

The Australian and New Zealand Society of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgeons

ABN 44503186462



Winter Newsletter

Dear ANZSCTS members,

I am writing to you as ANZSCTS Society President to update you on the challenges facing the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS). Whilst as a Society we are in a strong position with excellent corporate governance, RACS has increasingly realised that their business model of the past decades may not be the best, nor the most efficient, looking to the future. RACS has flagged a “review of College activities and operations”. Whilst RACS has sought to address “operating with respect” over the past 8 years, it now needs to modernise operations and streamline business back to core areas: selection for surgical specialty programs, surgical training and assessment, hospital accreditation and ongoing professional development and advocacy.

College Fellows and Trainees recently received an update from the RACS president (Royal Australasian College of Surgeons <RACS.Communications@surgeons.org> Date: 15/6/23 Subject: Message from the President) outlining the college’s current situation. The new RACS executive team has identified significant financial pressures facing RACS and has appointed a special advisor to advise on financial sustainability and more efficient corporate governance. The College is also looking to establish a governing board, to be advised by the Council of Fellows. The College is also considering an increase to Fellow and Trainee memberships, courses and workshop fees. As yet we have not been given specific level for the increase. Attached to this letter is a copy of the numerous college committees (168 Committees and working groups). RACS currently has over 250 employees.

The ANZSCTS executive is monitoring the RACS developments closely. We have requested more information from RACS about the specifics of their financial “redesign” and rationalisation of staff and services. We are keen to ensure trainees are not unfairly impacted by the changes. We believe RACS needs to focus upon core business delivery, and committees must be restructured to reflect this focus upon essential work. Furthermore, appropriately qualified RACS staff must be available to support all the surgical specialties.

We need a strong Society to represent Cardiac and Thoracic Surgeons in Australia and New Zealand.

The Society advocates and is responsible for:

- Expert opinion/feedback/assessment by the Department of Health (DoH) on:
 - MSAC submissions and reviews
 - TGA devices consultation/review
 - Cardiac and Thoracic MBS reviews of item numbers
 - Chair
 - DoH working groups
 - Cardiothoracic Prostheses Clinical Advisory Committee
 - Cardiac Accreditation Services Limited (accredits/re accredits operators and hospitals for TAVI, Mitraclip www.tavi.org.au)
 - Prosthesis List reforms
- National Registry of Databases (Cardiac, Thoracic and Congenital).
 - Restructure of ACSRI (ANZCTSRI) to operate the Registries.
- Annual ASMs (ANZSCTS ASM Wellington 2023, RACS ASC Adelaide 2023)—Highly successful, professionally organised conferences fully funded by the Society (with Sponsors). Member discount on registration
- Trainee workshops and grants
 - The Biannual CTS workshops are professionally organised and **fully funded by ANZSCTS**. Trainees do not pay registration fees for these workshops.

- ANZSCTS Avant Trainees dinner at the ASM.
- SET 1 and 2 Trainee ANZSCTS membership is free. Fees for SET 3 to 6 are heavily discounted (subsidised by ANZSCTS FELLOWS)
- Grants:
 - Abbott Educational Grant, Robert Xu Award, Women In Surgery, Patrick Pritzwald Stegman Award, Edwards Travel Scholarship, Baxter Travel Grant
- Heart Lung and Circulation Journal – Monthly subscription. Members also receive the Annals of Cardiothoracic Surgery Journal.
- Thoracic Journal Club
- Email updates from the Society.
- Substantial discount of insurance premiums to ANZSCTS members only from AVANT who is our Affinity MDO partner.

In summary, ANZSCTS is your Society. We are in a strong position to advocate for our members and our specialty. As always, the Executive encourages all members to get involved, for the more we speak out, the more we will be listened to. We are privileged to be able to make such a positive difference to our patients' lives, and we should continue to strive to make that difference.

RACS Committees:

Governance structure					
COUNCIL Council Executive Court of Honour Foundation for Surgery Committee Awards Committee Appeals Committee Rural Health Equity Steering Committee Indigenous Health Committee Mna Governance Committee Victoria State Committee Victoria State Executive Committee Victoria State Trauma Committee New South Wales State Committee New South Wales Executive Committee Aotearoa NZ National Committee Maori Advisory Committee Aotearoa NZ National Committee Awards Subcommittee Aotearoa NZ Trauma Sub Committee Aotearoa NZ Censors' Committee Aotearoa NZ - Younger Fellows Advisory Group Aotearoa NZ - ASM Organising Committee Northern Territory Committee ACT Committee Queensland State Committee Queensland State Executive Committee Queensland Trauma Committee Queensland YF Committee South Australia State Committee South Australia State Executive Committee South Australia Trauma Committee South Australia YF Committee Western Australia State Committee Western Australia YF Committee Tasmania State Committee Tasmania Trauma Committee ANZ Journal of Surgery Committee International Engagement Committee Global Health Program Steering Group One College Transformation Steering Group	PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND FELLOWSHIP SERVICES COMMITTEE Professional Standards and Fellowship Services Executive Committee Professional Conduct Committee Professional Standards Committee – Trauma Committee – Trauma Quality Improvement Committee – Definitive Surgical Trauma Care Committee – Trauma Verification Committee – Road Trauma Advisory SubCommittee – Conjoint Committee for Recognition of Training in Peripheral Endovascular Therapy – Surgical Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Committee – Locum Evaluation and Peer Review Committee (LEPRC) Fellowship Services Committee – Colon and Rectal Surgery Section Committee – Endocrine Surgery Section Committee – Surgical History Heritage and Archives – Medico Legal Section Committee – Military Surgery Section Committee – Pain Medicine and Surgery Section Committee – Rural Surgery Section Committee – Women in Surgery Section Committee – Younger Fellows Committee – Surgical Directors Section Committee – Surgical Oncology Section Committee – Transplant Surgery Section Committee – Upper GI/HPB Obesity Surgery Section Committee – Senior Surgeons Section Committee	Annual Scientific Congress Planning and Review Committee – 2023 - ASC Executive Committee – 2023 - ASC Section Convenors Committee – 2024 - ASC Executive Committee – 2024 - ASC Section Convenors Committee Health Policy and Advocacy Committee Surgical Audit Committee – ANZ Audits of Surgical Mortality Steering Committee – TASM Committee – WAKASM Committee – MALT Committee – SAASM Committee – NTASM Committee – QASM Committee – VASM Committee – BQA Committee (not a RACS ctee but supported by us) Research and Academic Surgery Committee – Research and Evaluation, inc: ASERNIP-S Committee – Academic Surgery Committee – Academic Surgery Executive Committee – Scholarships Evaluation and monitoring committee – ANZ Scholarship and Grant Committee Surgical Research Society Sub Committee ANZ ACS Council (not a RACS ctee but supported by us)	EDUCATION COMMITTEE Education Committee Executive Committee of Surgical Education and Training – AU Board in General Surgery – Board of Cardiothoracic – Board of Neurosurgery – Board of Otolaryngology – Board of Paediatric Surgery and Surgical Supervisors – Board of Urology – Board of Vascular – Australian Board of Orthopaedics – Australian Board of Plastics – NZ Board in General Surgery – NZ Board of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery – NZOA Education Committee – NZ National Subcommittee of the Board of Otolaryngology SIMG Committee Court of Examiners Executive – Neurosurgery Court of Examiners – Orthopaedic Court of Examiners – Otolaryngology Court of Examiners – Paediatric Court of Examiners – Plastic & Reconstructive Court of Examiners – General Court of Examiners – Paediatric Anatomy Examinations Committee – Urology Court of Examiners – Vascular Court of Examiners – Cardiothoracic Court of Examiners Prevocational and Skills Education Committee – Early Management of Severe Trauma Committee – Care of the Critically Ill Surgical Patient Committee – Critical Literature Evaluation and Research Committee – Training in Professional Skills Committee – ANZ Surgical Skills Education and Training Committee	Post Fellowship Education & Training Committee Graduate Programs in Surgical Education Reference Group RACS Trainees Association Clinical Committee GSSE Pathology Subcommittee GSSE Physiology Subcommittee GSSE Anatomy Subcommittee Surgical Sciences Exam and clinical exam Committee Professional Development Committee – Academy of Surgical Educators Committee – Operating with Respect Committee – RACS and RSE Advisory Committee (not a RACS committee, but will report back to Education Committee) SSE Committees – CSSP Committee – General Surgery Committee – Neurosurgery Committee – OHNS Committee – OPBS Committee – Paediatric Committee – PRSSP Committee – Urology Committee – Vascular Committee FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE Investment Committee Property Committee	WORKING GROUPS RHE Advisory Group RHE Curriculum Working Group GRID Working Group Robotic assisted surgery working group Clinical Academic Pathways Working Party Colorectal Cancer Audit Working Party CPD Homes Working Party STANZ Forum Clinical Trials ANZ Working Party Environmental Sustainability in Surgical Practice Working Group Virtual Clinical Exam Working Group College Centenary Working Group Building Respect Operational Working Group Code of Conduct Working Party (Pending) Hospital Training Post Accreditation Working Group (reporting to CSET) GSSE Practice Bank Working Group

Please contact me for any clarification - President@anzscts.org

Yours Sincerely,



Emily Granger
President ANZSCTS
Cardiothoracic Surgeon
Heart Lung Transplant Unit
St Vincent's Hospital Sydney.