

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 20 February, 2009

PATHWAYS TO THE CAUSE OF CEREBRAL PALSY

What causes cerebral palsy? And if we know what causes it, will we be able to use that information to prevent it?

These are the questions to be discussed by **Professor Eve Blair** from the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research and the University of **Western Australia**. Professor Blair will speak at the **3rd International Cerebral Palsy Conference in Sydney today (Friday 20 February) from 5.00pm.**

For example, epidemiology has isolated **many of the factors late in pregnancy that are associated with cerebral palsy – poor oxygen supply to the baby, jaundice and infections.** But would preventing these late pregnancy problems have a significant effect on the number of children born with cerebral palsy? Or **does prevention need to happen earlier in pregnancy, or even before pregnancy?**

For that to happen, the chain of events that leads one child to have cerebral palsy, but another one not to, needs to be understood more clearly.

The aim of **the conference**, which commenced Wednesday 18 and **concludes tomorrow Saturday 21 February at the Sydney Convention Centre** is to aid collaboration between internationally renowned researchers across all disciplines to help prevent and treat cerebral palsy.

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: Friday 20th February 2009 5.00pm
Parkside Ballroom

FOR FURTHER DETAILS, MEDIA ACCREDITATION, ABSTRACTS 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

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