

Thursday, 21 September 2017

PO Box 6100
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Attention:

Senator Rachel Siewert
Senator Derryn Hinch
Senator Skye Kakoschke-Moore
Senator Slade Brockman

Dear Senators

***RE: Inquiry into the number of women in Australia
who have had transvaginal mesh implants and related matters***

Subsequent to my submission and presentation to the inquiry on Tuesday (19 September 2017), yesterday I received the attached invitation to a company sponsored invitation in the mail. This invitation speaks to concerns I raised regarding sponsoring company's organizing educational activities for Specialists and General Practitioners. As stated in the submission, these 'educational activities' seek to change:

- 1) prescribing patterns in favor of the endorsed product, and
- 2) seek to change the referral patterns to company endorsed 'experts'.

These activities occur with both medications and devices, are largely unregulated, and were at the heart of the problem of the over enthusiastic early utilization of the transvaginal mesh products.

Recommendations from your committee surrounding educational activities, company sponsorships and conflicts of interest would decrease the risk of the problem surrounding transvaginal meshes occurring again.

Yours sincerely

A/Professor Christopher Maher
Urogynaecologist

P.S. I declined the invitation to chair this advisory board for the reasons outlined above.

MARK
YOUR
DIARY

FERRING
PHARMACEUTICALS

Big Dilemmas & New Developments in Nocturia

Ferring Post-ICS (International Continence Society) Symposium 2017

Improve your skills in managing nocturia: a multi-disciplinary case-based evening symposium

Don't miss your opportunity this year to attend an educational evening with Dr. Jennifer King (Urogynaecologist), A/Prof. William Lynch (Urologist) and a panel of local state-based colleagues.



Mark your diary for **one of the following dates:**

- **Tuesday 17 October 2017**
Sydney · *Le Montage*
- **Wednesday 22 November 2017**
Melbourne · *Park Hyatt*



Chairperson & Presenter
Dr. Jennifer King
Urogynaecologist
Westmead Hospital, Sydney



Presenter
A/Prof. William Lynch
Urologist
St George Hospital, Sydney

We hope you will join us for what is expected to be a highly interactive and stimulating meeting.

Big Dilemmas & New Developments in Nocturia

Improve your skills in managing nocturia: a multi-disciplinary case-based evening symposium

Nocturia is a multifactorial medical condition leading to poor sleep quality, reduced quality of life and decreased productivity. This interactive post-ICS symposium will explore the big dilemmas and new developments in nocturia, and its impact on patient outcomes.

To register your interest in attending this symposium, please phone **0410 304 721** or register online at <https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ferringnocturia2017> or scan the QR code below with your smart phone or tablet to access the registration website.

A formal invitation will be sent to you shortly.

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