

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



Congress website

[www.rettworldcongress.org](http://www.rettworldcongress.org)

Venue - QT Hotel Gold Coast

What the venue has to offer and the ability to make a reservation, is available on the Congress website. When booking, please mention that you are attending the World Rett Syndrome Congress as a **discounted room fee** applies to attendees.

### Climate

Spring (September to November) on the Gold Coast offers sunny days with mild tropical evenings. September can sometimes be windy, making it great for sports such as kite-surfing, kite-boarding, windsurfing and sailing. The temperatures range from 15-25°C (59-77°F).

### Entering Australia

A **visa is required by all persons entering Australia** who do not have a current Australian passport. Please click on <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-finder/visit> for guidance on how to apply for a visa. Processing times vary according to visa type so it is best to apply well in advance.

### Travelling to, from and around the Gold Coast

The Gold Coast area is serviced by 2 different airports.

**Gold Coast Airport** <https://www.goldcoastairport.com.au/>  
Situating in Coolangatta, the airport is a 30 minute drive from Surfers Paradise where the Congress venue is located. Direct airlines are Qantas, Jetstar, Virgin Australia, Air New Zealand, Air Asia, Tiger Airways and Scoot. Please note that the standard arrangement for disembarking and boarding is stairs onto the tarmac, so if such access is inappropriate, your airline would need to be contacted.

**Brisbane International Airport and Brisbane Domestic Airport** <https://www.airport-brisbane.com/>

Each airport has its own terminal but they are a kilometre apart. The time taken to drive from this part of Brisbane to Surfers Paradise would be 60 to 75 minutes depending on the amount of traffic.

A train service (Airtrain) <https://www.airtrain.com.au/> is the fastest way to the Gold Coast.

### Once on the Gold Coast

Helensvale station on the Gold Coast is where you alight from the Airtrain to transfer to the light rail service G:Link <https://ridetheg.com.au/> which goes to Surfers Paradise and runs straight past the QT Hotel.

Information about these and additional means of transport (taxi, bus, etc.) to and from either airport will be available on the World Congress website shortly.

### Accommodation

Hotels might **not** be your preferred choice of accommodation when staying in Surfers Paradise. Families with children and others may need more space than a hotel room provides. There are plenty of options -

#### Resorts

<https://www.destinationgoldcoast.com/where-to-stay/resorts>

#### Apartments

<https://www.destinationgoldcoast.com/where-to-stay/apartments>

#### Tourist parks

<https://www.destinationgoldcoast.com/where-to-stay/most-popular>

#### Motels

<https://www.destinationgoldcoast.com/where-to-stay/motels>

#### Holiday houses

<https://www.destinationgoldcoast.com/where-to-stay/holiday-houses>

#### Backpackers and hostels

<https://www.destinationgoldcoast.com/where-to-stay/backpackers-and-hostels>

Please note that the timing of the Congress **coincides with school holidays** in Australia. Now would be the time to consider your options as to where you would like to stay, including the QT Hotel Gold Coast.

**28 February 2020 – Update No 2 (cont.)**  
**Subject to Coronavirus (COVID-19) Updates**

### Call for abstracts

The 'Call for abstracts' will open on 1 March this year via the Congress website and will close on 30 April. Notification to authors is to be completed by 30 June 2020.

### Congress registration fees

Attendance at the World Rett Syndrome Congress requires an individual (excluding children aged under 15 years and persons with Rett syndrome or Rett-like disorder), to pay a registration fee, the purpose of which is to assist the Rett Syndrome Association of Australia (RSAA) to finance the event. **The registration form, together with information on its submission and payment of fees, will be available on the Congress website in due course.** The following table shows the registration fees (in Australian dollars) that will apply. The fees include attendance at the cocktail reception which is to be held on the evening of 30 September (Congress Day 1).

	Early bird payment (before <b>1 July 2020</b> )	Payment from <b>1<sup>st</sup> July 2020</b>
Child aged under 16 years	Free	Free
Individual with Rett syndrome or a Rett-like disorder	Free	Free
Adult (18 years and over) member/affiliate of a Rett syndrome or Rett-like disorder Association or group	\$250	\$300
Child aged 16 - 17 years of a member/affiliate of a Rett syndrome or Rett-like disorder Association or group	\$125	\$150
Adult (18 years and over) non-member of a Rett syndrome or Rett-like disorder Association or group	\$320	\$370
Child aged 16 - 17 years of a non-member of a Rett syndrome or Rett-like disorder Association or group	\$160	\$185
Professional	\$600	\$650

### Congress programme

The Congress will consist of a number of oral plenary sessions preceded by a keynote presentation by one of the invited speakers. The various presentations on Rett syndrome and Rett-like disorders will be separated into 2 broad streams, 'Molecular and laboratory science' which will include the latest research and discoveries and 'Clinical science' which will cover therapeutic and family-focussed topics. The content of each is **yet to be finalised** but topics under consideration are shown below.

#### *Molecular and laboratory science*

MECP2 biology, MECP2 Duplication syndrome  
Rett syndrome pathogenesis X chromosome reactivation  
Epigenetics & DNA/RNA editing Animal models  
Stem cell science & therapy Neurological functions  
Current status of therapeutic strategies & clinical trials  
CDKL5, FOXP1, other genes & Rett syndrome  
Reversing Rett syndrome Late breaking abstracts

#### *Clinical science*

Genetic evidence: Present and future impact  
Current & proposed clinical trials Clinics  
Behaviour Communication Education Siblings  
Health care including mental health Pain  
Drug interactions Therapies Parent/carer support  
Issues relating to nervous, digestive, respiratory,  
circulatory & musculoskeletal systems and skin  
Issues relating adolescence & adulthood.

### Gala dinner

A Congress gala dinner will be held on the evening of Friday 2 October (Congress Day 3), information about which will also appear on the registration form which is soon to be added to the Congress website.

### Confirmed invited speakers (to date)

**Fiona Beauchamp** (Australia) Cerebral Palsy Education Centre  
**Hanneke Borst** (The Netherlands) Maastricht University  
**John Christodoulou** (Australia) Murdoch Children's Research Inst  
**Stuart Cobb** (Scotland) University of Edinburgh  
**Carolyn Ellaway** (Australia) The Children's Hospital at Westmead  
**Michael Freilinger** (Austria) University of Vienna  
**Michael Green** (USA) University of Massachusetts  
**Kathy Hunter** (USA) Author of 'The Rett Syndrome Handbook'  
**Rajni Khajuria** (India) Indian Rett Syndrome Foundation  
**Helen Leonard** (Australia) Telethon Kids Institute  
**Susan Norwell** (USA) Rett University  
**Alan Percy** (USA) University of Alabama  
**Frank Symons** (USA) University of Minnesota  
**Gillian Townend** (The Netherlands) Maastricht University  
**Heather Way** (Australia) Australian Centre for Genomic Analysis  
**Anna Urbanowicz** (Australia) Royal Melbourne Inst. of Technology

**Sir Adrian Bird** (Scotland) University of Edinburgh  
**Tim Benke** (USA) University of Colorado  
**Qiang Chang** (USA) University of Wisconsin  
**Jenny Downs** (Australia) Telethon Kids Institute  
**Steven Gray** (USA) University of North Carolina  
**Wendy Gold** (Australia) Children's Hosp. Westmead  
**Walter Kaufmann** (USA) Emory University  
**Yvonne Lai** (Australia) University of Queensland  
**Nicoletta Landsberger** (Italy) University of Milan  
**Janine LaSalle** (USA) University of California  
**Jeffrey Neul** (USA) Vanderbilt University  
**Michelle Stahlhut** (Denmark) Lund University  
**Paramala Santosh** (UK) King's College, London  
**Daniel Tarquinio** (USA) Emory University  
**Helena Wandin** (Sweden) Uppsala University  
**Zaholan Zhou** (USA) University of Pennsylvania.