

Media release

25 August 2021

From live snakes to an Iraqi doctor's escape from the Hussein regime, Masterclass 2022 is a 'must attend'

RDASA Masterclass

Friday 26 to Sunday 28 August, Adelaide

Adelaide Convention Centre

(Includes RDASA Member Forum on Saturday 27 August – closed to media)

A 'visit' from live snakes at a session on emergency snakebite treatment – and a keynote address by an Iraqi army doctor (now SA rural doctor, pictured right) who wrote a book about his escape from Saddam Hussein's regime – are among many sessions that make this weekend's RDASA Masterclass one not to miss.



Each year, rural doctors from across South Australia descend on Adelaide for the major event.

It provides them with a chance to undertake additional upskilling in areas including Emergency Medicine, as well as catch up with their peers to discuss the big issues impacting on rural doctors and the communities they serve.

"We have a fantastic program lined up for this year's Masterclass" **RDASA President, Dr Peter Rischbieth, said.**

"Key clinical upskilling sessions will include emergency cardiology, drug overdoses, snakebites, diabetes management, gender diversity, contraception and medical terminations, and palliative care.

"We also can't wait to hear the keynote address by **Dr Hamoudi Aldyni who wrote his book, *Twenty Winters: the memoirs of a migrant Iraqi army doctor***, about the persecution, setbacks and oppression he faced in his quest to escape Saddam Hussein's regime. After arriving in Australia, Hamoudi began working as a young doctor in the rural SA town of Mannum in 2008, and has been there ever since.

"There will also be a **discussion session on Rural Generalist medicine**, including the need for a dedicated Rural Generalist Training Program to be implemented and funded in South Australia to enable more junior doctors to train in this field of Medicine that is so crucial for rural communities.

"Without a dedicated Rural Generalist Training Program in SA, many of our junior doctors are choosing to move interstate to train.

"The need for the SA Government to get behind a Rural Generalist Training Pathway for South Australia will no doubt also be a key topic at our annual **RDASA Members Forum** on the Saturday of the Masterclass.

“We will also be discussing the fallout from the recent contract negotiations with the SA Government for rural doctors working as Visiting Medical Officers (VMOs) at SA’s country hospitals.

“We are keen to ensure the new SA Government is more receptive to including better supports for country doctors in the next round of contract negotiations, due to commence in June 2024, and to get the next contract in place much earlier than this current one was.”

Other highlights of the Masterclass include:

- The annual **RDASA Awards Dinner** – including an address by the SA Health Minister, Chris Picton MP. The Awards Dinner will include the announcement of ‘Lifetime achievement awards’ for four dedicated SA rural doctors.
- A full day **#DestinationRural program** on the Saturday (27 August), where medical students and junior doctors can learn more about Rural Medicine and why it can be so rewarding as a career path. This program will include a discussion panel on Rural Generalist Medicine, the Opening Plenary by Dr Hamoudi Aldyni, and clinical skills sessions on plastering and removing foreign objects.

Key sessions/times

- Keynote by Dr Hamoudi Aldyni – 8am Saturday
- Emergency snakebite session (featuring live snakes) – 12:15pm Saturday
- RDASA Member Forum – 5.30pm Saturday (**closed to media**)
- Awards dinner – 7.30pm Saturday evening
- Rural Generalist discussion panel – 9am Sunday

Click here to see the full program – www.rdaa.com.au/documents/item/2103

Please note that while the RDASA Member Forum is closed to media, Dr Peter Rischbieth will be available afterwards to provide an update and interviews on issues discussed.

Available for interview:

Dr Peter Rischbieth, RDASA President
Ms Peta Rutherford, RDAA CEO

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