

# MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: THURSDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2008

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

---



## Building excellence in primary health care research

Research into diseases such as depression and heart disease will be under the microscope at a health symposium tomorrow (**Friday 28 November**) at UTAS.

The fifth Tasmanian annual Primary Health Care Research, Evaluation and Development (PHCRED) symposium is this year concentrating on *Building Primary Health Care Research Communities of Practice – Bringing Research and Practice Together*.

Twenty-one presenters will showcase their primary health care research projects to peers and the Tasmanian community.

Other presentations will include a study of how the media represents old age and how this impacts on the health of older Tasmanians, strategies for promoting children's nutrition and physical activity, and chronic disease detection, prevention and management.

Special guest speaker Professor James Dunbar, who is the Director, Greater Green Triangle University in the Department of Rural Health at Flinders and Deakin Universities, will present the keynote address.

Professor Dunbar's research interests include quality improvement in health care, particularly for depression, diabetes and heart disease.

Professor Mark Nelson, Co-Director of PHCRED, said translational research like Professor Dunbar's has led to a 30 per cent reduction in heart attacks and strokes in UK primary care.

PHCRED is funded by the Department of Health and Ageing to improve Australia's capacity to produce high quality primary health care research.

The University Department of Rural Health and the Menzies Research Institute at UTAS are part of this nationwide initiative.

## Media opportunity

**What:** Tasmanian Annual PHCRED Symposium

**Where:** University Centre, Sandy Bay Campus

**When:** Friday 28 November, 10am to 4pm

**Who:** Professor James Dunbar, Director, Greater Green Triangle University Department of Rural Health, Flinders and Deakin Universities and Professor Mark Nelson, Chair, Discipline of General Practice UTAS, Menzies' Senior Member and Co-Director PHCRED

Professor Dunbar's presentation 10.20am-10.40am, available for photos/interview at 11.10am- 11.30pm and 1.10pm-2pm.

Professor Mark Nelson available for interview/photos 11.10am-11.30am, 1.10pm-2pm, and at 4pm.

*For further information contact Danielle Williams, PHCRED Program  
Coordinator Menzies Research Institute.*

**Information Released by:**

**Media Office, University of Tasmania  
Phone: 6226 2124 Mobile: 0417 517 291  
Email: [Media.Office@utas.edu.au](mailto:Media.Office@utas.edu.au)**