



March 2, 2009

Dear Australian Medical Students,

**New Zealand Medical Students' Association's Conference 09 – The Art of Medicine**

The New Zealand Medical Students Association (NZMSA) is proud to be holding its 4th annual conference. This year it is entitled "Conference 09: The Art of Medicine", and will be held in Christchurch, New Zealand. It is to host representatives from each of the four New Zealand medical schools, and a number of international delegates. We aim to broaden the horizons of attendees in both their future careers and lives outside medicine.

It is with great pleasure that we once again extend this invitation to Australian students – we are always very grateful for the opportunities AMSA provides our students to attend your events. Further details follow:

*Key points*

- Conference 09 will be held from May 1-3 in Christchurch
- Limited places
- Applications open March 2-14
- All medical students are encouraged to apply
- Registration fees are \$150AUD

*Themes of Conference '09*

As we move forward in our search for better pharmacological therapies and surgical approaches, we risk losing the craftsmanship that underlies the successful practice of medicine. At Conference '09, will be looking at four areas to help us to better understand the "art" behind the practice of medicine.

*Theme 1 – Taking the Plunge: Risks and Responsibilities*

There are many challenges to becoming a doctor; understanding drugs, surgical techniques, and the pathophysiology of disease. One of the challenges that we hear too little about is the challenge of achieving a successful balance between life outside of the hospital and working as a doctor within it. Despite being amazing clinicians, many doctors also lead exciting lives outside of medicine; running successful businesses, raising families, pursuing extreme adventures, and performing in the fine arts. This session gives you the opportunity to hear their inspiring stories, learn from their experiences, and see how that balance can be achieved.

*Theme 2 – Working Together*

Here we will look at three aspects of "working together" in the medical profession. Firstly, exploring how different disciplines can work together in a multi-disciplinary team environment to provide better care for patients. Secondly, incorporating the patient's perspective and thereby allowing doctors to work with their patients. And finally, working with different specialties to develop shared understanding and optimise management.

*Theme 3 – Medical Students: The Next Generation*

We are the next generation of doctors and we will witness the emerging culture of "well-being" within our professional practice. This is a new and exciting area of research and development which is becoming recognized worldwide. This session will bring together a panel of interesting speakers who have been active in the arena of "wellbeing" within the medical profession. The aim of this session is to help medical students develop an understanding of the stresses of our training and future profession and how best to deal with these.

#### *Theme 4 – The World at Large: Current Health Issues*

Need we say more? This theme consists of a keynote address and breakout sessions about current health issues. The topics include Pacific Island health, rural medicine, controversial vaccinations, and why bowel cancer is sexy.

#### *Where is it going to be held?*

It will be held in the garden city of Christchurch, with beautiful venues for the formal social functions.

#### *Registration process*

Application dates open from March 2-14. After this, there will be a 2 week period where the applications will be processed by an external third party and delegates selected. We will send out emails to notify individuals of the outcome of their applications around the end of March. If successful, you will then be asked to select which breakout sessions you would prefer to attend. Information regarding these sessions will be released to successful applicants at a later date. Payment of registration fees will be required within a week of a student being notified of their selection (early April).

The online application address is <http://conference.nzmsa.org.nz>

#### *Registration fees*

\$150AUD for all students. The committee works hard to gain sponsorship and to keep registration fees to a minimum. The fees include food and accommodation for the weekend.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. It would be a pleasure to have you in attendance.

Yours sincerely,



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