

MEDIA RELEASE

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YOUNG LEADERS MENTORED BY PATIENT SAFETY EXPERTS THIS LONG WEEKEND

In an Australian first, young doctors, nurses and medical students passionate about patient safety are meeting with global experts for an intensive workshop modelled on the renowned Telluride Summer Camp.

NSW Clinical Excellence Commission Director of undergraduate quality and safety education Prof Kim Oates said about 30 emerging leaders from across the nation were carefully selected for the Roundtable for Emerging Leaders in Patient Safety, which is being run with the support of Telluride's parent organisation, the International Academy for Emerging Leaders in Patient Safety.

"The Telluride model ignites debate and passion in the next generation of health workers and it's amazing to have these experts and their program here in Sydney," Prof Oates said.

"Providing safe, quality care 24/7 to all patients is no mean feat. Last year NSW public hospitals had 2.7 million attendances in emergency departments alone¹ and the complex nature of health and patient care pose many challenges but there are also always opportunities for improvement. This roundtable brings world leaders to some of our brightest young doctors, nurses and medical students so they can pursue their passion for patient safety over the next four days and, more importantly, when they return to their hospitals."

The roundtable, made possible with support from the Division of Midwifery and Nursing, NSW Health, and Avant Mutual Group, runs from Friday to Tuesday and draws its young participants from places as far afield as Joondalup, WA, Adelaide, SA, and Melbourne, VIC. The faculty includes Telluride founder Dr David Mayer, patient advocate Susan Biggar and local experts including Prof Oates and Queensland Health's Deputy Director General Clinical Excellence Division Dr John Wakefield.

Young patient safety advocates selected to join the roundtable include Dr May Wong. While based at South Western Sydney Local Health District, Dr Wong was instrumental in efforts to improve patient safety locally – including implementing a standard layout for resuscitation trolleys at Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital. "I found there were so many differences from one ward to the next in where equipment was stored on these trolleys that it could be really confusing for young doctors. Standardising the layout across the hospital was a simple step that improved how we worked and ultimately how we care for patients," Dr Wong said.

Dr Mayer, who will run sessions on safety, human factors and goal setting said as well as Sydney the Telluride model was visiting Doha, Qatar, this year.

"Bringing our patient safety education to others around the world is invigorating and a wonderful step in the right direction of finding new and better ways to deliver the highest quality, safest care to patients."

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¹ <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/annualreport/Publications/annual-report-2015.pdf>

