS OR TO OBTAIN A PROGRAM FOR THE CONFERENCE, PLEASE CONTACT:

Liz Foy – General Manager, Service Development – 02 9479 7280 / 0419 405 181
Janine Jones – Marketing and Communications Manager – 02 9479 7245 / 0407 066 813

Facts about the Cerebral Palsy Institute

- Researching prevention and curative strategies for cerebral palsy
- Custodians of the Australian Cerebral Palsy Register to monitor trends
- Funding targeted cerebral palsy research through the Cerebral Palsy Institute Grants Program

The Cerebral Palsy Institute
321 Mona Vale Road
Terrey Hills 2084
Tel: 02 9479 7200
Fax: 02 9479 7292

