



1 April 2021

TOUCHING BASE

How do you know you belong to a Community? Facebook helps, because you can talk to like minds and lend support to voices that need it. It certainly helps to have a logo, and may I say that the red rose of Cystic Fibrosis Australia (CFA) is an extremely elegant and (I believe) iconic banner.

But the truth is you don't really know you have a Community until you meet them and talk to them and mingle and get their feedback. Cystic fibrosis (CF) is rare, but deadly. Our community is active and engaged because they need to be - we are playing David to a particularly awful Goliath. We do everything that we can to keep our people informed and involved and we have always counted on their enthusiasm and zeal in this regard.

Registrations are now open for the 14th bi-annual Conference to be held this August, and perhaps you are wondering exactly what this Conference will look like.

There is no denying that COVID still poses a challenge. It is incumbent on the CF Community for us to be extra careful about social distancing, more than almost any other group. But we've had to balance the risks and the benefits of social intimacy before and this year, we think we've got it right with our mixed in-person and online format.

The major speakers will deliver their address over Consumer Connect, our in-house streaming service that also serves as a library for previous talks and seminars on CF topics. However, some states and territories will host in-person events so that the social and networking elements of the Conference can still be maintained. CFA is a national body, but we are physically based in NSW, and we are extremely proud of the arrangements we have made with the Shangri-La Hotel in The Rocks, Sydney.

The Conference will be first class and well catered for, everything you have come to expect from us at previous locations like Perth and Melbourne.

More importantly, we have a stellar line-up of speakers, including Dr Phil Robinson, Dr Scott Bell, Dr Keith Ooi, Prof Claire Wainwright, Dr Stephen Stick, Professor Sarath Ranganathan, Professor Adam Jaffe, A/Prof Tom Kotsimbos and Professor Peter Wark to name a few.

With Trikafta on the horizon and COVID-19 in the rear-view mirror (knock on wood) we went the extra mile to secure medical talent and really raise the level of discussion around CF in this country. I'm particularly looking forward to the debates section, a little (organised) conflict can really set a spark at these events.

So, click the link [HERE](#) and register now for the 14th Australasian Cystic Fibrosis Conference. Come along and touch base with those who share your passion or share your burden or share your dream for a world free from CF.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nettie Burke".

Nettie Burke,
CEO Cystic Fibrosis Australia
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