

Update: 14 November 2019

## 9<sup>th</sup> World Rett Syndrome Congress 30 September to 3 October 2020 Surfers Paradise (Gold Coast), Australia



### Entering Australia

A **VISA** is **REQUIRED** by **ALL** persons entering Australia who do not have a current Australian passport. For information on how to obtain a visa, please click on [Department of Home Affairs](https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas)

### Congress programme

The programme, content of which is yet to be finalised, will be split equally into a 'Basic science' component, and a 'Clinical practice or other than basic science' component, with the latter consisting of topics relevant to those persons or organisations directly involved with individuals who have Rett syndrome or a related disorder. The sessions for each component will run concurrently.

### Confirmed speakers and expertise (note, recruitment of presenters continues)

**Sir Adrian Bird (Scotland)** University of Edinburgh  
*World expert on the MECP2 gene*

**Qiang Chang (USA)** University of Wisconsin  
*Role of the MeCP2 protein in the nervous system*

**Stuart Cobb (Scotland)** University of Edinburgh  
*Gene therapy for Rett syndrome & related disorders*

**Steven Gray (USA)** University of North Carolina  
*Gene transfer vector systems*

**Michael Green (USA)** University of Massachusetts  
*Altering gene expression as a therapeutic approach*

**Kathy Hunter (USA)** Founder of the former International Rett Syndrome Assoc. and author of 'The Rett Syndrome Handbook'

**Rajni Khajuria (India)** Indian Rett Syndrome Foundation  
*Genetic counselling, molecular genetics, diagnosis*

**Yvonne Lai (Australia)** University of Queensland  
*Dental health needs of Rett syndrome individuals*

**Nicoletta Landsberger (Italy)** University of Milan  
*Function of MeCP2 protein and the CDKL5 gene*

**Janine LaSalle (USA)** University of California  
*Role of epigenetics in autism-spectrum disorders*

**Jeffrey Neul (USA)** Vanderbilt University  
*Clinical trials in Rett syndrome*

**Michelle Stahlhut (Denmark)** Lund University  
*Participation in physical and everyday activities*

**Frank Symons (USA)** University of Minnesota  
*Understanding of severe behaviour problems in Retts*

**Daniel Tarquinio (USA)** Emory University  
*Clinical trials, management clinics, breathing issues*

**Gillian Townend (The Netherlands)** Maastricht University, Augmentative + alternative communication

**Helena Wandin (Sweden)** Uppsala University  
*Support of linguistic and communication development*

**Heather Way (Australia)** Australian Centre for Genomic Analysis, Nutrigenomics (Nutrition and genomics)

**Zaholan Zhou (USA)** University of Pennsylvania  
*Understanding epigenetic mechanisms that influence brain development in Rett syndrome and CDKL5 disorder*

### Congress website

Information about the Congress is being added to this site [www.rettworldcongress.org](http://www.rettworldcongress.org) progressively.

### Congress venue - QT Hotel Gold Coast

Reservations for accommodation at the QT Hotel Gold Coast can **now** be made via the Congress website. Additional accommodation options will be added to that website in due course.



### A guide to Surfers Paradise and the Gold Coast

Why not combine attending the Congress with a holiday in Australia? For tourist information on the Gold Coast, see <https://www.destinationgoldcoast.com/>