

Sydney Health Partners welcomes Professor Garry Jennings AO as new Executive Director

1 February 2017

Sydney Health Partners has today welcomed Professor Garry Jennings AO as its new Executive Director. Sydney Health Partners is one of the first four Advanced Health Research and Translation Centres in Australia, designated by the National Health and Medical Research Council. The partnership comprises the Sydney, Northern Sydney and Western Sydney Local Health Districts; the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network (Westmead); the University of Sydney; and nine affiliated independent medical research institutes.

Chair Paul McClintock AO said Sydney Health Partners was looking forward to the contribution Prof Jennings will make to the 2.7 million people the Partnership serves.

"It is with great pleasure that I welcome Professor Jennings to the role of Executive Director of Sydney Health Partners. His experience as a researcher, clinician and executive leader is outstanding," said Mr McClintock.

"Throughout his distinguished career Professor Jennings has demonstrated a clear understanding of the importance of accelerating the translation of research into the health system for the benefit of patients and the community. Indeed, he has led by example throughout his career."

Professor Jennings has extensive experience in health and medical research, specialising in cardiology. He served as the Director of the Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute in Melbourne for 14 years and most recently as the Interim CEO of the National Heart Foundation. He has had a long association with the National Heart Foundation as a former Board Member and Chair of its Cardiovascular Health Advisory Committee. He will also remain active in his clinical and research activities.

As a leading cardiologist, Professor Jennings has also had a long career in clinical practice including as the Director of Cardiology at The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne. Professor Jennings also played a key role in the transformation of The Alfred campus as Foundation Chair of the Alfred Medical Research and Education precinct. As a researcher, his interests include the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease.

Professor Jennings said he has always had a strong interest in public health, and this is an important opportunity to make a real difference.

"I am excited about the very positive influence that Sydney Health Partners can have on the health system, and am very encouraged by the strength of the organisations that make up the Partnership," Professor Jennings said.

Sydney Health Partners Governing Council member and Chief Executive of the Sydney Local Health District, Dr Teresa Anderson, said there was no doubt that Professor Jennings' experience would improve the lives of the patients treated throughout the Partnership.

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“Patient and public benefit is at the core of everything we do, and Professor Jennings has demonstrated a long term commitment to the translation of research into the health system. The Partners look forward to working closely with Professor Jennings and benefiting from his many years of experience as both a clinician and researcher,” Dr Anderson said.

Professor Jennings has taken over from Professor Don Nutbeam who served as the Interim Executive Director for the past six months.

Mr McClintock thanked Professor Nutbeam for his service and praised the significant advancements he has made.

“During his time as Interim Executive Director Professor Nutbeam led Sydney Health Partners through an important formative period, providing a solid foundation for the in-coming Executive Director,” Mr McClintock said.

“Professor Nutbeam’s vast experience in public health has benefited the Partnership in many ways, including raising the profile of Sydney Health Partners and developing close working relationships with the other Advanced Health Research and Translation Centres. He has also been integral in strengthening our relationships with Government and key stakeholders in clinical and research communities.

“Professor Nutbeam has also put enormous effort into refining the objectives and vision of our Partnership to ensure that patients and the community are at the heart of everything we do. We thank him for his dedicated service.”

For more information on Professor Jennings, and Sydney Health Partners, please visit www.sydneyhealthpartners.org.au.