

Research conferences

THE ACADEMY SUPPORTS CONFERENCES THAT BRING TOGETHER RESEARCHERS AT THE FOREFRONT OF SCIENCE TO DISCUSS FUTURE DIRECTIONS IN THEIR FIELDS.

Reports on research conferences held in 2010

2010 Fenner conference on the environment

Healthy climate, planet and people: co-benefits for health of action on climate change

23 and 24 June 2010, Shine Dome, Canberra

Organised by Professor Anthony Capon, and Professor Janette Lindesay, Australian National University

Climate change affects health in many ways. In Australia, there are health impacts from more frequent and severe extreme weather events, such as heat waves and tropical storms, and indirect health impacts from changes to physical and biological processes, such as enhanced health risks from urban air pollution. There are also flow-on health impacts from social, demographic and economic disruptions, such as declining rural incomes from agricultural production.

Responses to climate change can also affect health. These health impacts are mostly positive and have been called 'health co-benefits'. Examples of health co-benefits include those arising from active modes of travel (walking, cycling, mass transit), a vegetable-rich diet, and renewable energy generation. Such actions increase exercise and improve nutrition and air quality, while also reducing greenhouse

gas emissions. There are benefits to both physical and mental health.

More than 150 participants from research, policy, practice and industry joined the conference to interact with leading Australian and international researchers.

The conference was organised by a team led by the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health at the Australian National University, with support from the CSIRO Climate Adaptation Flagship and the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility.

Following the conference, delegates enjoyed *The contested landscapes of western Sydney* at the adjacent Australian National University School of Art. This exhibition of visual art is from an art and science collaboration led by John Reid.

The conference has now stimulated new research collaborations and policy interest.

Recordings of the proceedings, and copies of presentations, are available from nceph.anu.edu.au/Fenner2010/index.php

Conference announcements for 2011

2011–12 Boden research conference

Bacterial cell biology: new insights on host-pathogen interactions 11 to 14 October 2011,



Fenner Conference on the Environment 2010 participants with Frank Fenner (seated) outside the Shine Dome

Shine Dome, Canberra. Organised by Professor Trevor Lithgow FAA, Monash University and Professor Jennifer Stow, University of Queensland

2011–12 Elizabeth and Frederick White research conference

Evolution of photosynthesis and oxygenation of Earth 28 and 29 June 2011, University of New South Wales, Sydney. Organised by Professor

Anthony Larkum, University of Sydney; Professor Brett Neilan, University of New South Wales and Professor Malcolm Walter FAA, University of New South Wales

More information on research conferences is available at science.org.au/awards/research-conferences.html