

**Media Release**

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**Wollongong Hosts Medical Deans Annual Conference 2016**

The University of Wollongong is hosting medical educators from across Australia and New Zealand at the Medical Deans Annual Conference this week -more than 70 participants are coming together to discuss key issues in medical education and research.

Medical Deans is the peak professional body representing entry level medical education, training and research in Australia and New Zealand and each year a different university hosts the annual conference.

Conference delegates will hear addresses from Professor Paul Wellings, Vice Chancellor, University of Wollongong, Grattan Institute Director, Dr Stephen Duckett and science broadcaster, Robyn Williams. Key sessions include:

- Research Challenges: Funding, Impact and Supporting Clinical Academic Pathways
- Increasing the Number of Indigenous Doctors – Successes and Challenges
- The Impact of Technology on Medical Education

The conference also includes an Indigenous Knowledge Initiative where Medical Deans will learn about the health needs of the Illawarra Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and discuss how medical education can contribute to improved health outcomes for Indigenous people.

Professor Nicholas Glasgow, President, Medical Deans said:

“Medical schools across Australia and New Zealand share many common challenges whether it be supporting the next generation of clinical academics, addressing rural medical workforce shortages or finding better ways to engage with our students. Conference delegates will hear presentations from experts and share knowledge and experiences.”

Professor Alison Jones, Executive Dean, Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health, University of Wollongong said the University of Wollongong was thrilled to be hosting the Medical Deans Annual Conference this year.

“This is a great opportunity to showcase our area and the University of Wollongong’s commitment to excellence in research and teaching. Delegates will also tour the Innovation Campus to view first hand this exciting facility.”

The Medical Deans Annual Conference commences at 9am on Thursday 13 October at the Novotel Wollongong Northbeach Hotel.