

INTERNATIONAL CEREBRAL PALSY CONFERENCE COMING SOON

For the first time, the world's best researchers into cerebral palsy will meet in Australia.

The 3rd International Cerebral Palsy Conference will be held in Sydney from Wednesday 18 to Saturday 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.

New research on prevention, causes, quality of life issues, service models and effective treatments will be presented by scientists and researchers from around the world. Important issues include:

- the importance of birth and cerebral palsy registers for mining new information – compatibility between national and international cerebral palsy registers can help to create new research agendas and reveal the success of prevention and intervention strategies on a global scale
- the importance of knowledge brokers and the dissemination of new research so that successful treatments are picked up more quickly

The innovative research presented will greatly broaden the understanding of prevention, and strengthen the array of effective interventions for the most common physical disability in childhood and this lifelong condition that affects so many.

*****ENDS*****

Available for Interview - Associate Professor Roslyn Boyd:

Roslyn Boyd is the Scientific convenor of the 3rd International Cerebral Palsy Conference and has developed the program to draw together many of the international leaders in cerebral palsy research.

Roslyn is a physiotherapist with a background in neuroscience, biomechanics and rehabilitation. She is recognised internationally for her clinical trials of Botulinum toxin A (for hip displacement, upper limb rehabilitation), randomised trials of upper limb neurorehabilitation children with congenital hemiplegia and developmental care at home for infants born preterm.

The current focus of Roslyn's research is examining the relationship between early motor development and brain structure and function, the nature of the white matter injury, the response to novel rehabilitation and outcomes of population based cohorts of children with cerebral palsy.

In 2004 A/Professor Boyd became the first Allied Health recipient of a Victorian Premiers Commendation for Medical Research, in 2007 a Smart State Fellowship award by the Queensland Minister for State Development. She has been a past chair of the Research and Awards committee of the American Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine.

MEDIA CONTACTS

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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