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Australia, China team up to promote healthy ageing

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Singapore: Senior scientists from Australia and China are meeting at the Australian Academy of Science on July 23 and 24 to examine the latest developments in genomics, stem cell research and smart technologies designed to extend life and promote healthy ageing.

Researchers at the Ninth Annual Australia-China symposium will examine the diseases of ageing and present the latest advances in strategies to control infectious diseases, regenerative medicine, genomics, medical bionics and nanotechnology.

"There's a large and escalating burden of chronic diseases related to ageing," said Professor Bob Williamson, Australian Academy of Science Secretary for Science Policy.

The UN estimates just four of the diseases associated with ageing, diabetes, cancer and cardiovascular and chronic respiratory diseases, cost an average of $500 billion per year to low- and middle-income countries.

"It's important to use our best scientific knowledge to help implement intervention strategies to reduce the burden of these diseases," said Prof Williamson.

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This symposium will lead to a clearer understanding of what Australia and China can do to promote healthy ageing, and encourage collaboration between scientists in both countries to continue to find new solutions through science, technology and engineering.

"There is considerable potential for Australia and China to lead the region in providing innovative responses to this challenge and to reduce the economic and social burden on families, communities and nations."

Running until July 24, it has been jointly organised by the Australian Academy of Science, the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, with financial support from the Australian Government.

The annual Australia-China symposia play an important role in initiating and strengthening international research connections between Australia and China.