

MEDIA RELEASE

21 June 2024

Knowledge is power when it comes to clinical courage

Rural doctors are often branded as superheroes, but in truth perhaps they're regular doctors who work very hard to hone their superpowers (skills), and exhibit 'clinical courage' when their patients' lives depend on it.

Life-saving procedures and the clinical courage phenomenon will be the topics of this morning's sessions on Day 2 of the Rural Doctor's Association of Queensland's (RDAQ) 35th Anniversary conference being held at Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC).

A panel of experts, moderated by RDAQ President Dr Alex Dunn, will present on HALO (High Acuity, Low Occurrence) scenarios that clinicians may face during their career.

"It's true all doctors are routinely contributing to saving lives every day," Dr Dunn said.

"But rural doctors seem more likely to push themselves to the limits of their scope of practice to provide necessary medical care for their communities," he said.

"One of the most rewarding and the most challenging parts of rural medicine is that due to our remoteness, sometimes we are the only person available to administer life-saving care."

A number of experts will present on clinical procedures and scenarios that rural clinicians may face very infrequently, but when they do, they need to deliver immediate care.

Delegates will also hear from inspiring clinicians who have risen and thrived when faced with the challenges.

"It's always wonderful to hear about and learn from the experiences of our peers, especially those who have taken the road less travelled to deliver care for their communities," Dr Dunn said.

This morning's opening clinical sessions will include: What's new in septic shock (Dr Adam Suliman), Lateral Canthotomy (Dr James English) and Burr holes (Dr Hamish Alexander).

"Knowledge is power and when it comes to undertaking an emergency situation you have never done before, having some training could be the difference between life and death," Dr Smith said.

"Ideally we'd love for rural doctors not to be put in a situation where they are forced to step outside their scope simply to provide the care their patient needs," she said.

"When I lost a close friend who passed away after not receiving a burr holes procedure which would have saved their life, I vowed that if I ever had the chance to deliver a rural medical conference I would make sure emergency procedures like burr holes were included in the program.

RDAQ 35 Years

RDAQ2024 CONFERENCE
RURAL MEDICINE
The Art & The Science

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“I’m proud and confident that this morning’s program will equip our rural doctor delegates with the confidence and courage to save a life they might not have felt able to before.”

RDAQ2024 is being held 20 – 22 June 2024 at BCEC.

More information:

[View program](#) | conference.rdaq.com.au

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