

ENDOCRINOLOGY PIONEER TO OPEN 2010 CONFERENCE

International Endocrinology & Cell Biology expert, Professor Chen Chen will open the 2010 AustralAsian Academy of Anti-Ageing Medicine Conference in Melbourne on August 20-22.

A5M Chairman, Bill Anton said Professor Chen is a world leader in medical research in various fields including the mechanisms underlying diabetes, obesity, chronic heart failure and endometrium cancer.

Professor Chen is the Professor and Chair of Endocrinology at the University of Queensland's School of Biomedical Sciences and is a Principal Research Fellow of the National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

"A5M is honored to host such a renowned medical researcher and endocrinologist," Mr Anton said.

"Endocrinology, which relates to the body's hormones, plays a pivotal role in maintaining health and vitality.

"Professor Chen will provide a unique insight into the latest developments in this field."

Professor Chen is currently working on several projects including investigating whether the growth hormone, Ghrelin may be an effective treatment for diabetes-related heart disease and chronic heart failure.

"Patients with type 1 and type 2 diabetes have been found have lower levels of Ghrelin - a hormone found in the lining of the human stomach and pancreas that stimulates hunger," Professor Chen said.

"This project aims to achieve experimental evidence for the therapeutic use of Ghrelin and synthetic small molecular analogues in preventing and treating diabetes-related heart diseases."

"In Australia, it is estimated that there are over 300,000 people living with chronic heart failure, yet there is currently no highly effective treatment for this condition.

"In the search for treatments for chronic heart failure, our laboratory is exploring the role of the hormone Ghrelin, and drugs that mimic Ghrelin action, in the cardiac system.

"We have observed a positive inotropic effect combined with protective effect against apoptosis of Ghrelin and its analogues have been demonstrated in our laboratory.

"Further study will help us understand the physiological role of Ghrelin in regulating cardiac function and hopefully lead to a pharmaceutical treatment for chronic heart failure.

Professor Chen's other key projects include:

- The relationship between cholesterol in people with type 2 diabetes
- The role of growth hormone in obesity and metabolic balance

For more information or to register for the Conference visit www.a5m.net.

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BIOGRAPHY

Professor Chen Chen was appointed Professor and Chair of Endocrinology from 2008 in the University of Queensland after serving as head of the Endocrine Cell Biology at the Prince Henry's Institute of Medical Research, Melbourne, 1999-2007.

After training as a Medical Doctor at Shanghai Medical University (now Fudan University Medical School), he took a MSc (research) of Physiology at Peking Union Medical College and Chinese Academy of Medical Science, Beijing and then PhD in Neuroscience from the University of Bordeaux, France in 1989.

He then worked in Glaxo Research Institute in the U.S.A. He came to Melbourne, Australia in 1992 to continue his research in Endocrine Cell Biology at the Prince Henry's Institute before joining the University of Queensland in 2008.

He is a member of the Editorial Board of more than 10 international journals, including Endocrinology, Endocrine, Clinical & Experimental Pharmacology and Physiology. He served as Chair or Organizing Committee member of several international conferences, including forthcoming Australia-China Biomedical Conference in Melbourne 2011. He is also a Principal Research Fellow of Australian NHMRC.

In addition to research and teaching, Prof Chen also serves in several University administrative committees, including International Policy and Strategy Committee of UQ, International Committee of Faculty of Science, Scientific Committee of School of Biomedical Sciences.

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