

The Australian and New Zealand Society of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgeons

ABN 44503186462



Summer Newsletter

Dear ANZSCTS members,

Happy New Year to all!

As hospitals re-open elective Theatre lists and Cath Labs increase their workload we are all returning to the “coal face” (except those lucky individuals who drew the short straw and covered the Christmas New Year on call rosters!). 2024 promises to be another busy year for Cardiothoracic Surgery (is it ever anything but!). The society continues to support Cardiothoracic surgery education and training, with several local conferences and meetings:

- 1. Annual CT Surgery meeting of Aotearoa NZ 12-14 April 2024**
Te Papa Museum, Wellington New Zealand
Cardiothoracic Guest Speaker: Professor Bo Yang, M.D., Ph.D.
Department of Cardiac Surgery, Frankel Cardiovascular Center, University of Michigan Health, USA
- 2. Cardiothoracic Surgery Trainees Meeting 26-28 April 2024**
RACS Spring Street, Melbourne
Topic - Thoracic
- 3. RACS Annual Scientific Congress (ASC) 6-10 May 2024**
Christchurch Convention Centre, Christchurch New Zealand, 6 - 10 May 2024
Combined program with Vascular Surgery
- 4. Thoracic Education SET Workshop 20 July**
Kerry Packer Education Centre Auditorium, RPA, NSW
- 5. Cardiac Society ANZ ASM 1-4 August 2024**
Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre
ANZSCTS Victor Chang Memorial speaker Mr Rob Larbalestier, Head of Department, Fiona Stanley Hospital, Perth
- 6. ANZSCTS ASM 7-9 November at Sofitel, Noosa, QLD**
‘Generation next: Cardiothoracic Surgery for the future’
Guest speakers: Dr Amy Fielder, Dr Kendra Grubb, Dr Anson Cheung, Dr Yin Kai and Dr Jonathon Spicer.
- 7. 3SCTS 2025 in collaboration with ICCVA/IACA (19-22 November 2025, ICC Sydney)**
- 8. Victorian Thoracic Journal Club dinner meetings**
Save the Date (Potential dates and topics):
March 12th Surgery for Mesothelioma
June 11th Pulmonary Metastatectomy
October 15th Thoracic Surgery Education/Curriculum development

This year Heart Lung Circulation will be online access only. No further print versions will be sent to members. We are currently negotiating with CSANZ to extend our 5-year agreement with the publisher Elsevier. We are working with new Chief Editor Salvatore Pepe to strengthen Surgical participation on the HLC Board/Editorial, and we have recommended 3 Surgical Fellows to increase both Cardiac and Thoracic content. HLC is also looking at opening a new access clinical case report journal which will be a companion to the main publication.

Our databases continue to evolve and develop. With the foundations of the congenital database well developed, this year will hopefully see this project functioning and presenting outcome data as intended. The Society is also seeking to secure ongoing funding from Department of Health for the 3 databases.

The RACS Activities Report 2022 was released in November 2023. In summary, the report presents information about the total surgical workforce and its distribution, along with details about surgical training and examination results. In 2022, there were 8565 Fellows across Australia, New Zealand and overseas. Of these 5905 were active Fellows in Australia and 880 were active Fellows in New Zealand.

RACS admitted 268 new Australian and Aotearoa New Zealand Fellows in 2022. Female surgeons constituted just over 23 % of those who achieved Fellowship through the SET pathway. This admission increased the total number of active Fellows to over 7100. Currently, RACS has 1264 surgical trainees, with women comprising 32 % of all trainees.

The report documents **241** active Cardiothoracic Fellows (Table 1), with the 2022 CTS SET fellowship admission number being 10 (Table 2). Applications to CTS SET training average 48 over the last few years (Table 3). In 2023, there were 38 Cardiothoracic Trainees on the SET Training program and 7 SIMGs under supervision. 52 candidates applied for selection to Cardiothoracic Surgery SET in 2023 for the 2024 intake. Of these, the CSETC interviewed 24 and six candidates were offered a position on the Cardiothoracic training program.

| Location & Specialty | ACT | NSW | NT | QLD | SA | TAS | VIC | WA | AUS | NZ | O/S | TOTAL 2022 | TOTAL 2021 | % Change 21/22 | |
|----------------------|--------------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|----------------|-----|
| CAR | Male | 6 | 54 | 0 | 37 | 9 | 4 | 60 | 14 | 184 | 25 | 14 | 223 | 219 | 1.8 |
| | Female | 0 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 12 | 5 | 1 | 18 | 17 | 5.9 |
| | Unspecified | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | NA | NA |
| | Total | 6 | 59 | 0 | 39 | 9 | 4 | 64 | 15 | 196 | 30 | 15 | 241 | 236 | 2.1 |

Table 1.

| | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | |
|------------|--------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| CAR | Male | 10 | 6 | 5 | 11 | 5 | 15 | 4 | 7 | 10 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 9 |
| | Female | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| | Total | 10 | 6 | 5 | 12 | 6 | 15 | 4 | 9 | 12 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 10 |

Table 2.

| Specialty & Type | SET | SIMG | NON SIMG / Trainee ^b | Fellow | TOTAL 2022 ^a | TOTAL 2021 ^a | % Change 21/22 | |
|------------------|--------------|----------|---------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| CAR | Male | 0 | 0 | 35 | 0 | 35 | 35 | 0.0% |
| | Female | 1 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 12 | 14 | -14.3% |
| | Total | 1 | 0 | 46 | 0 | 47 | 49 | -4.1% |

Table 3.

All active Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellows have a requirement to participate in the College CPD program. In 2021 RACS launched a new CPD platform and framework.

From 1 July 2021, the new CPD requirements are determined by Area of Practice (Scope of Practice), including technical and non-technical areas. All CPD participants are required to complete the same requirements including – CPD/Learning Plan – Audit and Peer Review (minimum 10 hours) – Education Activities (min 40 hours and 2 activities) – Performance Review (min 15 hours across Performance review of Self and Others). From 1 July 2021, the CPD period will run for 18 months before returning to a calendar year in 2023.

All Society Members are reminded to maintain their CPD entry, to not only maintain surgical competency, but also ensure ongoing fellowship with RACS! The new CPD platform and CPD framework, closely aligns with the Medical Board of Australia (MBA) CPD registration standard and recertification requirements set by the Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ).

2024 membership renewals were sent out late December. I encourage all current Fellows, and trainees to renew membership, and for others, to contemplate joining the Society. ANZSCTS strongly advocates for the specialty of Cardiothoracic Surgery. With the current financial and re-accreditation challenges at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, it has never been more important to have a strong Society to represent Cardiac and Thoracic Surgeons!

https://www.surgeons.org/-/media/Project/RACS/surgeons-org/files/reports-guidelines-publications/workforce-activities-census-reports/2022_RACS_ActivitiesReport_Web_final.pdf?rev=9536e2ab9e9149a1a24e2d2d0d5a6dea&hash=9B9D0982964DABDA4FFC0A52432EC37B

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

Yours Sincerely,



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