**Presentation title:**

**Understanding and preventing thunderstorm asthma**

**Abstract** (max. 300 words):

On the evening of 21 November 2016, thousands of people across Melbourne presented to hospitals, GP clinics and pharmacies with significant asthma following a thunderstorm. Although ‘thunderstorm asthma’ events had been recognised previously, this incident was the most significant in terms of the tragic loss of life and the number of people affected. The event has prompted government, health care experts and authorities to investigate what steps can be taken to reduce risk of hospital presentations and loss of life happening again.  This session will provide an understanding of what happens in thunderstorm asthma and what proactive steps can be taken to reduce the impact on people within the community who are at risk.

The role of Written Asthma Action Plans and First Aid Plans will be discussed and Emergency Management of an asthma attack will be explained as per the Australian Guidelines. A case study involving development of Written Asthma Action Plans will form the basis of a hands-on and interactive activity to add to GPs skills and experience completing these in the context of thunderstorm asthma.