



Speaker profile: Professor Neil B Piller

Neil is a Lymphologist and the Director of the Lymphoedema Clinical Research Unit in the Department of Surgery, School of Medicine at Flinders University, South Australia. He is coordinator of Advanced Studies in the MD program.

Neil is a Co-Director of the International Lymphoedema Framework based in the UK, a member of the International Society for Lymphology, Clinical Sciences Editor for the “Journal of Lymphoedema” (UK), Australasian Editor of “Lymphatic Research and Biology” (USA) and a member of the Editorial Boards of “Phlebology” (USA) and “Lymphology” (USA).

Neil is a member International Advisory Board Union Internationale Phlebologie and a member of its consensus groups on Lymphoedema and phlebo-lymphoedema, a member of the steering committees for the Australian and American Lymphoedema Frameworks and the International Compression Club.

He has recently been guest speaker at the Taiwan Vascular Surgery Association meeting in Taipei, the International Lymphoedema Framework Meeting in Glasgow and the Norwegian Lymphoedema Foundation meeting in Oslo.

Neil and Drs Peter Neligan and Jaume Masia (as Co-Editors) have brought authors from around the world together in a new book on “Lymphoedema –Complete Medical and Surgical Management” which was published late in 2015.

In 2015 he was an invited speaker at the 50th year Celebration of the International Society of Lymphology meeting in San Francisco.

In May 2016, Neil is involved (along with the Australasian Lymphology Association and the Australasian Chapter of the International Lymphoedema Framework) in a meeting in Darwin,

Australia focusing on issues of lymphoedema, early and differential diagnosis and treatment and management with a focus on the Asia Pacific Region. Many of Neil's MD research students will also be presenting at this meeting showing their results in new and novel areas such as using hydrocephalus shunts to help relieve lymphoedema, examining the impact of a tendency towards hypertrophic scarring and lymphoedema risk, and the impact of climate change on our risks of lymphatic filariasis and other vector borne diseases.

Neil is an enthusiastic kayaker and fisherman, having come from a fishing family! He has kayaked in Antarctica, down the Zambezi River in Africa, with the Killer Whales in Canada, the lakes of Norway and in many places in Australia. He is a regular surfer (but only when the water is warm!).

The sewerage system of our Body:

Causes and consequences of its failure to function

The importance of the lymphatic system has recently been raised associated with changes to our understanding of Starlings Law. Our new interpretation means that whatever leaks from the vascular system must be taken up by the lymphatics, there is no return to the vascular system again (except in the lymph nodes)! We now know also that in those people who develop lymphoedema after cancer surgery or radiotherapy, that their lymphatic system is already working harder even before these interventions and that their pump pressures and efficiency are less than those who don't get (or don't have) lymphoedema. So it all means there is a predisposition to lymphoedema! My talk will focus on the anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology of the lymphatic system and of the impact of external events associated with cancer treatment on it, how we can recognize these changes, target them and apply the best treatment in a sequenced manner, to gain an optimal patient outcome.