



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians

Media Release

RACP hosts key architect of Obamacare

10 December 2015

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) last night hosted a Q&A session with one of the world's leading health experts Dr Ezekiel J. Emanuel.

Dr Emanuel is regarded as an "architect" of the United States' Affordable Care Act, or 'Obamacare,' which is transforming health services in the United States.

RACP President, Laureate Professor Nick Talley, said Dr Emanuel has been in Sydney and Newcastle as a guest of the RACP and the University of Newcastle.

"Dr Emanuel is a global health expert and to have him visit and share his thoughts on megatrends in health with College members was a fantastic experience," he said.

"He predicted the expansion of digital medicine, the end of health care inflation and dramatic changes to medical education. It was fascinating to discuss the relevance of these trends to Australia and in particular the work of the College."

Dr Emanuel also discussed his role in the introduction of Obamacare sharing his side of the story, including the highs and lows of the reform.

"I think to the shock of most people it's been more successful than most of us expected," Dr Emanuel said.

"We have seen a big drop in the number of people uninsured in America and the number of readmissions. And it's had no negative impact on the economy.

"Healthcare reform is a continuous process – you have to constantly be adjusting and looking for problems and solving problems. We are not done with healthcare reform we need to now be on healthcare 2.0 in America."

Dr Emanuel also raised the need to transform medical education.

The event was facilitated by Dr Norman Swan producer and presenter of ABC Radio's *Health Report*.

Ends

Media contact: Sophie Treneman +61 2 8076 6337, +61 408 639 697 or
sophie.treneman@racp.edu.au

Follow the RACP on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/TheRACP> Facebook: www.facebook.com/theRACP

About The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP): The RACP trains, educates and advocates on behalf of more than 15,000 physicians and 7,500 trainee physicians across Australia and New Zealand. The College represents a broad range of medical specialties including general medicine, paediatrics and child health, cardiology, respiratory medicine, neurology, oncology, public health medicine, occupational and environmental

medicine, palliative medicine, sexual health medicine, rehabilitation medicine, geriatric medicine and addiction medicine. Beyond the drive for medical excellence, the RACP is committed to developing health and social policies which bring vital improvements to the wellbeing of patients. The College offers 60 training pathways. These lead to the award of one of seven qualifications that align with 45 specialist titles recognised by the Medical Board of Australia or allow for registration in nine vocational scopes with the Medical Council of New Zealand.