

MJA/Wyeth Award 2006

The MJA/Wyeth Award for excellence in clinical research was awarded at the recent AMA National Conference in Melbourne in May 2007.

It was awarded to Conrad Loten, Barrie Stokes, David Worsley, Jamie Seymour, Simon Jiang and Geoffrey Isbister for their research paper "A randomised controlled trial of hot water (45°C) immersion versus ice packs for pain relief in bluebottle stings" published in the 3 April 2006 issue of the *Medical Journal of Australia*.

Each summer, thousands of Australians enjoy the sun, surf and sand of our iconic beaches. But these idyllic surroundings are not without dangers. Sharks stalk surfers, rips drag swimmers into deep waters, and on occasions a flotilla of bluebottles may play

havoc with the stings from their long tentacles. The research team's study involved a randomised controlled trial which showed that immersion of the affected part in hot water (45°C) was far more effective in alleviating the pain from bluebottle stings compared with ice packs. In presenting the award, Dr Michael Lee, Medical Director, Wyeth Australia, stated: "Our association with the MJA/Wyeth Prize now spans over more than 10 years and in that time we recall that a wide range of research work has been recognised by the award. We are pleased to see that this year we continue to add to the variety. We applaud the winning research team for taking evidence-based medicine to interesting places like the beach ... Their findings will help many".



MJA/Wyeth Award at the AMA National Conference, May 2007: Dr Mukesh Haikerwal, President AMA; Dr Martin Van Der Weyden, Editor, Medical Journal of Australia; Associate Professor Geoffrey Isbister, Dr Conrad Loten, MJA/Wyeth awardees; Dr Michael Lee, Medical Director, Wyeth Australia.