

Focus on skin cancer

One of the highlights of the forthcoming 2011 New Zealand Melanoma Summit will be the presentation by Professor Bruce Armstrong, Professor of Public Health at Sydney University.

Professor Armstrong, who is being sponsored to attend the Summit by the Cancer Society, is an internationally recognised authority on the causes and prevention of skin cancer, including melanoma. He has also made important contributions to the knowledge about the causes and control of other cancers, high blood pressure and heart disease. His present research interests are in the genetic and environmental epidemiology of cancer and the quality and performance of cancer services.

“We are very lucky to have attracted such an important figure in the skin cancer arena to present at the summit,” said Dr Judith Galtry, Skin Cancer Advisor for the Cancer Society. “Professor Armstrong is widely regarded for his early work into the epidemiology of skin cancer and lately he has been focusing on the relationship between vitamin D, sun exposure and various cancers, so he will contribute much to the debate in New Zealand,” she added.

Professor Armstrong was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 1998; elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science in 2000; honoured in 2005 at the 6th World Congress on Melanoma for his lifetime of achievement in basic research into melanoma; given the inaugural New South Wales Premier's award for Outstanding Cancer Researcher of the Year in 2006 and made an Honorary Member of the International Association of Cancer Registries in 2008.

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Topics for Professor Armstrong

- Melanoma is still an important health problem, particularly in older men
- Sun exposure at any age increases melanoma risk
- Use of sunbeds and solariums causes melanoma, particularly in young people
- Heavy use of pesticides may be an important cause of melanoma

To view the full programme visit

www.melanoma.org.nz/MelNet/News/Melanoma-Summit-2011/Summit-Programme/