

RANZCP Faculty of Psychiatry of Old Age Conference, November 2023, Melbourne, Australia

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Key highlights:

- The RANZCP Faculty of Psychiatry of Old Age annual conference is being held in Melbourne in November 2023: “Ageing in the Contemporary Era”
- The program will feature keynote speakers on the topics of dementia, neuroimaging, movement disorders and forensic psychiatry.
- For the first time the program will also feature events focused on promoting Psychiatry of Old Age to medical students and junior doctors.

The RANZCP Faculty of Psychiatry of Old Age

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) is responsible for training, educating, and representing psychiatrists in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. The RANZCP includes a Faculty of Psychiatry of Old Age (FPOA), which was initially established as a Section of the College in 1988 (Snowdon, 1999). Psychiatrists can obtain specialist advanced training in Psychiatry of Old Age through the Faculty, which has specific training requirements and experiences. As of the 2022 RANZCP Annual Review there are 755 members of the FPOA across Australia and New Zealand. As well as providing the advanced training program, the FPOA also contributes to policy, position statements and advocacy in matters relevant to older adults. This includes providing feedback on an Inquiry into unpaid carers and the National Rural Health Alliance.

Australia and New Zealand have a long history of contributing to the field of Psychogeriatrics or Psychiatry of Old Age. Two Australian Psychiatrists of Old Age have served as IPA President (Emeritus Prof Edmond Chiu and Prof Henry Brodaty), while two have served as Editors in Chief of the IPA journal *International Psychogeriatrics* (Emeritus Prof David Ames and Prof Nicola Lautenschlager). The FPOA conference has previously been held in collaboration with the IPA (most recently in 2017 in Queenstown, New

Zealand), with the Asian Society Against Dementia (2018 in Melbourne, Australia) and with the Psychogeriatric Nurses' Association of Australia (2021 in the Blue Mountains near Sydney, Australia).

Conference 2023

The RANZCP Faculty of Psychiatry of Old Age are pleased to present the 2023 Conference which will focus on the theme of “Ageing in the Contemporary Era”. We would invite all readers of the IPA Bulletin to visit Melbourne for our annual conference. Outside of its excellent psychiatric and biomedical research culture, Melbourne is famous for its laneways, sporting precincts and restaurants.

This year the conference aims to introduce the concept of Psychiatry of Old Age to the next generation of doctors by introducing a networking event and panel discussion on the afternoon of Wednesday 8 November. There is also a diverse array of speakers and presentations in the scientific program over two days, 9-10th November. The program includes sessions on neuroimaging, forensic psychiatry, dementia and movement disorders, among other topics. We are excited to have Professor John O’Brien from the University of Cambridge to give two keynote presentations and other speakers include Professors Jane Alty, Dennis Velakoulis and Felice Jacka. There will be a Welcome Reception and the conference dinner will showcase famous Melbourne hospitality. In keeping with the theme of promoting psychogeriatrics to the next generation, there is a session dedicated to trainee-led research projects.

The program traditionally concludes with a trainee education morning workshop on Saturday 11 November. Topics here include an introduction to private practice and legal and written reports. This diverse and interactive program will showcase ageing in the contemporary era.



For further reading:

Snowdon J, Draper B. The Faculty of Psychiatry of Old Age. Australasian Psychiatry. 1999;7(1):30-32.

RANZCP 2022 Annual Review:

<https://www.ranzcp.org/getmedia/ef2981c2-2941-4a6b-997b-d2c90b296384/ranzcp-annual-review-2022.pdf?ext=.pdf>

RANZCP and FPOA History:

<https://www.ranzcp.org/college-committees/about-us/our-history>

Conference website:

<https://www.ranzcp.org/events-learning/faculty-of-psychiatry-of-old-age-2023-conference>



Associate Professor Samantha Loi is an old age psychiatrist and neuropsychiatrist working at the Royal Melbourne Hospital Neuropsychiatry Centre and Department of Psychiatry at the University of Melbourne. She works clinically with people with young-onset neurocognitive disorders including Huntington's disease and has multiple research publications and grant funding in the area of young-onset dementia, ageing and mental health of older adults. A/Prof Loi is the Convener of this year's RANZCP FPOA conference, hosted in Melbourne.



Dr Thomas Rego is an early career old age psychiatrist and clinical educator working at Northern Health, Royal Melbourne Hospital and the University of Melbourne. He works clinically in inpatient and consultation-liaison psychiatry and is involved in research into dementia risk reduction.



Dr Terence Chong is a Senior Research Fellow in Old Age Psychiatry with the Academic Unit for Psychiatry of Old Age, The University of Melbourne and St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne in Australia. He is active in teaching and research focused on improving cognitive and mental health of older adults.