



Participatory health conference a first for HIC

Consumer-centred healthcare, the use of social media and patient rights to information are set to be headline topics at [HIC 2014](#) in Melbourne 11-14 August.

US-based [e-Patient Dave](#) one of the world's best known patient advocates will appear in Australia for the first time, presenting on stage at the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre with his consulting physician Dr Danny Sands at 9:30am after the official opening on Tuesday 12 August.

Known on the internet as e-Patient Dave, Dave deBronkart is co-author with Dr Sands of [Let Patients Help: A Patient Engagement Handbook](#).

E-Patient Dave became a vocal champion for [patient engagement](#), a successful blogger and later a health policy advisor after beating cancer in 2007.

Dr Danny Sands was previously chief medical informatics officer at Cisco and is a founder and co-chair of the board of the Society for Participatory Medicine.

Conference organiser and HISA CEO Dr Louise Schaper said the global trend towards [participatory healthcare](#) exemplified by e-Patient Dave made it an obvious topic for HIC, exploring many facets of e-health and taking health informatics more deeply into the realm of the healthcare consumer. The inaugural [Participatory Health Conference](#) will be held this year as part of HIC.

"Participatory healthcare promotes an active role for patients, working with their healthcare provider in the processes of clinical decision making," Dr Schaper said. "It involves social media and patient on-line communities; personal genome services; self-monitoring and quantification; personal health records and shared clinical decision making," she said.

She said the inaugural Participatory Health Conference would be chaired by Prof Fernando Martin-Sanchez the Director of the Health and Biomedical Informatics Centre at the University of Melbourne, well known in the participatory health and quantified- self movement. His [article on big data in health](#) explained the movement in layman's terms.

In addition to his HIC appearance, e-Patient Dave will open the non-communicable disease session of the Participatory Health Conference at 11am on Monday 11 August with a presentation on how engaged patients are changing healthcare. He will then take part in a Q & A panel facilitated by Prof Peter Brooks, University of Melbourne. Fellow panellists are Prof John Catford from [Epworth Healthcare](#); Caitlin Francis, Partner, Ernst & Young; Dr Kathleen Gray and Prof John Wark, from the University of Melbourne. Michael Gill, a chronic rheumatoid arthritis patient who created the support website [Dragon Claw](#) for users and carers will also appear on the panel.



melbourne 11 - 14 august 2014

Special HIC alert: Delegates are being invited to a Department of Health PCEHR consultation session.
All those registered will receive an offer to express their interest in attending.

END

For more information contact the Communications Manager Heather Hunt on 0429 453 306.

For media passes and registration email Heather@hisa.org.au

