

6 July 2021

Asia-Pacific's leading pathologists to meet in Sydney as COVID-19 puts diagnosis and management of infectious disease under the microscope

Sydney has been named as the host city for the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) national conference *Pathology Update 2022* at a pivotal time for pathology in its role undertaking cutting edge testing for COVID-19 which has helped manage the pandemic and other emerging infectious diseases.

The conference is expected to attract over 800 delegates to Sydney over three days in March 2022.

This latest announcement takes BESydney's bid wins for the city to 11, year to date, as the global events bidding specialist continues to see businesses look to the future and confirm their in-person meetings. It comes hot on the heels of a successful delivery of the 2021 event over the weekend by the expert team at ICC Sydney after detailed planning enabled a seamless transfer from a hybrid to completely virtual event in just 48 hours.

NSW Minister for Health and Medical Research Brad Hazzard said that pathologists play a critical role in the healthcare system and in our state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. "Pathologists are responsible for all of the COVID-19 testing that diagnose cases and the genetic sequencing to identify the origins of virus, and they've done our state and nation proud," he said.

BESydney CEO Lyn Lewis-Smith said: "Sydney is uniquely placed as the ideal platform for connecting the leading minds in pathology with government, industry and academia to progress vital research and innovation in this field for Asia-Pacific and right across the world. The event draws the spotlight on the role pathology plays across all facets of medicine, a role that has clearly become even more significant during the pandemic, and Australia's expertise will be front and centre."

Ms Lewis-Smith said that the 2022 event would further progress NSW's focus on innovation in health and pathology, a key sector identified by Government for the state's future prosperity. The Westmead Health and Innovation Precinct is set to become one of the largest health, education, research and training precincts in Australia. Spanning 75 hectares, the precinct will include four hospitals, four medical research institutes, and the largest research-intensive pathology service in NSW.

Pathology Update is the annual scientific educational meeting for the RCPA and the only conference of its kind in Australasia. Bringing together pathology professionals from its membership-base across Australia, New Zealand and South East Asia, the meeting will focus on the leading and latest diagnostic processes. Dr Debra Graves CEO of the RCPA said: "The College is delighted to be able to hold this very important conference at the ICC Sydney and with the support we have received from BESydney to help facilitate it."

BESydney currently has secured a total of 84 events with a combined estimated direct expenditure of \$491m on the calendar for 2021 to 2026, spanning health, financial services, and technology, with 62% of meetings impacted by COVID-19 successfully re-negotiated into future years.



-ENDS-

Media Enquiries: Lisa Bowman, BESydney, M: 0402 786 641, E: lbowman@besydney.com.au

About BESydney: BESydney promotes Sydney as the pre-eminent Asia-Pacific business visitor destination and acquires strategic business events that deliver economic and social impact for Sydney, NSW and global communities. We are independent and not for profit, supported by the NSW Government, City of Sydney, and industry.