

Friday 23rd August, 4pm
Wallace Wurth, LG02

Prof Chris Vaughan

Pain Management Research Institute, Royal North Shore Hospital and
Kolling Institute, University of Sydney

The good and bad of cannabis and cannabinoids in controlling chronic neuropathic pain



Chris Vaughan leads the Cellular Pain Research group at Pain Management Research Institute (PMRI), where the focus is on addressing chronic pain by using a range of cellular and behavioural techniques. The current specific research interests include identifying the brain adaptations which contribute to chronic pain, plus the role of the endogenous cannabinoid system in the control of pain and how this might be manipulated to treat chronic pain.

Chris joined PMRI in 2000 as a Hospital Scientist. His work has been funded by the NHMRC and a number of philanthropic organisations. The primary outcome of his work is peer-reviewed publications and integrating this with clinical observations and outcomes in the Pain Management Centre at Royal North Shore Hospital.

Synopsis: A major focus of Chris' group has been the endogenous cannabinoids system and how it regulates pain within the brain. This talk will discuss the current and recent projects on the mechanisms underlying the control of pain by cannabinoids, plus the good and bad of cannabis and cannabinoids in chronic neuropathic pain. These preclinical studies explore the issues facing the clinical use of these drugs. This work provides an explanation as to why cannabis appears to have failed in clinical trials and provides insights as to how they might be better utilised.

All welcome. Drinks and nibbles from 3:30pm, seminar starts at 4pm.

Enquiries: Gila Moalem-Taylor gila@unsw.edu.au Ingvars Birznieks i.birznieks@unsw.edu.au, Natasha Kumar natasha.kumar@unsw.edu.au