Public lecture: World Dementia Envoy on the global dementia challenge

World Dementia Envoy Dr Dennis Gillings will give a public lecture in Canberra next week on the international effort to find a cure for dementia by 2025.

Dr Gillings was appointed World Dementia Envoy by UK Prime Minister David Cameron on behalf of the G7 earlier this year and is Chair of the World Dementia Council.

The lecture, ‘Cost, Care, Cure: The Global Dementia Challenge’, will be held at the office of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) in Canberra City.

In the lecture, Dr Gillings will discuss three key global challenges in dementia: improving health and care, raising awareness and supporting dementia friendly communities, and doing better research to cure or have a modifying therapy for dementia by 2025.

His visit to Australia is hosted by the NHMRC National Institute of Dementia Research which received $200 million from the Australian Government in the 2014/15 Budget to boost dementia research.

NHMRC CEO Professor Warwick Anderson said the lecture was opportune moment for Australians to learn about the world-wide research efforts to treat and cure dementia.

“Current dementia research and development is not making sufficiently rapid progress so our understanding of dementia and our diagnostic tools are still in their infancy. There is a real need to boost dementia research in Australia and to coordinate this work internationally,” Professor Anderson said.

“Opportunities to hear leaders of global research efforts speak in intimate environments do not come along very often, and I hope that the research community in Canberra, as well as others interested in dementia care and research will come along,” he said.

While in Australia, Dr Gillings is meeting with senior Federal Government Ministers, and others including relevant Departments and Agencies and leaders and consumers from Alzheimer’s Australia.

He is also giving one more public lecture, titled ‘Towards an Action Plan for a Cure for Dementia’ in Melbourne on December 3.
EVENT DETAILS:

When: Monday 1 December 2014 (6pm to 7pm)

Where: NHMRC’s offices, 16 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra (Level 1, Marshall and Warren Room)


Dr Dennis Gillings – Biography

Dr Dennis Gillings was appointed as the World Dementia Envoy in February 2014. As the founder and executive chairman of Quintiles, the world’s largest provider of biopharmaceutical development and commercial outsourcing services, Dr Gillings has more than 30 years’ experience. He has worked with numerous biopharmaceutical companies and with many health organisations. Prior to this Dr Gillings spent some time in academia as Professor of Biostatistics at the University of North Carolina.

Dr Gillings also has personal experience of dementia, as his mother lived with the condition for 18 years until her death in 2013. Having seen first-hand the devastating effects of the condition and lack of effective treatment, he is passionate about harnessing innovation in care; bringing together ideas from around the world to try to prevent the condition and improve the lives of those living with dementia the condition. Other key priorities of the World Dementia Council are to reduce barriers to investment in research and speeding up drug development, with the ultimate goal of finding a cure or disease modifying therapy by 2025.

Dr Gillings, who was born and educated in the UK, was awarded a CBE in 2004 for services to the pharmaceutical industry.

Media are welcome but should contact the NHMRC Media Team before registering.

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