



**MEDIA RELEASE: 13 January 2021**

**Susan Hoerlein, Public Affairs & Communications Specialist**

**P (08) 9215 0733 | M 0422 553 343 | E [shoerlein@scitech.org.au](mailto:shoerlein@scitech.org.au)**

## Student Health Professional Program an Accessible Path to the Future

Fees will be waived for 4 students participating in the 2021 Future Health Professionals Program, doubling the accessibility for all Western Australian students to get a taste of life in the health sciences.

Thirty Western Australian students from years 11 and 12 will take part in the week-long intensive program from 18 – 22 January, with practical workshops at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and lectures and workshops at the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research (Nedlands).

The Future Health Professionals Program gives students exposure to a range of career options within the medical science sector, to expand their view of what a career in this field involves.

Over a 45-hour week, students will learn from clinical mental health practitioners, genetic counsellors, epidemic response professionals, nurses, paramedics, sanitation and hygiene specialists, and surgeons, among others.

Kalien Selby, Chief Executive Officer Scitech, claims the remarkable program demonstrates how practical and credible exposure to career opportunities can have long-lasting impact on student's enthusiasm and confidence.

"We have seen time and again how students are empowered when they can make informed choices for their learning and career pathways, often identifying new opportunities they may not have previously considered." Ms Selby said.

"Scitech's unique position as Western Australia's leading science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) engagement organisation enables us to create an authentic link between school and industry, and we are proud to partner with Sir Charles Gairdner hospital, one of Australia's leading teaching tertiary hospitals, to provide this rich experience." Ms Selby continued.

The Sir Charles and Osborne Park Health Care Group Education and Training Steering Committee says: "This program exposes students to the various roles in the inter-professional healthcare team and provides first-hand experience in an acute hospital setting. The various lectures and workshops establish a solid foundation on which to build their future healthcare career."

Highlights of the lecture series include:

- "A Surgeon's Journey: Bringing Basic Science to the Bedside" with Professor Fiona Wood, focussing on burn care and how to link interdisciplinary research to improve outcomes



scitech



**MEDIA RELEASE: 13 January 2021**

**Susan Hoerlein, Public Affairs & Communications Specialist**

**P (08) 9215 0733 | M 0422 553 343 | E [shoerlein@scitech.org.au](mailto:shoerlein@scitech.org.au)**

- “The Path of a Patient: From Roadside to Surgery” with Dr. Nick Gibson
- “A Day in the Life of a Paramedic” with James Vine
- “An Introduction to Genetic Counselling” with Sarah Long

Students will also learn from Dr. Saschveen Singh who will share her experience working for Médecins Sans Frontières in epidemic response including the Ebola and measles outbreaks, followed by a practical workshop on the correct use of PPE.

A women’s health session will combine Dr. Dani Barrington, a water, health and sanitation expert, who will explain the importance of sanitation, with Dr. Demelza Ireland, a women’s health and immunology specialist, who will guide students on packaging sanitary birthing kits, which will then be distributed to women around the world.

Scitech, in partnership with Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, offers the program via competitive application, based on passion for the health sciences, a demonstrated intention to pursue a career in health care and school performance.

In 2021, regional students will travel from East Kimberley, Broome, Narrogin and Hopetoun to take part. The Hopetoun student studies via the School of Isolated and Distance Education.

The full list of participating schools for 2021 are Cyril Jackson Senior Campus, East Kimberley College, Gilmore College Orelia, Iona Presentation College, Irene McCormack Catholic College, John Forrest Secondary College, John Wollaston Anglican Community School, John XXIII College, Lumen Christi College, Methodist Ladies College, Narrogin Senior High School, Perth Modern School, School of Isolated and Distance Education, Shenton College, St Brigid’s College, St Mary’s College Broome, St Norberts College, Trinity College and Woodvale Secondary College.