

The **2008 Gold Coast Health & Medical Research Conference** was held at the Gold Coast International Hotel, Surfers Paradise on December 4-5, 2008. The 4th annual research conference of the Griffith Institute of Health and Medical Research, with more than 200 registered participants and over 150 published abstracts, cemented the place of this annual event as the pre-eminent gathering of health and medical researchers in the Gold Coast region.

With the theme of the meeting being the interface between basic research and clinical practice, the plenary lectures given by Prof. Mark Forwood on bone remodelling and Dr. Heather Alexander on physician training and assessment were both well-received. In addition to the plenary lectures, there were seven symposium sessions, the Griffith Medical Research College colloquium, poster session, research funding round-table and full social program.

A particular success this year with participants was the mentoring 'speed dating' session organized by Prof. Lesley Chenoweth. Over the four years since 2005 that I have organized the GC HMR conference, the meeting has grown and developed into an important annual occasion on the Griffith calendar.

I look forward to participating in the next conference and wish Assoc. Prof. Belinda Beck all success as conference convenor in 2009.

Dr Dean Pountney
Convenor, GC HMR conference 2005 - 2008