



ANZSCTS

President's

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

Welcome to the Summer 2018 Newsletter



Summer Newsletter from the President:

Dear Society Member,

The year of 2017 posed many challenges for our Craft Group. As you are aware, percutaneous technologies are rapidly developing in Structural Heart Disease. Presently this remains the domain of the Cardiologist, but the overwhelming question is why? We have made significant inroads in the field of TAVI and we form part of the TAVI Accreditation Committee. Many surgeons have successfully applied for accreditation. The next important step will be to ensure that we can become Proctoring Surgeons in this field. The Board is in the process of seeking a training arrangement with the Vascular Society so that we can learn appropriate vascular access and wiring skills. This step was unanimously supported at our AGM in Melbourne by attending Members.

I encourage you to obtain a Radiation license as a first step to gain access to catheter laboratories.

Our ASM in Melbourne in association with the Association of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeons of Asia was an

overwhelming success. More than 700 delegates attended and, apart from IT issues on the opening day, most of the meeting was well received. I would again like to extend my sincere thanks to the Organising Committee and in particular Andrew Cochrane for his tireless efforts as well to all those that contributed and attended.

We are taking the meeting back to Noosa this year and there have already been several meetings held by the Organising Meeting for this event. The Co-Convenors for this meeting are Andrei Stroebel, Douglas Wall and Livia Williams to be held at the Sofitel Pacific Hotel, Noosa between 8 – 11 November 2018.

The College invited guest is Prof Valkmar Falk from Berlin Heart which is the biggest Cardiac Unit in Germany. Our other Invited Guests are Prof John Pepper, United Kingdom, Prof Anthony Linegar, South Africa and Prof Hirokuni Arai, Japan.

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons have been making inroads in ensuring better communication between Specialist Societies and the College. I attended one of the Council meetings last year and was impressed by the efforts of the College. As I stated at the AGM, our interaction with the College is very important. Specialty groups and training are carefully scrutinised as well as peer reviewed. Members supported important issues which have to be addressed; one is the process of identifying outliers in the ANZSCTS Database. It is vital that we keep this task in the Society and structure a process that correctly interprets the outcomes. Once Identified, a de-identified peer review could be the next step followed by supporting the surgeon to improve his or her outcomes by education, attending operative procedures or whatever measures required. I cannot stress enough that this should be seen as a process that supports colleagues. If we don't act on this, we might find AHPRA or other agencies review outcomes and data which will be disastrous for surgeons.

I remain certain that revalidation will be a future issue. The Members unanimously supported the concept that we as a craft group start a re-education process. A possibility would be that the curriculum is covered over a 5 year period moving between capital cities on a yearly basis. I will raise the issue with the College and remain confident that it would be supported and that CME points could be accrued. Members that are keen to form part of this initiative are invited to write to me. The sooner we embark on this the better.

Although we featured poorly in the EAC review on bullying and harassment, I am extremely proud of our craft group in complying with completing the on-line module. Similarly, our Board of Studies members are complying in modules in training.

A sincere thank you to all.

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ANZSCTS President

