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## MEDIA RELEASE

**Tuesday April 29, 2008**  
**For immediate release**

### **Filling gaps in stroke management: Adelaide neurologist awarded prestigious national Fellowship**

Increasing the efficiency of stroke diagnosis and treatment by emergency medical services is the goal of Dr Andrew Lee, who has just received a NICS Fellowship from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

Dr Lee, a Consultant Neurologist at Flinders Medical Centre in Adelaide, will use the NICS Fellowship to undertake a two-year implementation project to improve stroke diagnosis and treatment.

“If clot busting drugs can be given within three hours of the onset of symptoms, the number of people dying or becoming disabled after suffering an ischaemic stroke can be reduced. But to achieve this, we need ambulance paramedics trained in stroke treatment and the seamless transfer of these patients to stroke units” explains Dr Lee.

“Formal stroke education for emergency department staff and paramedics is lacking in Australia, so the NICS Fellowship will allow me to develop and deliver this knowledge for ambulance paramedics. I’ll also implement standardised systems to assess stroke severity and provide pre-hospital notification of incoming stroke patients.”

NHMRC Chief Executive Officer, Professor Warwick Anderson has welcomed this opportunity: “We congratulate Dr Lee and look forward to working with him in the important area of stroke management.”

Dr Lee will join nine other health professionals from Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia as 2008 NICS Fellows.

Release ends.

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For more information about the other NICS Fellows and the NICS Leadership Program :  
[www.nhmrc.gov.au/nics](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/nics)

#### **Note to editors**

**The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)** is Australia's peak body for supporting health and medical research. As part of the NHMRC, the National Institute of Clinical Studies (NICS) works to improve health care by getting health and medical research into practice.

The NICS Leadership program, which was launched in 2003, directly contributes to closing evidence-practice gaps by supporting health professionals to undertake practical projects that aim to improve health

outcomes for people by getting high quality evidence into everyday clinical practice in particular health settings.

The two-year, part-time Fellowships are open to early- to mid-career health professionals across the health care spectrum, including doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, paramedics, health care managers, and policy makers.

The Fellowships provide an annual stipend as well as professional development opportunities, training programs in evidence implementation, mentorship, and opportunities to network with and learn from world-class experts who come to Australia as part of NICS' Visiting Experts program.

Applications for NICS Fellowships 2009 open at the end of May 2008.