The Lunch with Experts sessions are designed to facilitate the sharing of specialist knowledge and expertise with conference participants in an informal environment through dialogue and Q&A with the audience.

Three well known experts in the field of suicide research and prevention will discuss major achievements and new challenges within their areas of expertise. This is a stimulating experience for both younger and older professionals.

Saturday 10 September 2016, 13.30 – 14.30, Room 3

The Experts:

Dr Annette Erlangsen (DEN)  
Prof David Gunnell (UK)  
Prof Jane Pirkis (AUS)
Experts Profiles:

Dr Annette Erlangsen
Annette Erlangsen PhD is an Associate Professor and Program Leader of the Danish Research Institute for Suicide Prevention at Mental Health Centre Copenhagen, Denmark. She is Adjunct Associate Professorship at the Department of Mental Health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in the USA. Dr. Erlangsen is dedicated to research on prevention of suicide and she has, with colleagues, conducted studies on psychosocial interventions for people at risk of suicide, bereaved by suicide, affected by suicide attempt as well as suicide in high risk populations, such as older adults, LGBT, people in prison, and others. Much of her research has been applied the Danish register data. Dr. Erlangsen has recently received the Alexander Gralnick Award of the American Association of Suicidology and the Danish Nordentoft Award. She has had the pleasure of being supported by national grants as well as international grants from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Furthermore, she honored to be on the Editorial Board of Crisis, SOL, and Lancet Psychiatry. Annette Erlangsen is the Secretary-Treasurer of the International Academy of Suicide Research, national representative for International Association of Suicide Prevention (IASP) as well as co-chair on the IASP Special Interest Group on older adults and suicide. Additionally, she was the founder of the International Research Group on Older Adults and Suicide, a network for researchers dedicated to the field, which counts 125+ members from 22+ countries.

Professor David Gunnell
FPHP FMedSci is Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Bristol (UK) School of Social and Community Medicine and Hon Consultant in Public Health. His research is focused on two main areas: (1) national and international strategies for preventing suicide and improving mental health; (2) early life influences on adult health, particularly mental illness.

He is a member of the National Suicide Prevention Advisory Group for England and contributed to WHO’s 2014 Preventing Suicide Report. Key areas of current research include: the impact of the global financial crisis on suicide and interventions to offset the impact of future recessions; the global burden of pesticide suicide; identifying and responding to emerging / new methods of suicide; the role of the internet in suicide. He leads an NIHR-funded programme of research in support of the National Suicide Prevention Strategy for England; the research is carried out in partnership with service users and research colleagues from the Universities of Oxford, Manchester and Glasgow.

Professor Jane Pirkis
Jane Pirkis is the Director of the Centre for Mental Health in the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health at the University of Melbourne. She has an international reputation in the area of suicide prevention and mental health program evaluation, and currently holds a National Health and Medical Research Council Senior Research Fellowship which is funding a program of work on suicide prevention. Her research falls into four main areas:
1. studies on the epidemiology of suicide;
2. studies on media reporting of suicide and mental illness;
3. evaluations of mental health and suicide prevention programs and policies; and
4. trials of specific interventions for at-risk individuals.
Her work has been extremely influential in the policy arena. Jane’s research achievements in mental health and suicide prevention have been recognised by a number of awards (e.g., the 2001 Harkness Fellowship in Health Care Policy and Suicide Prevention Australia’s 2010 Lifetime Research Award).