



ANZSCTS

President's Newsletter

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

Welcome to the Summer 2016 Newsletter



Dear Colleagues

It is an enormous honour to serve as President of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgeons for the next two years. I look forward to many challenges, and to working closely with all members in addressing any issues of importance.

I would like to thank my predecessor Paul Bannon for his hard work over the last two years. Many issues arose and as Paul and Jayme Bennetts have been involved in both **TAVI and MBS reviews**, we have decided that they will continue to work on these important matters for the Society in the interest of continuity. Also, Jim Tatoulis has been involved in the Coronary stenting review, and his contribution to ensure due diligence and evidence based medicine cannot be underestimated.

Our speciality faces many challenges over the next few years, and I strongly believe that a unified front is the only way forward. The Society and its leadership place your future first and work for you. We continually face discontent relating to annual fees and that there is no real benefit to being a

member. We are currently looking at reciprocal membership with both **STS and ASCVTS**. As new percutaneous technologies encroach on cardiac surgery, we need memberships and a unified group to ensure we are involved in being an intricate part of these procedures. In both Europe and the USA, surgeons form part of these implantation teams and we have to ensure the same. Ten years ago, I served as Secretary of the Society. During the first two years, we operated without the Urological Society's CEO and COO. I can assure you that it was impossible to manage without the above. For us to function well, we need this support as we are busy in our daily work. It justifies the fees we pay and secures daily operations. Thank you Richard Chard.

On a more serious matter, **Discrimination, Bullying and Sexual Harassment (DBSH)** is being addressed. Both Paul and I attended the EAG presentation in Melbourne last year. Much to our embarrassment, our craft group was singled out to be number one at 63% of complaints. I cannot help but think the RACS saw smoke and instead of finding fire uncovered a volcano. Let me make it very clear, I will not tolerate any form of DBSH and will fight to eradicate all forms. Many groups will follow the RACS in seeing how to deal with this problem. SVHA will be implementing Ethos in Melbourne next year and all hospitals in this group will be part of this programme to eradicate DBSH in the future. There is no doubt, that this will be the future in medicine and in particular surgery. Please assist me in this very important issue.

ANZSCTS will continue to promote **innovation and research**. Since the ASM in Cairns the Society continues to work with an industry partner to establish a revenue stream to fund research. We will update members on this exciting development once it is finalised.

Our recent **ASM in Cairns** was a great success. I would like to thank the Organising Committee for their hard work and congratulate them. To Andrew, Emily, Yishay and Michael, a sincere thank you. Also to the RACS team, well done. The Nurses Day continues to be very successful and was yet again well attended. Thank you to the members for attending and importantly for the support from the Industry.

During the AGM in Cairns, it was noted that we still do not have a dedicated Thoracic Surgery Database for the ANZSCTS. This will be on the agenda for the Board meeting in January. We all believe that this is mandatory and I appeal to any Thoracic Surgeons interested in assisting in this project to notify me of their support. Clear datasets and defining what the data achieves needs to be clarified.

The ANZSCTS will be hosting the **Association of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeons of Asia (ATCSA)** meeting at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre between 16-19 November 2017. The International Faculty is one of the best and we have confirmed the following international visitors:

Dr Michael Borger (USA)

Dr Duke Cameron (USA)

Dr Kuan-Ming Chiu (Taiwan)

Dr Teresa Kieser (Canada)

A/Prof Theodoros Kofidis (Singapore)

Dr Emmanuel Lansac (France)

Dr Thomas Walther (Germany)

Dr Sean Gorndin (Canada) – Thoracic

A/Prof Shanda Blackmon (USA) – Thoracic

Dr. Jeswant Dillon (Malaysia)

Dr Mohamed Ezani (Malaysia)

As you are aware, we are combining our ASM with the ATCSA meeting and we are expecting good attendance. I hope that you will attend and contribute to make this another successful event.

The Board of Cardiothoracic Surgery have decided to move the annual **Cardiothoracic Trainees Course** that is traditionally held in the month of March, to the RACS Annual Scientific Congress (May 8-12, 2017, Adelaide) to support our Cardiothoracic program. Our convenors are Fabiano Viana and Michael Worthington. Please support this meeting with your attendance.

We continue to listen to members survey responses and I will be personally visiting Noosa to determine the possibility of hosting the **2018 ASM** at an appropriate venue for our members and sponsors. We need to be conscious of meeting the Medical Technology Industries code of practice to ensure that compliance with continued training and education is not compromised. The ASM must be conducted in a clinical, educational, conference or other setting that is conducive to the effective transmission of knowledge.

ANZSCTS recognises and continues to support educational endeavours throughout the continuum of trainees and Fellows professional lives. ANZSCTS therefore continues to endorse programs, courses and educational activities available to Fellows and Trainees.

We are pleased to announce that the ANZSCTS will again endorse the **New Zealand Cardiac Surgery meeting** at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Queenstown, New Zealand between 31st March - 2nd April 2017. The meeting will be convened by Mr Philip Davis, Dunedin Hospital. We encourage members to attend this meeting with guest speaker Anthony P. Furnary and others.

You will shortly receive if not already, invoices for your **2017 Membership** subscriptions to the ANZSCTS. Please attend to these at your earliest convenience.

I am blessed to have an excellent Board of Directors. We will function well as a team over the next two years. Feel free to contact me at any time. I am open to positive support as well as constructive criticism.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2017. Enjoy the festive season and time with your family.

I remain committed to serve as best I can.

CURRENT ANZSCTS BOARD

President - Trevor Fayers

Vice-President - Aubrey Almeida

Honorary Secretary/Treasurer - Jayme Bennetts

Immediate Past-President - Paul Bannon

Chairman, Board of Studies - Robert Tam

RACS Cardiothoracic Specialty Elected Councillor - Julie Mundy

Chairman, Science and Education Committee - Andrew Cochrane

Younger Fellow Representative - Indra Nordstrand

Elected New Zealand Representative - Philip Davis

Trainee Representative on the Board of Cardiothoracic Surgery - Gareth Crouch

Chief Executive Officer - Michael Nugara

Chief Operating Officer - Nick Danes

Sincerely

Trevor Fayers

ANZSCTS President

