



Media release

The Hon David Davis MLC

Minister for Health
Minister for Ageing

Wednesday 20 November 2013

Vein specialists to descend on Melbourne in 2017

Melbourne has secured the right to host the 2017 XVIII World Meeting of the International Union of Phlebology (UIP), succeeding against strong competitor destinations Brussels, Florence, Istanbul, Madrid, Rome and Vienna, Victorian Minister for Health and Ageing, David Davis, announced today.

The World Meeting will inject an estimated \$8 million into the Victorian economy and will attract approximately 1200 medical and health professionals in the field of phlebology; a medical discipline that involves the diagnosis and treatment of vein disorders.

Mr Davis said that Melbourne's reputation as a cosmopolitan city and its strengths in medical research, innovation and infrastructure, had been a major drawcard in attracting the UIP World Meeting to Melbourne.

"The UIP World Meeting is one of many international conferences the Melbourne Convention Bureau (MCB) has secured for Melbourne that the Victorian Coalition Government is supporting through the Department of Health. In December, we look forward to welcoming the 22nd World Diabetes Congress, and in July 2014, the XX International AIDS Conference.

"The Victorian Coalition Government will continue to back MCB and its mandate to procure business events for Melbourne, which not only reap benefits for the state's economy but also our extensive knowledge base and research capabilities for which the city is renowned for."

MCB's Chief Executive Officer, Karen Bolinger, said the UIP World Meeting provided a perfect example of the effort that goes into winning a bid for Melbourne.

"Held every four years, the UIP World Meeting was considered a low chance of conversion for Melbourne, as the Meeting was held in Sydney in 1998, meaning only four events in between," Ms Bolinger said.

"MCB undertook a number of activities to secure the event for the city, including a national bid off against Sydney, hosting the International President on a site visit of Melbourne, exhibiting in the form of a lobbying booth at the World Meeting in Boston earlier this year, and producing a DVD complete with a welcome message from Minister Davis.

"I would like to thank Minister Davis for his assistance in securing this bid for Melbourne, which will deliver exceptional results for the city."

MCB worked closely with the Australasian College of Phlebology (ACP) to secure the UIP World Meeting for Melbourne, which will be held at Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC).

Associate Professor Kurosh Parsi FACD, FACP, President of the ACP, said that the 2017 UIP World Meeting will enable Australia's research capabilities in phlebology to be recognised on an international scale.

"The UIP is an international entity charged with strengthening communication between societies and associations all over the world, which have a special interest in the study and therapy of venous disorders," he said.

"In 2017, the work of Australian-based phlebologists will be in the limelight. Through the UIP World Meeting, local health care professionals will be able to engage, network and share research and ideas with great minds from around the world.

"I am most grateful to Minister Davis, whose confident and inspiring message broadcasted to the Council of UIP was critical in securing the votes for Melbourne. We will put on a spectacular show and make sure the meeting achieves the highest scientific, educational, and organisational standards ever seen in a UIP World Congress."

MCEC's Chief Executive, Peter King, said, "MCEC works effectively to customise every event, large or small.

"For the UIP World Meeting, we have leveraged the translation capabilities in our Plenary to ensure the most integrated communication platform, and we very much look forward to welcoming delegates to MCEC in 2017."

Media contact: Ashley Gardiner 0427 560 438 ashley.gardiner@minstaff.vic.gov.au