

MEDIA RELEASE

FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: CHIEFS OF STAFF; NEWS DIRECTORS



Farmer health and safety in the spotlight

Farmers are at greater risk of cardiac disease, injury by accident and mental health and suicide than the broader community, according to the Director for the National Centre for Farmer Health, Clinical Associate Professor Susan Brumby.

Ms Brumby will address the lack of basic occupational health services and surveillance of farmers at a presentation on **Thursday 13th June** at the UTAS Rural Clinical School, Burnie.

Ms Brumby will present “Building Capacity in Agricultural Health and Medicine” as part of the Rural Clinical School’s Research Roundup lunchtime lecture series. She will also present “Keeping the Rural Heart Beating” in Launceston on Friday 14th June.

Ms Brumby says it is now more important than ever to find new ways to engage with farmers and keep the rural communities thriving.

“Australia faces a decreasing number of farms, a diminishing and aging agricultural workforce, increased climate variability and raised global food demands.

“Many health professionals find engaging with farmers a challenge as they are unfamiliar with the type of work they do and the risks associated with that work.

“The key is dispelling the myths around farmers’ attitudes and practices, and filling the gap with health professionals who understand the farm business, the risks farmers face and their responses to health problems.”

What: Building Capacity in Agricultural Health

Where: UTAS Rural Clinical School Burnie

When: Thursday 13 June, 12noon-1pm

What: Keeping the Rural Heart Beating

Where: UTAS Launceston campus – UDRH Lecture Theatre 2

When: Friday 14th June, 12.30-1.30pm

Contact:

Susan Brumby: 0417338316 (best times for interview/photo after 5pm Wednesday 12th or between 9am-12noon on the 13th)

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