

MEDIA ALERT

Australian Mitochondrial Disease Foundation Symposium
Does Mitochondrial Medicine Hold the Key to Major Diseases?
Sydney, 3.00–5.30/6.30pm, 22 September 2016

Over a lifetime, everybody's mitochondria (the cells' powerhouses) suffer inevitable damage from environmental and lifestyle factors, becoming less effective at producing the energy our organs need to function properly. Mitochondrial dysfunction is thought to be one of the major factors contributing to ageing and why humans have a finite lifespan.

Now major diseases are in the spotlight, with researchers increasingly finding mitochondrial dysfunction is a significant factor not only in primary mitochondrial disease, but also chronic degenerative disorders and those associated with ageing such as diabetes, heart disease, cancer, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, Huntington's and motor neurone disease.

Advances in mitochondrial medicine may therefore hold the key to major diseases, and highlight the importance of taking care of our mitochondria for wellbeing and quality of life as we age.

Experts will reveal the latest insights at the Australian Mitochondrial Disease Foundation's Sydney Symposium on 22 September during Global Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week:

- **Mitochondrial health, mitochondrial disease + mitochondrial donation (IVF)** - Professor David Thorburn, Head of Mitochondrial Research, Murdoch Childrens Research Institute
- **Mitochondria in Parkinson's Disease** - Professor Carolyn Sue, Director of Neurogenetics, Kolling Institute
- **Cancer and mitochondria** - Dr Grant Dewson, Head of the Cell Signalling and Cell Death Laboratory, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research
- **Mitochondria and diabetes** - Professor Greg Cooney, Professorial Research Fellow, Charles Perkins Centre, University of Sydney.

WHAT **Australian Mitochondrial Disease Foundation Symposium:**
Does Mitochondrial Medicine Hold the Key to Major Diseases?

WHEN 3-5.30pm (+ discussion and canapes until 6.30pm), Thursday 22 September

WHERE NSW Parliament House Theatre, 6 Macquarie St, Sydney

WHY Experts will discuss the latest insights into the link between mitochondrial dysfunction and mitochondrial disease, cancer, diabetes and Parkinson's disease; new IVF techniques to enable affected women to have children free of mitochondrial disease; and how everyone can take care of their mitochondrial health.

COST Free; tax-deductible donation to the AMDF is appreciated (amdf.org.au)

The AMDF Symposium is a key event during Global Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week (gmdaw.org) from 18-25 September, which features advocacy, awareness and fundraising activities such as Light Up for Mito, when key landmarks and homes will be lit green, and National Stay in Bed Day on 25 September, when Australians are invited to sleep in to cure mito.

See the **AMDF Media Resources Dropbox** at <http://tinyurl.com/n9w963c> for the latest media releases, fact sheets, images, audio and community service announcements.

For media information and interviews with the AMDF, experts and patients, please contact: Carol Moore, Moore Public Relations: 02 9560 2826, carolmoore@moorepr.com.au



AUSTRALIAN
MITOCHONDRIAL
DISEASE FOUNDATION

The Role of Mitochondria in Major Diseases

3:00pm – 6:30pm Thursday 22 September 201

NSW Parliament House Theatrette, Sydney, Australia

3:00pm	Welcome and Introduction Mr Daryl Maguire MP Member for Wagga Wagga
3:10pm	Mitochondria and Mitochondrial Disease Professor David Thorburn Head, Mitochondrial Research, Murdoch Childrens Research Institute
3:30pm	Mitochondria and Parkinson's Disease Professor Carolyn Sue Professor and Director of Neurogenetics, University of Sydney
3:50pm	Mitochondria and Cancer Dr Grant Dewson Laboratory Head, Cell Signalling and Cell Death, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research
4:20pm	BREAK
4:50pm	Mitochondria and Diabetes Prof Greg Cooney Professional Research Fellow, Sydney University
5:10pm	Mitochondria Health + Mitochondria Donation Prof David Thorburn Head, Mitochondrial Research, Murdoch Childrens Research Institute
5:0pm	Canapés and Discussion
6:30pm	FINISH