

MEDIA RELEASE

28 July, 2017

Canberra Suits Up! for Science!

Where politics and science meet to support life-saving medical research



Our nation's leaders will meet with some of Australia's best medical and scientific minds, who are at the forefront of the fight against some of the most chronic diseases affecting our families and communities including cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma and mental health conditions, such as Alzheimer's disease, which are posing as a tremendous risks to the quality of human life, and burden on our national health system. The schedule of events will support ***Suit Up! for Science!***; a major annual awareness campaign that promotes the importance of live-saving research, and raises funds to support not only the scientists at the Centenary Institute, but the health sector, as a whole.

Scientists at the Centenary Institute are truly passionate about overcoming chronic diseases and are honoured to be able to *Suit Up! for Science!* every day. This campaign, however, allows everyone to enjoy the same experience, and federal government are excited to be part of this important initiative. Federal Members of Parliament in Canberra will be swapping their every day suits for lab coats to demonstrate their support of medical research during July and August, to align with National Science Week.

Centenary Institute scientists and Australia's MPs will be highlighting the importance of medical research and science, encouraging schools, workplaces, individuals and community groups to help raise awareness and funds for vital scientific developments, more effective therapies and major breakthroughs, which are likely to benefit us, those we love and future generations.

It's hoped the ground-breaking achievements of our researchers and the *Suit Up! for Science!* campaign will also inspire a new generation of little scientists to consider careers as researchers! All funds raised from the Suit Up! for Science! Events will directly support our scientist's essential work into improving human health.

The Centenary Institute, located in the heart of the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and University of Sydney Campus, is a world-leading, cross-collaborative independent medical research institute, with many of our senior scientists also being clinicians at the hospital. Our scientists focus on three key areas, including cancer, cardiovascular disease and inflammation, which is the driver of most chronic diseases and underlies 8 of the 9 National Health Priority Areas.

Scientific advancements in these areas are the reason more Australians are not only surviving deadly diseases, but are being given the opportunity to enjoy a better quality of life today – something of great importance as we are living longer. Recent statistics show that whilst more Australians are being diagnosed with cancer, the mortality rate has fallen by more than 24 per cent in the past 30 years. This is testament to the outstanding work of scientists, and how their discoveries can have a significant impact on human health and our communities.

Suit Up! for Science! National Science Week events in the ACT:

Meet a Centenary scientist

When: Friday, 28th July, 12pm – 2pm.

Where: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Science in ACTion! Stall

When: Friday, 11th August, 10am – 2.30pm (for school students only) and Saturday, 12th August, 10am – 4pm (open to the public)

Where: Science in ACTion! Stall at the Old Bus Depot, Canberra

Cocktail party

When: Wednesday, 16th August, 6:15pm – 7:45pm

Where: The Queens Terrace, Parliament House, Canberra

Centenary scientists will be available for media interviews and questions at events, upon request.

Contact: Centenary Institute Media and Communications Manager, Jessica Bowditch, j.bowditch@centenary.org.au, 0421983393.

For further information, visit www.suitupforscience.com.au/

For more information about Centenary Institute, visit www.centenary.org.au