

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 19 February, 2009

**CEREBRAL PALSY
GENETIC SUSCEPTIBILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL TRIGGERS**

Many major health conditions have genetic susceptibility factors that interact with environmental risk factors to increase the risk of their occurrence.

Professor Alastair MacLennan of the South Australian Cerebral Palsy Research Group has found a number of genetic susceptibilities that appear to be linked to cerebral palsy in several retrospective studies.

He is now in the process of looking at the genetics of cerebral palsy in a large prospective study.

And in particular, he will be looking at potential interactions between genetics and environmental factors such as prematurity, maternal and fetal infection, and intrauterine growth restriction.

He will present his findings tomorrow at 4.00pm at the 3rd International Cerebral Palsy Conference held in Sydney (18-21 February 2009) at the Sydney Convention Centre. The aim of the conference is to aid collaboration between internationally renowned researchers across all disciplines to help prevent and treat cerebral palsy.

For further information visit www.cp2009.com.au.

*****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: 4.00pm Friday 20 February 2009
Parkside Ballroom

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

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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