



ANZSCTS

President's Newsletter

The Newsletter of the Australian & New Zealand Society of Cardiac & Thoracic Surgeons

Welcome to the Autumn 2016 Newsletter

Dear Colleagues

Its time for an update on the activities of your Society and its Executive. Many of you have been working hard on a lot of these issues and before I go any further I would like to express my gratitude for your help.

for help in doing so. It is my view that surgeons are best placed to be performing TAVI whether this be via the trans femoral or any other route. This does not exclude our medical colleagues, in fact, working together on this one is clearly the only way forward.

Our recent visitor to the ANZSCTS Adelaide meeting, Professor Nico Doll, made it quite clear that surgical involvement is critical to the best patient outcomes.

Member Relations

The focus of the Member Relations group has been threefold. To look at where we can decrease the cost of membership, which we recognise is high relative to other Societies. To look at how we can value add our membership: for example by negotiating subsidised cross membership with other societies -the first on the agenda being STS and ASCVTS. And to look at increasing our overall membership cohort. Indra Nordstrand has recently come on as our Younger Fellow representative and you will have seen her enthusiasm already in reaching out to non members and trying to gauge what the barriers are to joining.

Membership is critical to the Society as is conference attendance. It is only through the fees generated that we are able to effectively get your views heard. I would add that through the efforts of our Executive staff our trainee rates of membership are almost 100%. Our next challenge is to keep them.

If your 2016 membership fees are outstanding could you please settle as soon as possible. If you require an invoice to be sent again please contact Nick Danes via his email nickdanes@anzscts.org.

Government Relations

The Government Relations Group, headed by Jayme Bennetts and Jim Tatoulis and ably supported by Phillip Antippa and others, has dealt with multiple requests to review item number changes and definitions however probably the most important relate to the MBS review of PCI in stable coronary syndromes and the MSAC review of TAVI devices.

On the PCI review a number of drafts have been produced and the findings have been referred to the newly formed MBS Taskforce Review (Cardiac Services Clinical Committee) which we hope will have the powers to enforce them.

Jayme Bennetts and I will be representing Cardiac Surgery on this panel which is to meet for the first time in the week commencing 4 April. Philip Antippa will be representing us for Thoracic Surgery.

As for TAVI, MSAC has received our views on the makeup of TAVI programs, the need for surgical involvement, data collection, evidence of a working MDT for appropriate selection and reporting of outcomes. Both CSANZ and ANZSCTS continue to work closely together on determining the best outcome. We await the final decision from MSAC and afterwards MBS as to how all this will work. I would encourage you all, however, to start planning for the future of TAVI in your workplace and contact the Executive

Trainee Relations

Trainee Relations is essentially dealt with via the RACS of course however through our trainee representative, Gareth Crouch, we have identified several areas where we might be able to improve engagement and forever do away with the very real phenomenon of bullying and harassment. The Society has its own rules for disciplining members as specified in the ANZSCTS constitution "Powers and Duties of the Executive" clauses 68 to 71 and we endorse the RACS code as well.

We endorse the College survey sent to trainees and the proposal to use its findings as a baseline for future improvement. We will watch this space very carefully as the future of our profession relies upon the nurturing of our younger fellows and trainees.

Scientific and Education Committee, Annual Scientific Meetings, RACS ASC, Co-Badging

ASM 2015 Adelaide, South Australia (15-19 November 2015)

The Scientific and Education Committee, led by Andrew Cochrane, did a great job on the Adelaide meeting in November last year so thanks again goes out to Jayme Bennetts, Greg Rice, Fabiano Viana, our Nursing convenors Therese Gordon, Susan Stuklis and of course the RACS conference organisers. I think we would all agree the visitors contributed effectively, were all extremely engaging and the social events were tremendous. It was also a great opportunity to recognise the many years of service to the Society given by Professor Brian Buxton.

The Abstracts from the meeting should be published in the Heart Lung and Circulation Journal in May. We will advise members when these will be available.

ASM 2016 Cairns, Queensland (6-9 November 2016)

The 2016 ASM will be in Cairns and the confirmed speakers are Professor David Taggart (UK), Mr Andre R. Simon (UK), Joel Dunning (UK) and Dr Jonathan M. Chen (USA). Once again we have gone with the winning combination of having three scientific convenors. These are Mike Byrom, Emily Granger and Yishay Orr and our Nurses convenors are Dominique Olsen and Kylie Duncan. I have no doubt that with such a wide range of expertise once again we will have a great meeting. I encourage you all to come along and spend some time in far North Queensland with your family. We will again be responding as best we can to the survey results after the last meeting. After all this is your meeting and it should look the way you want it to.

Co Badging Events – I wish to recognise the success of the following ventures:

Techno Practicum College (TPC), Sydney Continental Hotel (10-12 March 2016)

Homayoun Jalali ran another well attended TPC in Sydney with an impressive multi disciplinary Faculty lending itself to much insightful discussion. The program included the continuing Maze IV Surgical Accreditation Course that was facilitated

by Michael Yii & the invited speaker Professor James Cox. ANZSCTS was proud to co badge and support the meeting.

New Zealand Cardiothoracic Meeting, Lake Taupo (18-20 March 2016)

I have just returned from the New Zealand chapters meeting on Lake Taupo. The multidisciplinary nature of the meeting (Surgeons, registrars, anaesthetists, intensivists, Nurses), the hosting hospital, and the great mix of high end Faculty with Dr Joe Bavaria, George Matalanis and Peter McCall made the meeting enjoyable and it had an incredibly relaxed feel to it all.

Amazingly this was the first time ANZSCTS has co badged this meeting and agreement has been reached to continue to do so and to look at other ways to improve our engagement with our New Zealand colleagues.

Trevor Tnay from the Austin Hospital, Melbourne was awarded the Registrar Prize sponsored by Obex Medical (NZ\$1500).

A photo of Joe Bavaria presenting the prize to Trevor Tnay for 2016.



The ANZSCTS Executives New Zealand Representative, Philip Davis will keep the membership informed on the dates and location of the next meeting in 2017 (potentially Queensland).

Association of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeons of Asia (ATCSA) meeting 2017, Melbourne (16-19 November 2017)

We are also in the early planning stages of the 2017 meeting in Melbourne where the ANZSCTS won the rights to host the Association of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeons of Asia (ATCSA) meeting. Early estimates suggest a delegate count of around 400 from elsewhere alone. Combined with our own it should make for a great meeting with the capacity for an expanded and innovative program.



Cardiothoracic Trainees Workshop, RACS, Melbourne (17-19 March 2016)

Andrew Cochrane has done yet another great job of running the Cardiothoracic Board of Studies compulsory trainees workshop this year. All reports are that there was very positive feedback from both trainees and our sponsors for the meeting and many thanks again to Andrew on behalf of the Society and the trainees.

Presentations from the meeting will be uploaded onto the ANZSCTS website shortly. We will advise members when this will be available.

The RACS ASC 2016, Brisbane, Queensland (2-6 May)

The RACS Annual Scientific Congress to be held in Brisbane is fast approaching. Wingchi Lo and Christopher Cole both from Brisbane are co-convening; a program has been drafted and can be found on the ASC program pages 61 to 62 <http://asc.surgeons.org/scientific-program/> The focus of the meeting is Thoracic.

The RACS Invited speaker is Dr Diego Gonzalez-Rivas from Spain.

RACS ASC 2017, Adelaide, South Australia (2-5 May)

Looking further ahead, the 2017 RACS ASC meeting will be held in Adelaide with Fabiano Viana and Michael Worthington as co-conveners. It is pleasing to see that the younger members of the society are willingly accepting these roles.

ANZSCTS Database

I have taken up the offer of a position on the Database steering committee representing the Executive as we look forward to being more actively involved. Whilst the Database team work on a number of initiatives I would like to update you on a key change. The Database Management Centre (DMC) has been granted access to unique surgeons codes and will take over the role of generating secure surgeons codes for the Database from the Code Guardian. This allows for more efficient allocation of surgeons codes and also prevents 'doubling up' of codes which the DMC has recently discovered and are trying to rectify.

There are many other projects running such as a proposed Cardiothoracic Research Network continuing on from Frank Rosenfeldt's great efforts and a focus on the extraordinary amount of pro bono work being performed by our members. On both of these points I don't think we promote ourselves as well as we should and I am hoping the new website (www.anzscts.org) can be a conduit for expressing our views on the Society's performance, a place for researchers to get in contact with each other and aid trial recruitment as well as a site for pro bono programs to be accessed and recognised by all. So please use it to tell us what you think.

See you in Cairns. ASM website www.anzsctasm.com

CURRENT ANZSCTS EXECUTIVE

President	Paul Bannon
Vice-President	Trevor Fayers
Honorary Secretary/Treasurer	Homayoun Jalali
Immediate Past-President	Robert Costa
Chairman, Board of Studies	Dick Bunton
ANZSCTS Rep on RACS Council	Julie Mundy
Chairman, Science and Education Committee	Andrew Cochrane
Younger Fellow Rep	Indra Nordstrand
Elected New Zealand Rep	Philip Davis
Elected Representative	Homayoun Jalali
Chief Executive Officer	Michael Nugara
Chief Operating Officer	Nick Danes



**Paul Bannon
President**

