A look 'upstream' to Melbourne

Diversity, debate and discussion

Mark Cooper and Sophia Zoungas

Targeting today’s most contemporary issues, the Basic and Clinical Science Stream may provide this year’s Congress with the biggest buzz, especially in areas of obesity, diabetes complications and new treatment strategies.

A range of provocative topics including debates about driving type 2 diabetes prevention and bariatric surgery will be presented. Noteworthy speakers will discuss new treatment options for both types of diabetes and present the latest results of clinical trials. Mark Cooper and Sophia Zoungas talk about the exciting programme this year.
new directions

The Basic and Clinical Science Stream is a major component of the World Diabetes Congress to be held in Melbourne in December 2013. This Stream encompasses major advances and updates in basic, preclinical and clinical aspects of both type 1 and type 2 diabetes and their complications. With a full programme of symposia, 'meet the professor' sessions, debates and plenary lectures the meeting and this Stream in particular plans to review important advances in the field of diabetes and looks to setting the agenda for new directions and research opportunities in diabetes care.

Building on a new initiative established two years ago at the congress held in Dubai, there will be two IDF award lectures in Melbourne: one in clinical science by Professor Stephen O'Rahilly, Cambridge, UK; and one in basic science by Professor Michael Brownlee, New York, USA. Each lecture will address contemporary issues in obesity and diabetic complications respectively and promise to be major highlights of this Stream.

A new initiative is a planned symposium co-sponsored with the prestigious journal, The Lancet. Entitled 'Managing diabetes in the 21st Century', this symposium will include four eminent international speakers: Professors Paul Zimmet, Australia; Steven Kahn, USA; Leif Groop, Sweden; and Tadeishi Kadwaki, Japan. In this symposium the speakers will address the epidemiology of diabetes, the interface between type 1 and type 2 diabetes, pathophysiological advances in the area of type 2 diabetes and new treatment directions in diabetes care.

In addition, speakers from diverse fields outside of diabetes have been invited to present their work with the idea that our Melbourne registrants have an opportunity to adapt or translate original research from these other fields to some of the more intractable problems in the field of diabetes.

We encourage registrants to take a look at the detailed final programme which will soon be available on the Congress website. We are sure that the impressive array of topics to be addressed will more than meet the expectations of all those attending this meeting.

Mark Cooper and Sophia Zoungas
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