The Statistical Society of Australia, the Australian Pharmaceuticals Biostatistics Group and Pfizer would like to invite you to a **free** lecture.

Tuesday, 8th July 2008

6pm for refreshments, 6.30 – 7.30 for talk

Speaker: Prof Simon Thompson, Director, MRC Biostatistics Unit, Cambridge, U.K.
Location: Pfizer Auditorium, 38-42 Wharf Rd, West Ryde

Please **register** (name and company/affiliation) your intention to attend i) the lecture and ii) the dinner with the speaker afterwards by **July 1** by contacting Annabel Peeling **annabel.peeling@pfizer.com**. Note: you will be asked to supply photo ID when you arrive at the Pfizer Gatehouse.

From randomised trials to national policy decisions via cost-effectiveness analysis

Abstract:
Randomised trials have shown that ultrasound screening for abdominal aortic aneurysms (AAA) is effective in reducing mortality. However, evidence on long-term cost-effectiveness comes principally from decision models. I will discuss some of the statistical issues involved in building a reliable model, including parameter estimation and uncertainty, structural uncertainty, and model validation. This research has informed the recent decision to initiate a national AAA screening programme in the UK.

About the speaker:
Simon Thompson is Director of the MRC Biostatistics Unit, Cambridge UK, and an honorary professor of biostatistics at the University of Cambridge. He held previous academic appointments at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and as the first professor of medical statistics and epidemiology at Imperial College London. His research interests are in meta-analysis and evidence synthesis, clinical trial methodology, and health economic evaluation. He has collaborated on a number of large-scale clinical trials, recently including all the major UK national trials of screening and treatment for abdominal aortic aneurysms.