

# Australian podiatry research on the world stage

Despite its small numbers, the Australian podiatry profession has a strong research profile, with increasing numbers of podiatrists presenting their work on the world stage.

Two Australian researchers whose work has sparked international interest are Dr Hylton Menz and Dr Karl Landorf from La Trobe University, Melbourne, both of whom recently addressed overseas conferences in England and Ireland.

Dr Menz from the Musculoskeletal Research Centre and Dr Landorf from the Department of Podiatry at La Trobe gave keynote addresses to over 1000 delegates at the Society of Chiropractors and Podiatrists (United Kingdom) conference held at Brighton in England. In addition, they were also keynote speakers at a conference in Cavan, Ireland, held as a joint conference between podiatrists in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Drs Menz and Landorf presented research findings from their areas of expertise, namely balance and falls in older people, osteoarthritis in the foot,

conservative treatments for plantar heel pain and imaging in the foot and ankle.

Dr Landorf said, "It was a tremendous honour to be invited to speak at these conferences. The meeting in the UK was a credit to the organisers. It was well run, had an interesting program and was highly successful with 1150 registrants."

Dr Menz added that, "there is some very interesting research being performed by podiatrists around the world and meetings like this allow researchers to disseminate their findings to large groups of professionals. It is exciting to see the growth in knowledge with some excellent research being conducted in key areas such as rheumatology."

Both researchers also commented about the generous hospitality of organisers from both meetings.

The Australian Podiatry Education and Research Foundation (APERF) has previously supported research projects that Drs Menz and Landorf have conducted. Invitations to present such APERF-funded research at large overseas conferences like those in the United Kingdom highlight



*Karl Landorf and Hylton Menz addressing the Society of Chiropractors and Podiatrists Conference in the UK. Photographs reprinted by permission from the UK Society of Chiropractors and Podiatrist: [www.feetforlife.org](http://www.feetforlife.org).*

that the research it funds is internationally recognised.

"Without funding from APERF, many of the projects we presented in England and Ireland would never have eventuated," said Dr Landorf. "There are many excellent researchers early on in their careers that benefit greatly from APERF research funding." ●

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