

Medical Law Conference 2009

By Ngaire Watson

This year's medical law conference took place on 24 July at the Amora Hotel Jamison in Sydney. Approximately 90 delegates attended the stimulating and informative presentations. The day provided an excellent opportunity to catch up and renew collegial connections.

Attendees benefited from the expertise of eminent speakers who are leaders in their respective fields.

Associate Professor Barbara McDonald, from the Faculty of Law at the University of Sydney, took us through the fundamentals of causation as an indispensable and complex aspect in the establishment of liability in medical negligence law.

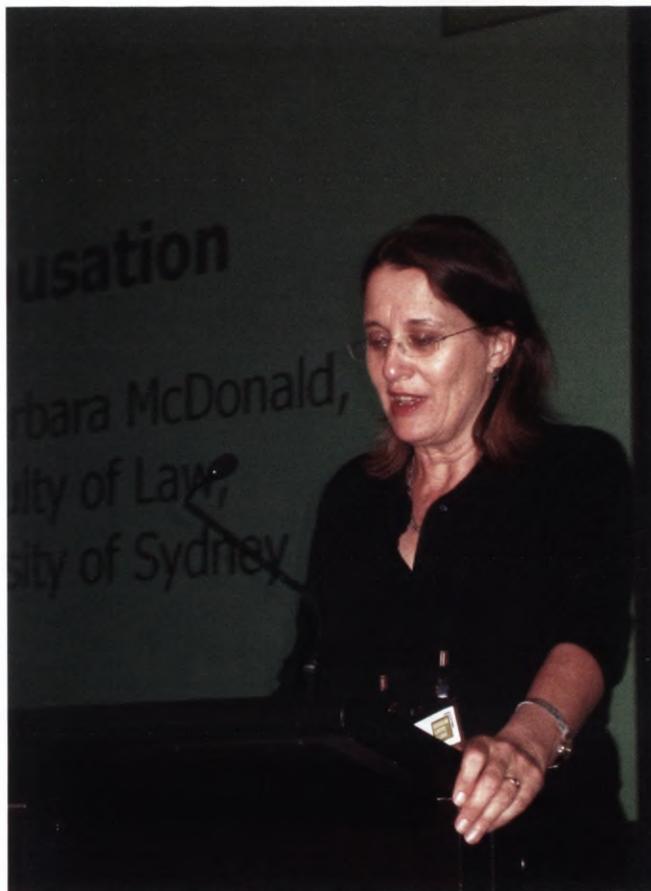
Professor Gordon Parker from the School of Psychiatry, University of NSW, challenged our thinking about the diagnostic subtypes of mood disorders, causes, management and their impact.

Professor David Morris of the Department of Surgery, University of NSW, informed us that cancer of the colon is the second most prevalent form of cancer in Australia. Yet a faecal occult blood test can easily alert a doctor to its presence.

Professor Michael O'Rourke, Professor of Surgery, University of Queensland, discussed an endemic health problem facing Australians, obesity. He explained the importance of thorough assessment in a high-risk group of surgical patients undergoing bariatric (weight-loss) surgery.

Doctor John Vinen from the Department of Emergency Medicine, Blue Mountains District ANZAC Memorial Hospital, covered a plethora of problems associated with Emergency Department medicine, an area of medicine beset with systems issues.

Mr Mariano Rossetto, forensic accountant from Slater and Gordon, spoke about economic loss damages and emphasised the importance of good information-gathering from our clients in order to achieve the best outcome for them.



Associate Professor Barbara McDonald, Faculty of Law, University of Sydney

Richard O'Keefe, barrister at Maurice Byers Chambers, reviewed the significant medical law cases for 2008/09, highlighting the key points from these cases.

Thanks to our sponsors, Ability One, Evidex and ipac, without whose support these events would not be possible. ■

Ngaire Watson is a barrister at St James Hall Chambers, Sydney. **PHONE** 02 9237 0566 **EMAIL** ngaire.watson@counsel.net.au

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