The Sansom Institute for Health Research is pleased to invite you to a Visiting Researcher Seminar.

**The Hon Dr Basil Hetzel AC**

**A global program for the elimination of brain damage due to iodine deficiency**

Dr Basil Hetzel's pioneering work led to our understanding of the effects of iodine deficiency on brain development and the importance of incorporating iodized salt in the diet to prevent brain damage in newborns.

Dr Hetzel's research team in Papua New Guinea during 1964-1972 established that brain damage could be prevented by correction of iodine deficiency before pregnancy. This groundbreaking research led him to begin a worldwide campaign to incorporate iodized salt into the diets of more than two billion people in some 130 countries where iodine is lacking. Dr Hetzel's efforts have prevented brain damage in millions of children.

In 1986, Dr Basil Hetzel initiated the International Council for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (ICCIDD), which is a global multidisciplinary group of 700 scientists, medical administrators and public health workers from 100 countries which works closely with the World Health Organization (WHO) and with UNICEF.

The ICCIDD has bridged the gap between research and its application in developing countries where more than two billion are at risk of impaired brain function. Dr Hetzel was Chairman of the ICCIDD from 1995 to 2001 when he retired and was appointed Chairman Emeritus.