



*Expanding
Knowledge
of Ageing*

Australian Association of Gerontology (Inc)

MEDIA RELEASE

Maturing Assets 37th Annual Conference

Hilton on the Park, Melbourne – 17 to 19 November 2004

“No single answer or magic bullet for the complex issues facing our ageing population” is the message from the Annual Conference of the Australian Association of Gerontology to be held in Melbourne in November.

Reflecting the multidisciplinary focus of the Association, speakers are drawn from a very diverse range of backgrounds including social policy researchers and analysts, health professionals, economists, demographers and architects.

“Ageing well is about health of course, but it is also about being happy, which means, enjoying life, having access to services, leisure activities, education or employment which allow the ageing to participate in the community.” commented Association President, Professor Tony Broe,

Because of its multidisciplinary focus the Australian Association of Gerontology is in a unique position to bring together the many strands of learning which will allow us to effectively manage the challenges posed by our ageing population. The conference topics draw on the varied expertise of members and include sessions focussing on the role of exercise and activity, positive ageing, mental health, rural and regional issues and financing old age. Issues associated with care of the frail elderly, whether in residential care or in the community are also prominent in the program, as well as sessions addressing specific health issues of older persons, such as dementia or sensory loss.

This year the AAG travelling fellow and keynote speaker is Professor Ladislav Volicer. He recently retired as Professor of Pharmacology and Psychiatry, and Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Boston University School of Medicine. Professor Volicer will talk on Management of behavioural symptoms of dementia

The presidents symposium this year will focus on Balance, Cognition and Fall Prevention, lead by Professor Tony Broe Professor of Geriatric Medicine, at Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney.

Reflecting the themes of the Year for the Built Environment the Conference will include a symposium focusing on the role of built environments and physical infrastructures in caring for an ageing population. The keynote speaker will be renowned Melbourne architect and the City of Melbourne’s Ambassador for Architecture Professor Dimity Reed, whose topic is “The age of institutions is over for the disabled, so why is it being re-invented for our Tribal Elders”.

For further information, contact: Melinda Andrews (*Conference Organiser*) ph: 0438316420
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This conference has been endorsed as an event to celebrate the YBE 2004)

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SUMMARY CURRICULUM VITAE

PROFESSOR LADISLAV VOLICER

Dr. Volicer is Courtesy Full Professor, School of Aging Studies, College of Arts and Sciences, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL and External Professor at the Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic. He recently retired from being the Clinical Director of the Geriatrics Research Education Clinical Center at E.N. Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital and Professor of Pharmacology and Psychiatry, and Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Boston University School of Medicine. He was also Research Psychiatrist at the McLean Hospital in Belmont, Massachusetts.

Dr. Volicer established one of the first Special Care Units for the care and study of patients with dementia. He studied various aspects of care for such patients, and published numerous papers and four books on this topic. His main interests are management of medical and behavioural symptoms of dementia, quality of life in dementia and end-of-life care.

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