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## COSMETICS – A SKIN DEEP REACTION?

Adverse reactions to cosmetics will be top of the agenda when international authorities on skin conditions meet on the Gold Coast for the Australasian College of Dermatologists' (ACD) Biennial Spring Conference from 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> September 2007.

A number of the presentations during the meeting will focus on 'contact dermatitis, including the various skin reactions to cosmetics, acrylic nails and perfume.

Honorary Secretary of the ACD, Dr Stephen Shumack, says even allergies to common ointments such as tea tree oil will be discussed.

"Tea tree oil is used in a variety of medications and herbal products but despite its oft-stated beneficial qualities, a new study has revealed it can also cause an adverse reaction in a number of people", says Dr Shumack.

"Also of great interest will be a presentation by the President of the International Fragrance Association, a body responsible for the industry's regulatory system of safety assurance, which has been in place to protect consumers for 30 years.

Sometimes reactions go beyond being skin deep, and the issue of depression in dermatitis sufferers will also be covered.

"Most people would be surprised to learn dermatitis can lead to anxiety and depression, placing a large burden on patients, their families and society. This issue will also be discussed", says Dr Shumack.

The meeting is being held in association with the International Contact Dermatitis Symposium and the Asia Pacific Environmental and Occupational Dermatitis Symposium.

### MEDIA INQUIRIES

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