
Dementia: Facing the Epidemic

Alzheimer's Australia
Paper 18
September 2009

**Presentation by Professor Constantine Lyketsos
The National Press Club, Canberra**



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Alzheimer's Australia would like to thank Professor Constantine Lyketsos for his presentation as part of Dementia Awareness Week.

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Foreword

In recent years an important part of Dementia Awareness Week has been to invite an eminent overseas speaker as the guest of Alzheimer's Australia to promote awareness of dementia in a series of public lectures across Australia. This has been made possible by funding from the Australian Government through the National Dementia Support Program and unconditional grants from Pfizer Australia.

This year, Alzheimer's Australia was very fortunate to have Professor Constantine Lyketsos as our guest speaker. For the first time, we arranged for our guest speaker to address the Press Club with a view to ensuring that even greater numbers of people have the opportunity to hear from one of the leading international authorities on dementia.

The speech is wide ranging in explaining the nature of dementia, what is known about the pathology of dementia, the therapeutic strategies being investigated by the researchers, the importance of early intervention and the delivery of quality dementia care.

After 25 years of dementia research, a lot more is now known about dementia. There are exciting possibilities in dementia research in identifying those people most at risk of dementia and the therapeutic strategies that would make early intervention and prevention possible.

The enduring message of the wide ranging presentation of Professor Lyketsos is for increased investment in dementia research to reduce the number of people with dementia.



Glenn Rees
Chief Executive Officer

September 2009

Professor Lykestos is an active clinician, teacher, and researcher, Dr. Lyketsos is The Elizabeth Plank Althouse Professor in Alzheimer's disease research, Vice Chair of Psychiatry at Johns Hopkins University, and Chair of Psychiatry, at Johns Hopkins Bayview. He also directs the Johns Hopkins Memory and Alzheimer's Treatment Center, which provides cutting edge care to large numbers of patients while facilitating the translational research mission for the field.

An expert in the care and treatment of patients with Alzheimer's and related dementias, he has carried out pioneering work regarding the epidemiology and treatment of neuropsychiatric features of Alzheimer disease. His team is developing biomarker methods to accelerate treatment development for Alzheimer's and designing and implementing innovative clinical trials for the treatment of Alzheimer's. He also leads efforts to ensure the provision of state of the art *Dementia Care* to people with dementia in their community or assisted living homes.

His clinical expertise has been recognized by citation as one of *America's Top Doctors* for several years and was recently cited as a *Best Doctor In America*. He has been honoured by election to membership of the American College of Psychiatrists, the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology, and as Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. Dr Lyketsos has authored over 250 publications, book chapters, and commentaries, and Guest Edited several Journal special issues. He is the co-author of *Practical Dementia Care* (with Peter Rabins and Cynthia Steele) and of *Psychiatric Aspects of Neurologic Diseases: Practical Approaches to Patient Care* (with Peter Rabins, John Lipsey, and Philip Slavney).

