

Public symposia: “Fostering Swiss-Australian Scientific Collaboration: The Immunology Example”



organized by SAAN with the support of the University of Melbourne

Professor Rolf Zinkernagel
and Professor Peter Doherty
1996 Nobel Laureate Winners

DATE THURSDAY 2ND MAY 2013

TIME 5:00 PM

LOCATION Lecture Theatre Bio21 Molecular Science and Biotechnology Institute, 30 Flemington Road, Parkville, University of Melbourne

It is our great honor to inform you about an upcoming symposia taking place in the framework of Professor Zinkernagel's visit to Australia. Rolf Zinkernagel is Professor Emeritus of Experimental Immunology at the University of Zurich. Together with his Australian colleague Peter Doherty he received the 1996 Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology for the discovery of how the immune system recognizes virus infected cells. This is of course the most high profile example of what Swiss and Australian scientific collaboration can achieve.

Professors Zinkernagel and Doherty will both be presenting public lectures during these symposia. We are also delighted that the Ambassador of Switzerland to Australia, HE Mr. Marcel Stutz, will also be in attendance.

Prof. Zinkernagel's presentation is entitled “**Vaccines against infections**”.

Synopsis: Analysis of the immune system is progressing rapidly. As a field of medical enquiry, it has however, drifted away to turn purely academic, because the interest and appreciation of protective immunity in infectious disease medicine has been overtaken by 'l'art pour l'art' of so-called 'basic immunology'. Professor Zinkernagel will explain how this development affects our research for vaccines and why we have vaccines against lethal infections but not against slow and less harmful ones.

Professor Doherty's presentation is entitled: “**Science in the public space: distinguishing truth from falsehood**”.

Synopsis: In the age of the internet where people are increasingly disillusioned with authoritative "priesthoods", how does the broader community access the important findings of science and understand what is actually happening? Some science-based advances that greatly influence our lives, like the iphone and online shopping, just sneak up on us, even though they may cause massive disruption to jobs and established ways of doing things. The way the internet works can also over-emphasize untoward events that may, for instance be an occasional consequence of vaccination or some other medical intervention. What is the true risk/benefit equation?

RSVP by April, 24th 2013 to events@saan.id.au

For further information see the [SAAN Webpage](#)