

Developing a Career in Academic Surgery Course



Sunday 6 May 2012

Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Malaysia

Presented by:
Association for Academic Surgery
in partnership with the
RACS Section of Academic Surgery



Royal Australasian College of Surgeons,
Section of Academic Surgery

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RACS Section of Academic Surgery

Associate Professor Lillian Kao
Association for Academic Surgery

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Mr Richard Hanney

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Course Organiser:

Ms Caroline Handley RACS Conferences & Events Management

This educational activity has been approved in the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons' CPD Program. Fellows who participate can claim one point per hour (maximum 8 points) in Category 7: Other Professional Development towards 2012 CPD totals.

Intention to Photograph

Please be advised that photographs may be taken at the Course and reproduced.

Final Program

7:00am Registration and Breakfast

7:15am Welcome
Ian Civil, RACS President (Auckland)

7:20am Introduction
Melina Kibbe (Chicago, USA) and Andrew Hill (Auckland)

SESSION 1: STARTING AND PLANNING YOUR RESEARCH CAREER

Meeting Room 408 and 409

Moderators: Scott LeMaire (Houston, USA) and Arthur Richardson (Sydney)

7:30am Why every surgeon can and should be an academic surgeon
Mark Smithers (Brisbane)

7:50am Research pathways: Outcomes, Translational, Educational, Basic science – which one is right for you?
Allan Tsung (Pittsburgh, USA)

8:10am Where do good ideas and research questions come from?
Russell Gruen (Melbourne)

8:30am Critical ethical issues in medical and surgical research
Timothy Pawlik (Baltimore, USA)

8:50am Understanding statistics for clinical research and trials
Lillian Kao (Houston, USA)

9:10am Panel discussion and questions from the floor

9:30am **MORNING TEA**



SESSION 2: PRESENTING YOUR WORK TO PROGRESS YOUR CAREER

Meeting Room 408 and 409

Moderators: Timothy Pawlik (Baltimore, USA) and Raffi Qasabian (Sydney)

- 9:50am Writing an abstract, choosing your journal
Malcolm Brock (Baltimore, USA)
- 10:10am Submitting and revising your manuscript
Melina Kibbe (Chicago, USA)
- 10:30am Delivering an effective research presentation
Gregory Kennedy (Madison, USA)
- 10:50am Networking and building academic collaborations
Daniel Anaya (Houston, USA)
- 11:05am Building a research group/program (who is right for the roles and how to manage them)
Leigh Delbridge (Sydney)
- 11:20am Panel discussion and questions from the floor
- 11:50am **KEYNOTE LECTURE: Training, academic surgery and private practice**
Michael Solomon (Sydney)
- 12:20pm **LUNCH – Faculty at tables with registrants as small group discussions**

CONCURRENT SESSIONS:

SESSION 3: EARLY ACADEMIC CAREERS

Meeting Room 410

Moderators: Melina Kibbe (Chicago, USA) and Julie Howle (Sydney)

1:00pm Building a career pathway: opportunities, obstacles and getting past them
Daniel Anaya (Houston, USA), Erica Jacobson (Sydney)

1:20pm Timing research projects – how much time is right, and when to fit it in?
John Windsor (Auckland)

1:40pm How do I get started as an academic surgeon?
Michael Vallely (Sydney)

2:00pm Why a trainee should consider doing fulltime surgical research
Pary Singh (Auckland)

2:20pm Panel discussion

SESSION 4: CAREER PATHWAY DEVELOPMENT

Meeting Room 408 and 409

Moderators: Gregory Kennedy (Madison, USA) and Russell Stitz (Brisbane)

1:00pm How do Post-graduate degrees lead to promotion? Choosing a pg degree, nil v Masters v Doctorate
Guy Maddern (Adelaide)

1:20pm Why should surgeons be into genomics? – the essentials
Andrew Biankin (Sydney)

1:40pm Writing a successful Ethics application
Jane Young (Sydney)

2:00pm Building and presenting an academic CV/ promotion as an educator
Andrew Hill (Auckland)

2:20pm Panel discussion

SESSION 5: WORKSHOPPING CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

Meeting Room 406

Moderators: Diane Simeone (Michigan, USA) and Marc Gladman (Sydney)

1:00pm Study design workshop to brainstorm current issues – attendees to bring current research and study challenges for discussion

Allan Tsung (Pittsburgh, USA), Timothy Pawlik (Baltimore, USA), Ian McInnes (Melbourne), Jonathan Serpell (Melbourne)

SESSION 6: GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP

Meeting Room 407

Moderator: Malcolm Brock (Baltimore, USA) and Robert Thomas (Melbourne)

1:00pm Grant Writing workshop

Scott LeMaire (Houston, USA), Susan Stott (Auckland), Wayne Morrison (Melbourne)

2:40pm AFTERNOON TEA

SESSION 7: PLANNING A SUSTAINABLE CAREER

Meeting Room 408 and 409

Moderators: Lillian Kao (Houston, USA) and Andrew Hill (Auckland)

- 3:00pm Doing an overseas Fellowship – how to choose wisely
Warren Hargreaves (Sydney)
- 3:15pm Putting it all together and remaining sane – observations from outside the club
Richard Hanney (Sydney)
- 3:30pm Questions from the floor to all faculty
- 3:45pm The future of academic surgery, and closing remarks
John Windsor (Auckland)



Invited Speakers and Program Contributors

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Association for Academic Surgery Invited Speakers



Assistant Professor Daniel Anaya

Dr Daniel A. Anaya is an Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Division of Surgical Oncology at the Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery in Baylor College of Medicine. He is also a Staff Surgeon and Director of the Cancer Center and Liver Tumor

Program at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston, and a Research Scientist at the Houston Health Services and Research Center of Excellence of the same institution. Dr Anaya's clinical interests include the multidisciplinary management of patients with GI malignancies focusing on Hepatobiliary primary and metastatic cancer.

Dr Anaya's research focuses on Health Services and Outcomes Research in patients with primary and metastatic liver cancer, in elderly patients with GI malignancies, and in the field of surgical infections in the cancer population. His research goals include, among others, improving the healthcare delivery system for complex cancer patients through the use of telemedicine applications, and in characterizing less traditional postoperative outcomes in elderly cancer patients, such as outcomes of care transitions and HRQOL following cancer treatments.

Dr Anaya completed medical school training at Universidad Javeriana in Bogota, Colombia and then completed a General Surgery Residency at The University of Washington in Seattle. He then pursued subspecialty training in Surgical Oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Center. Since joining the faculty at Baylor College of Medicine in 2008, Dr Anaya has received different grants supporting his research including the Dan L. Duncan Cancer Center Junior Scholar Award, three grants from the VA system and a Career Development Award from the Conquer Cancer Foundation. He has also authored and co-authored several book chapters and peer-reviewed manuscripts.

Dr Anaya is an active member of various surgical and cancer organizations including the American Society of Clinical Oncology, the Society of Surgical Oncology, the Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association, and the Association for Academic Surgery (AAS), where he has been actively involved with different leadership initiatives. He has served as the Chair of the AAS-Colombia Task Force since 2010 and during this role he helped establish a formal relationship between the two surgical societies, which has resulted in several programs benefitting members from each society. He is currently the Co-Chair of the Leadership Committee in the AAS, and in this position has been actively involved with the curriculum and organization of the AAS Career Development Course, among other initiatives.



Associate Professor Lillian Kao MD, MS

Dr Kao is Associate Professor of Surgery and Critical Care and Co-Director of the Center for Surgical Trials and Evidence-based Practice (C-STEP) at the University of Texas Health Science Center

at Houston (UT Health). She has a Masters Degree in Clinical Research and co-directs several courses for the Masters Program at UT Health including Clinical Trials and Advanced Clinical Study Designs. She has received two career development awards (NIH K23 and Robert Wood Johnson Physician Faculty Scholars Award) as well as other intra- and extramural grants. Her research interests are surgical infections, quality improvement and patient safety, and the dissemination and implementation of evidence-based measures in surgery. She is currently on the editorial board for the Journal of the American College of Surgeons and is a member of the steering committee for the Evidence-Based Reviews in General Surgery. She has recently completed a two-year term as Secretary of the Association for Academic Surgery, having subsequently been elected as the AAS President-elect.



Assistant Professor Gregory Kennedy

Gregory Kennedy received his MD from the University of Washington in Seattle, WA. He received his PhD in Molecular Oncology from the University of Wisconsin - Madison and completed his training in

general and colon and rectal surgery at the University of Wisconsin and Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, respectively. He is an Assistant Professor of Surgery at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and PublicHealth. His funded laboratory program focuses on mechanisms of receptor-mediated colon carcinogenesis. His laboratory employs systems biology approaches to better understand the transcriptional and epigenetic changes induced by environmental exposures and how these changes modulate susceptibility to tumorigenesis.



Associate Professor Melina Kibbe

Melina R. Kibbe, MD, is an Associate Professor of Surgery, the Edward G. Elcock Professor of Surgical Research, and Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Surgery at Northwestern University;

co-Chief of the Vascular Surgery service at the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center, and Director of the Vascular Laboratory at the VA. Dr Kibbe also serves as Deputy Director for the Institute for BioNanotechnology in Medicine at Northwestern University. She has significant experience with both open and endovascular surgery, including the treatment of carotid stenosis, peripheral vascular disease, and abdominal aortic aneurysms. She is board certified in general and vascular surgery and is RVT and RPVI certified.

Dr Kibbe's research interests focus on nitric oxide vascular biology and developing novel and innovative nitric oxide-based therapies for patients with vascular disease. For her research, she has received funds from the National Institutes of Health, American Heart Association, Department of Veterans Affairs, American Medical Association, and various intramural sources. She holds five patents or provisional patents. Her research was recognized by President Obama with the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers in 2009. Her bibliography includes over 130 peer-reviewed manuscripts, review articles, and book chapters, with an emphasis on nitric oxide vascular biology and nitric oxide-based therapies.

She currently serves as President for the Association for Academic Surgery. She is also an Associate Editor of the *Journal of Surgical Research*. She has received more than 10 awards for teaching excellence from Northwestern University. She co-founded and is the Chief Medical Officer for VesselTek BioMedical, LLC, a company that specializes in the development of medical devices to treat vascular disease. Dr Kibbe graduated from the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine in 1994. She completed her internship, residency, and research fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in 2002, and her vascular surgery fellowship at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in 2003.



Professor Scott LeMaire

Scott A. LeMaire, M.D. is a Professor of Surgery and of Molecular Physiology and Biophysics, the Director of Research in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Michael E. DeBakey Department of Surgery at Baylor College of Medicine, and

an attending physician on the Cardiovascular Surgery Service of the Texas Heart Institute at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital in Houston, Texas. Dr LeMaire graduated from Northwestern University Medical School in 1992 and completed residency training in cardiothoracic surgery at Baylor College of Medicine in 1999. His primary clinical interest focuses on the management of patients with thoracic aortic disease, with a particular emphasis on treatment of aortic dissection and thoracoabdominal aortic aneurysms. His corresponding research program focuses on organ protection during aortic surgery, genetic aspects of thoracic aortic disease, and molecular mechanisms of aortic degeneration. He has received funding from the National Institutes of Health and the Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Research and Education for his research studying the pathobiology of thoracic aortic aneurysms and aortic dissection. Dr LeMaire is the immediate past-president of the Association for Academic Surgery. He has been married for 19 years and has two children.



Associate Professor Malcolm Brock MD

*Department of Surgery and
Oncology, Johns Hopkins School
of Medicine, Baltimore, USA*

Dr Brock specializes in thoracic oncology at Johns Hopkins and he conducts research at its Sidney

Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Centre. His main research interests are in developing novel molecular biomarkers for solid tumors that can help earlier cancer diagnosis and treatment. Recently, his laboratory utilized a basic research DNA technique to predict patients who will develop recurrent lung cancer despite successful surgery, and to predict chemotherapeutic drug sensitivity in patients with oesophageal cancer. Dr Brock has published over 70 original Research Papers as well as numerous book chapters and review articles.



Associate Professor Timothy Pawlik MPH FACS

Director of Surgical Oncology and Hepatobiliary Program Director, Johns Hopkins Department of Surgery and Oncology, Baltimore, USA

Dr Pawlik completed his surgical training at the University of Michigan Hospital and spent two years at the Massachusetts General Hospital as a surgical oncology research fellow before undertaking advanced training in surgical oncology at M. D. Anderson Cancer Centre in Houston. His main clinical interests include alimentary tract surgery with a special interest in hepatic and pancreatobiliary diseases. He has published over 170 papers in peer-reviewed journals, co-authored 26 book chapters and is a member of the editorial board of seven journals, including J Gastrointestinal Surgery and Annals of Surgical Oncology.



Professor Diane Simeone FACS

Professor of Surgery in the Section of General Surgery Division of Hepatopancreatobiliary & Advanced Gastro-intestinal Surgery; Professor of Molecular and Integrative Physiology; University of Michigan, Michigan, USA

Dr Diane Simeone is the Lazar J. Greenfield Endowed Professor of Surgery and Division Chief of HPB and Advanced GI Surgery at the University of Michigan Medical Center. Dr Simeone's principal clinical interest is in the management of pancreatic neoplasms. She is the Director of the Multidisciplinary Pancreatic Tumor Program and the HPB Surgical Fellowship at the University of Michigan Cancer Center. Professor Simeone has multiple NIH grants investigating the molecular mechanisms important in the development and progression of pancreatic adenocarcinoma and the function of cancer stem cells. She currently serves as the Associate Editor of the journal Gastroenterology and is the past-President of the Society of University Surgeons and the American Pancreatic Association.



Dr Allan Tsung

Dr Allan Tsung is currently an Assistant Professor of Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh and holds the Roberta Simmons Endowed Chair. He completed both his general surgery residency and hepatobiliary/pancreas surgery

fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh. In addition to Dr Tsung's clinical practice of liver and pancreatic surgery, he also directs multiple hepatobiliary clinical trials and co-leads the liver-directed therapy program for primary and metastatic liver cancer. Dr Tsung's research focus is on studying the role of endogenous damage-associated molecular pattern molecules and pattern recognition receptors in inflammation of the liver during ischemia/reperfusion injury and in tumorigenesis of primary and metastatic liver cancers. His studies have led to the novel realization that high mobility group box 1 (HMGB1), a nuclear protein involved in regulating interactions between DNA and transcription factors, can act as a key alarm molecule when released extracellularly by hepatocytes during ischemic stress to active inflammatory responses. These findings have been published in leading scientific journals such as the Journal of Experimental Medicine, Journal of Immunology, Hepatology, and Journal of Leukocyte Biology. In recognition of his research accomplishments, Dr Tsung has been honored with the American College of Surgeons Excellence in Research Award, the University of Pittsburgh Innovators Award, and the Doris B. Maxwell Research Award. His research is supported by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, National Institutes of Health, Society of University Surgeons, and the American College of Surgeons. In addition to publishing over 70 peer-reviewed manuscripts and authoring four book chapters, Dr Tsung also has given multiple invited lectures at national and international meetings and has served on the executive board of the Association of Academic Surgery.

RACS Section of Academic Surgery Invited Speakers and Program Contributors



**Professor Andrew V. Biankin
FRACS**

Professor Biankin is a Surgeon Scientist who specialises in Pancreatic Diseases, particularly focusing on Pancreatic Cancer and its precursor lesions. His clinical practice is part of a specialist unit

treating pancreatic disease. His research is focused on translating scientific discoveries into patient care through improved application of current therapies, early detection and novel therapeutics.

He is the clinical lead of the Australian Pancreatic Cancer Genome Initiative with Prof. Sean Grimmond of the QCMG (scientific lead), which aims to sequence the genome, transcriptome and epigenome of approximately 400 pancreatic cancers as part of the International Cancer Genome Consortium.



Professor Leigh Delbridge FRACS

Leigh Delbridge is Professor and Head of Surgery at the University of Sydney. He has just completed his 2 year term as President of the International Association of Endocrine Surgeons, and was formerly Head of the Division of

Surgery at Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney for 10 years. His clinical and research interests are now solely confined to thyroid and parathyroid surgery and he performs over 500 thyroid or parathyroid procedures each year. He is married with 5 children, and enjoys off-road cycling.



**Professor Marc A Gladman
MBBS DRCOG DFFP PhD MRCOG
MRCS (Eng) FRCS (Gen Surg)**

Professor Marc Gladman is Professor of Colorectal Surgery at the Concord Clinical School and Academic Head of the Concord Colorectal Unit ,

School of Medicine, University of Sydney, Australia.

Marc is a colorectal surgeon whose chief clinical interests are minimally invasive surgery for colon and rectal cancer and inflammatory bowel disease and functional colorectal and pelvic floor disorders. He trained in both obstetrics and gynaecology and general surgery in London and Sydney before being appointed to the position of Foundation Professor of Surgery at Blacktown Hospital and Chair of Surgery at the University of Western Sydney.

His abiding research interest is the understanding of large bowel function in health and disease and the application of such knowledge to improve

the care of patients, especially from a surgical perspective. His current interests relate to at trying to understand the molecular, electrophysiological and neuropathophysiological basis of gastrointestinal conditions using integrated basic science and clinical methodologies.

He has won the prestigious Frances and Augustus Newman Foundation Research Fellowship and the HJ Windsor Prize of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and The Worshipful Company of Cutlers' Fellowship in Surgery. He was also one of the first surgeons in the UK to be appointed by the National Institute of Health Research which enabled him to combine clinical work and postdoctoral research studies in Europe and Australia.

He has written numerous textbooks, including the highly acclaimed "Clinical Cases and OSCEs in Surgery", which has won recognition at the British Medical Association national book awards. His interests in surgical education focus on the development, validation and implementation of competency-based models that employ web-based and multimedia platforms.



**Professor Russell Gruen MBBS,
PhD, FRACS**

Professor Russell Gruen MBBS, PhD, FRACS, is Professor of Surgery and Public Health at Monash University, Director of the National Trauma Research Institute, and is a general and trauma surgeon at

The Alfred. He is also an NHMRC Practitioner Fellow. His roles encompass generating research ideas, securing research funding, planning, conducting and supervising projects, ensuring good research governance, and translating research into practice.

Russell graduated in medicine from the University of Melbourne, trained in general surgery at St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne, and then in trauma surgery and surgical critical care at Harborview Medical Centre in Seattle, USA. From 2006 to 2009 he was Associate Professor of Surgery at the University of Melbourne and Royal Melbourne Hospital. He received a PhD for his study of the delivery of surgical services to remote and disadvantaged Aboriginal communities in northern Australia. In 2002-2003 he was a Harkness Fellow in Health Care Policy and a Fellow in Medical Ethics at Harvard University in Boston, USA, studying medical professionalism and the public roles of doctors. Russell has received research funding totalling more than \$11 million, and has authored over 90 publications in peer-reviewed journals. He has also been awarded a RACS G. J. Royal Medal, a General Surgeons Australia Medal, and a Travelling Fellowship of the James IV Association of Surgeons.



Mr Warren Hargreaves FRACS

Mr Hargreaves is a General Surgeon practising in Sydney, with a sub-specialty interest in Surgical Oncology. His main area of clinical practice is soft tissue tumours - breast, sarcoma and skin. After training in NSW, Mr Hargreaves

undertook a clinical Fellowship in the Department of Academic Surgery - Rare Cancer Service at the Royal Marsden Hospital in London England. Apart from his clinical work Mr Hargreaves is a Senior Lecturer and Discipline Head in Surgery at the University of Notre Dame and is currently the Chair of the NSW/ACT Regional Board in General Surgery.



Professor Andrew Hill FRACS

Professor Andrew Hill completed a Doctorate in Surgery from the University of Auckland in 1996 and a Doctorate in Education in 2011. Following a research fellowship at Harvard University in 1993 and 1994, Andrew completed surgical training

in 1997 and worked in Kenya as a medical missionary. Andrew returned to the South Auckland Clinical School at Middlemore Hospital in 2002 where he now practices as a Colorectal Surgeon and is the Head of the South Auckland Clinical School. He has received extensive research funding from the University and from External Sources and has used this to develop a significant research portfolio.

His research interests are improving outcomes from major abdominal surgery and medical education and he has published over 100 peer-reviewed papers in these areas. Andrew leads the Auckland Enhanced Recovery after Surgery (AERAS), an interdisciplinary research group aiming to improve patient outcomes after major surgery. This group runs a once yearly international symposium on enhancing recovery.



Dr Julie Howle FRACS

Dr Julie Howle is a surgical oncologist based at Westmead Hospital in Sydney and is a clinical lecturer at Sydney University. Since graduating with a MBBS (Hons I) from the University of Sydney in 1998, she has worked

in many hospitals in the Sydney metropolitan area and rural NSW. In 2006 she obtained her FRACS in General Surgery and spent the subsequent 2 years in Sydney as the Fellow in the Head and Neck/Surgical Oncology Unit at Westmead hospital and Senior Registrar/Fellow in Breast and Surgical Oncology at Prince of Wales Hospital. She has worked as a consultant surgeon at Westmead Hospital since 2008 and completed a Master of Surgery degree during her first 2 years as a consultant. She is affiliated with the Melanoma Institute of Australia and her research interests include Merkel cell carcinoma, advanced non-melanoma skin cancer, melanoma and soft tissue tumours.



Professor Guy Maddern FRACS

Professor Guy Maddern is the RP Jepson Professor of Surgery at the University of Adelaide and Director of Surgery at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Currently he is Head of the Discipline of Surgery and Head of the School of Medicine of the

University of Adelaide. He is Surgical Director of the Australian Safety and Efficacy Register of New Interventional Procedures – Surgical (ASERNIP-S). His clinical interests include the physiological impact of laparoscopic surgery, and more recently the development of techniques to manage metastatic hepatic disease. He has over 300 publications in scientific journals and has contributed to over a dozen surgical publications.

Professor Maddern is also Director of the Basil Hetzel Institute at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital charged with the responsibility of defining the future direction and development of research within The Queen Elizabeth Hospital campus. He has received in excess of \$29,000,000 in research funding and his current research focus brings together the development, assessment and introduction of surgical techniques, processes and technologies into clinical practice.



Dr Ian McInnes FRACS

Ian McInnes is Associate Professor of surgery at Monash University. He was research fellow at Alfred Hospital during 1970s, during the development of cardiopulmonary bypass surgery and was involved with the early development of drug trials.

Past senior surgeon at the Alfred Hospital and member of the Court of Examiners of the College, he has been interested in training and advising junior surgeons. Now retired from practical surgery, he maintains an advisory role in surgical training and development.



Professor Jonathan Serpell FRACS

Jonathan Serpell is Professor and Director of General Surgery at The Alfred Hospital and Monash University as well as Head of the Breast, Endocrine and General Surgery Unit at The Alfred Hospital.

He is also the Head of the Breast, Endocrine Surgery and Surgical Oncology Unit at Frankston Hospital. His major research interest is in Endocrine Surgery and he obtained his Doctorate in Medicine on Soft Tissue Sarcomas. Professor Serpell is currently Chairman of the Endocrine Section of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and Senior Examiner of the Specialty Court of Examiners in General Surgery (2nd Part Examinations) at the College. He is President of the Australian Endocrine Surgeons and Speciality Editor for Endocrine Surgery with the ANZ Journal of Surgery. He established The Monash University Endocrine Surgery Unit in 2007.



Dr Parry Singh

Dr Singh is a Surgical research fellow at the South Auckland Clinical School, University of Auckland. He is currently doing full time research towards a PhD under the supervision of Professor Andrew Hill. Dr Singh was awarded the Ruth

Spencer Medical Research Fellowship for his research which will explore the impact of surgical inflammation on postoperative morbidity and recovery following elective colorectal surgery.



Associate Professor Mark Smithers MBBS (Qld), FRACS, FRCS (Eng)

Associate Professor, Deputy Head, Discipline of Surgery, University of Queensland

Director, Upper Gastro-intestinal and Soft Tissue Unit, Princess

Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane

Chairman, Queensland Melanoma Project

Executive, Section of Academic Surgery, RACS

Member, Scientific Advisory Committee of the Australasian Gastro-Intestinal Trials Group

President, Australia and New Zealand Gastric and Oesophageal Surgeons Association

Clinical interests: malignant and benign conditions of the oesophago-gastric region; management of patients with sarcoma and malignant melanoma.

Clinical research into outcomes from treatment for oesophageal cancer, gastric cancer, GIST and melanoma. Investigator on grants assessing the epidemiology of Barrett's oesophagus, the management of oesophageal cancer (NIH, USA and NH&MRC) and aspects of the management of melanoma (NH&MRC, Cancer Council of Queensland). Also institutional principle investigator on industry lead phase I, II and III studies of patients with advanced stages of melanoma.



Professor Michael Solomon FRACS

Professor Michael Solomon is a consultant surgeon and Academic Head of the Department of Colorectal Surgery at the Royal Prince Alfred in Sydney. He is a Clinical Professor of Surgery and

Director of Colorectal Research, both for Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and the University of Sydney and is a past President of the Colorectal Surgical Society of Australia & New Zealand (CSSANZ). He is the immediate past Chairman of the Post-FRACS Training Board in Colorectal Surgery of RACS & CSSANZ of which he has remained a member for 16 years. He is on the editorial board of DCR, Colorectal Disease & Int J Colorectal Diseases.

Professor Solomon has extensive experience in clinical surgical research and has published over 180 papers and obtained over 9 million dollars in peer reviewed research grants. He is the Founding Director and Head of the Surgical Outcomes Research Centre (SOuRCe) at the University of Sydney which was established as a multidisciplinary, academic research unit dedicated to the advancement of evidence-based surgical practice through the conduct of outcomes-orientated surgical research. Professor Solomon's surgical expertise is in multi-disciplined complex pelvic surgery for advanced and recurrent malignancy, inflammatory bowel disease and pelvic floor disorders as well as laparoscopic colorectal surgery. His current research interests lie in developing maximally invasive techniques for advanced pelvic malignancy, clinical trials of minimally invasive colorectal surgery and the assessment and performance of randomised and alternative clinical trial designs for surgical operations.



Russell Stitz AM, RFD. MBBS, FRACS, FRCS Eng, FRCS Ed (Hon), FCSHK (Hon), FRCST (Hon), ASDA

Russell Stitz is a Senior Surgeon in the Colorectal Unit at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH) and at the Wesley Hospital

and is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Queensland. He is currently the Health Quality and Complaints Commissioner in Queensland and is Chairman of the National Lead Clinicians Group. He chairs the Specialist Connect Board and has been the Professor of Clinical Surgery at RBWH and Head of the Surgical Discipline for the University of Queensland (2008-2011).

After completing his surgical training at RBWH, he extended his experience in the United Kingdom where he trained in Colorectal Surgery at St Mark's Hospital, London. In 2001, he returned to the latter Hospital as the Sir Alan Parks Visiting Professor. He has been Chairman of the Section of Colon and Rectal Surgery of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and is a Past President of the Colorectal Surgical Society of Australia and New Zealand. He is an Honorary Member of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, the Association of Coloproctology of Great Britain and Ireland and the Section of Coloproctology of the Royal Society of Medicine. He has been a pioneer in the development of laparoscopic colorectal surgery and has published and presented on many aspects of colorectal disease.

Dr Stitz served on the Council of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons from 1998 to 2007 and chaired the Professional Development and Standards Board for three years. In May 2005, he assumed the role of President of the College completing his term of office in May 2007. From 2007 to 2009 he was Chairman of the Committee of Presidents of Medical Colleges (CPMC). He served on the Australian Medical Council from 2007 to 2011 and was a Director from 2009-2011.



In 2002/2003, he was President of the Australian Medical Association in Queensland and has served on the Board of the Wesley Hospital in Brisbane. Currently, he is on the Board of the Wesley Research Institute. From 1988-1992, he was Chairman of the Medical Staff Association at the Royal Brisbane Hospital. He has had a long career in the Army Reserve holding the rank of Colonel (Ret) in the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps.

He has a major interest in training particularly in advanced laparoscopic surgery and continues his commitment to safety and quality in health care.



Associate Professor Susan Stott FRACS

Associate Professor Susan Stott is based at the Department of Surgery, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, University of Auckland and has a part-time appointment as paediatric

orthopaedic surgeon at Starship Children's Hospital. A/P Stott is a current Council member on the Health Research Council of New Zealand and for many years was a member of the Grants Committee of the Auckland Medical Research Foundation. She has served as Editorial Secretary for the New Zealand Orthopaedic Association and is past President of the Australasian Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine. Her major research interests are in the area of physical disability in children and the impact of acquired neurological disorders such as cerebral palsy on musculoskeletal functioning in childhood. She has received funding from the Health Research Council, Lottery Health, Neurological Foundation and the Cerebral Palsy Society of New Zealand to support her research.



Professor Robert Thomas OAM FRACS

Bob Thomas graduated from Medicine from the University of Melbourne and trained in surgery at the Royal Melbourne Hospital as well as in England and Boston. He was appointed as surgeon at the

Royal Melbourne Hospital and senior Lecturer with University of Melbourne.

Bob Thomas was the first Professor of Surgery at the Western Hospital and this was followed by appointment as Professor and Director of Surgical Oncology at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. He demitted from this position in December 2009 and was appointed the Victorian government's Chief Clinical Advisor for Cancer and Chair of the Advisory Council of the Victorian Cancer Agency.

Professor Thomas has been heavily involved in the development of cancer reforms within Australia. He has been a past President of the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia, Chair of the National Committee creating the Colorectal Cancer Guidelines and a member of the Ministerial Taskforce on Cancer.

He was instrumental in the development of the discipline of Surgical Oncology in Australasia and was responsible for the creation of the Surgical Oncology Group within the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. He is the immediate past Editor-in-Chief of the ANZ Journal of Surgery and has served as Chair of National Health and Medical Research Council panels. Professor Thomas has ongoing research interests in the molecular pathology of gastrointestinal tumours.

He has published over 100 peer reviewed scientific papers and book chapters. He was honoured by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons with the "Excellence in Surgery Award".



Professor John Windsor FRACS

Professor John Windsor holds a personal chair in Surgery at the University of Auckland, and is Director of Surgical Research. He founded the Pancreas Research Group (1992), Surgical Skills Centre (1993), HPB/UGI Unit (1994), Surgical

Research Network (2007) which now encompasses the Applied Surgery and Metabolism Laboratory (2010) and the Surgical Trials Unit (2011). Special clinical interests include the management of acute and chronic pancreatitis, pancreatic cancer, GORD and gastro-oesophageal malignancy. His current research includes the role of toxic mesenteric lymph in the promotion of multiple organ failure, the investigation of specific mitochondrial therapies to restore cellular bioenergetics, the mapping and modulation of gastric electrical activity and the development of medical devices. Over the last 5 years he has published 80 manuscripts, raised \$6m in grants and given over 100 invited talks, including Visiting Professorships to Harvard, Oxford, Karolinska, Singapore, Capetown and Delhi. He is co-founder and a director of the start-up SIMTICS Ltd that has developed the 'Integrated Cognitive Simulator' for procedural and surgical skills training. Awarded the Butland Distinguished Medical Science Award (1997), Butland Award for Excellence in Research Supervision (2009), Tertiary Teaching Excellence Award (2009) from the University of Auckland and elected as an Honorary Fellow of the American Surgical Association (2012). He was recently appointed chair of the National Steering Group for Upper GI Cancer. In the RACS he was involved in the development of the CLEAR, Surgeons as Teachers and the DCAS courses. Professor Windsor is currently on the Board of the Academy Surgical Educators and Chairman of the Section of Academic Surgery in the RACS.

Mr Richard Hanney FRACS

Dr Erica Jacobson FRACS

Professor Wayne Morrison FRACS

Dr Raffi Qasabian FRACS

Associate Professor Arthur Richardson FRACS

Associate Professor Michael Vallely FRACS

Dr Jane Young



Abstracts

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RESEARCH PATHWAYS: OUTCOMES, TRANSLATIONAL, EDUCATIONAL, BASIC SCIENCE-WHICH ONE IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

Allan Tsung MD

There are many research paths a surgeon can take in pursuit of an academic career. While basic science research aims to increase understand and knowledge of diseases, clinical research is required to evaluate new medications or treatments for both safety and efficacy. However as clinicians, we have the unique opportunity to develop the "bench to bedside and back" approach-translational research. In addition, with the modern emphasis on understanding the end results of our health care practices and training of future surgeons, outcomes and educational research are also important and growing fields. Deciding on which research pathways to pursue can be formidable for a trainee or young faculty. There are also important factors to consider when choosing the appropriate research career path. We will discuss the various research pathways, specialized training/experience and resources needed to optimize chances of success, and important milestones to achieve.

CRITICAL ETHICAL ISSUES IN MEDICAL AND SURGICAL RESEARCH

Timothy Pawlik MD MPH

There is increasing awareness and concern about the importance of ethics in both the practice of medicine and research. In particular, biomedical / surgical research – which involves the search for new technologies, techniques, and therapies – is frequently at the center of ethical issues. In fact, ethical issues are often at the forefront of both clinical and basic science research. Ethical concerns around clinical research include informed consent, respect for autonomy, acceptable risk-benefit ratio, and ensuring that the research is scientifically rigorous enough to justify human subject involvement. Investigators involved in basic science research frequently find themselves confronted with issues of honesty and objectivity, multiple conflicts of interest, as well as controversy regarding authorship and publication of data. Learning to identify and handle ethical issues in research is an important skill for academic surgeons. Ethical conduct of surgical research is not only part of each surgeon's professional identity, but also defines us as leaders among peers. Although an exhaustive review of the ethical issues involved in surgical research is beyond the scope of this course, the presentation will highlight the main ethical issues that arise in the setting of surgical research.

UNDERSTANDING STATISTICS FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH AND TRIALS

Lillian S. Kao MD, MS, FACS

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

Statistics should be considered in every phase of a research study design. First, proper understanding of p-values and confidence intervals will assist in reviewing the existing literature. Second, sources of bias and statistical methods for adjusting for confounding variables should be considered in choosing a study design. Third, the hypothesis and primary outcome of the study should be clearly stated. Fourth, sample size calculations should be performed prior to embarking on a trial to determine feasibility and resource requirements. Acceptable error rates, baseline incidence of the outcome, magnitude of the minimum clinically important treatment effect, and possible dropout rates all

impact these calculations. Fifth, once data are obtained, descriptive statistics such as measures of frequency (categorical data), and central tendency, dispersion, and distribution (continuous data) should be determined. The appropriate statistical test(s) should be determined based upon: whether there are multiple independent and/or dependent variables, the number of groups being compared, whether the outcome variable is categorical or continuous, whether the data are paired or dependent, and whether the data are normally distributed. When research results are published, the statistical methods used to derive the results should be clearly stated and the limitations of the data and study design should be acknowledged. Ultimately, a basic knowledge of statistics is required to perform high quality research and to interpret and disseminate the results.

SUBMITTING AND REVISING A SCIENTIFIC MANUSCRIPT

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Writing is often regarded as an unfavorable or difficult task, and is frequently left to the last minute out of dislike, lack of confidence, or lack of know-how. However, writing can be fun, and the fruits of your labor can have substantial benefits. The purpose of this presentation is to convey why it is important to write, especially in academia, and why it is important to learn how to write and revise manuscripts well. Specifically, this presentation addresses how to get started writing, including how to choose the appropriate journal, how to write a manuscript for peer-review publication, the order in which to write the manuscript sections, and provides detailed suggestions for how to write each section. This presentation also addresses the importance of revising a manuscript, as well as use of good English language grammar and effective writing strategies. Finally, and importantly, the topic of how to respond to reviewer comments and revise a manuscript according to these comments is discussed. It is often this last step that dictates if a manuscript is accepted or rejected for publication. Authors all too frequently overlook, gloss over, or rush through this aspect of paper writing, to their detriment. In summary, this presentation is designed to provide a framework for authors to write, submit, and revise a scientific manuscript for peer-review publication while at the same time deconstructing manuscript writing so that it can be an enjoyable, non-daunting task.

DELIVERING AN EFFECTIVE RESEARCH PRESENTATION

Gregory D. Kennedy, MD, PhD

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Delivering an effective research presentation is of paramount importance to success in academic surgery. One must understand the basics of getting research across to people of all knowledge levels. The goal of this presentation is to provide the participant with simple, straightforward guidelines for delivering an effective research presentation. These guidelines include: 1. Engage your audience. Explain the importance of your work to the audience in clear terms. 2. Do not view your presentation as a speech. Good research should tell a story and your presentation is your time to verbalize that story. Finally, 3. Practice, practice, practice – with enough practice the day of your presentation will go smoothly and the audience will be impressed with your style.

BUILDING A RESEARCH GROUP/PROGRAM (WHO IS RIGHT FOR THE ROLES AND HOW TO MANAGE THEM)

Leigh Delbridge FRACS

University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia

The University of Sydney Endocrine Surgical Unit has a strong group structure with three academic surgeons supported by a team of doctoral students, masters students, international clinical research fellows, and honours research students, as well as scientists, surgical registrars, database managers and administrative personnel. Output of the group includes over 20 PubMed listed publications each year, and the unit has now trained 12 academic surgeons occupying professorial level posts in major endocrine surgical units around the world. The younger members of the group, who had expressed an interest in joining the team whilst still surgical trainees, followed a plan of action aimed at building a coherent research group which remains relevant to intending young academic surgeons today. The underlying principles are as follows:

1. Potential academic surgeons should first become well trained clinically in order to be recognised as being at the forefront of their chosen subspecialty as a practising surgeon
2. They should then complete a higher research degree in their chosen area of clinical interest in order to be able to undertake high level research and obtain competitive grant funding
3. They should then plan to join an established research unit, standing on the shoulders of their predecessors, rather than attempting to set up independent isolated research units
4. They should make an early commitment to teaching those who will follow them, both clinically and in research
5. They should work to remain at the top of their field clinically as a group, in order to legitimize the impact of their research.

TRAINING, ACADEMIC SURGERY AND PRIVATE PRACTICE

Michael J Solomon MBBCh (Hons) BAO MSc (Epid) FRACS

Clinical Professor of Surgery, Academic Head Department of Colorectal Surgery, Head, Surgical Outcomes Research Centre (SOuRCe), RPAH & University of Sydney, Immediate Past Chairman Post Fellowship Training Board In Colorectal Surgery, CSSANZ & Section Colorectal Surgery, RACS

Training academic surgeons is historically a difficult, often ad hoc and vexing problem in all surgical specialties. Universities do not academically encourage and regard "surgical expertise" as a recognised academic pursuit. Health administrators regard research, teaching and publications the domain and responsibility of Universities. Collectively they expect the other to fund clinical academic surgery. How to choose a potential surgeon as an academic surgeon and more importantly how to choose who your mentor will be. Personal failures along the way are the norm in academic surgery and choosing mentors, higher degree supervisors, job description, salary, unit funding

and academic career pathways come with no recipes (sometimes only for disaster!). How do surgeons choose a career pathway, how do supervisors and bosses choose the surgeon as an "outlier" likely to succeed? Experiences in training, National post fellowship Boards, fostering and supervising higher degrees in surgery and running research centres while in private practice or salaried will be explored discussing the expected barriers and failures along the way.

An ambitious plan to further promote academic surgical pathways into practice is proposed by starting 5-10 post fellowship PhD's in a programme of funded 3 year clinical and research scholarship in partnership with teaching hospital clinical units of research and education excellence.

The Surgical Outcomes Research Centre was established as a multidisciplinary, academic research unit dedicated to the advancement of evidence-based surgical practice through the conduct of outcomes-orientated surgical research in 2002. SOuRCe teaches clinical epidemiology and research methods to postgraduate surgical students and surgical fellows and supervises multiple PhD & Masters students, all of whom potentially are future academic surgeons. The University of Sydney currently has over 300 surgeons who have enrolled (74 in 2012 alone) in the Masters of Surgery by coursework learning clinical research methodology combined with an original clinical research dissertation.

HOW DO POST-GRADUATE DEGREES LEAD TO PROMOTION? CHOOSING A POST-GRADUATE DEGREE, NIL V MASTERS V DOCTORATE

Professor Guy Maddern

University of Adelaide

The pursuit of a research career is a noble but time-consuming path to follow. Options to be considered are:

- participation in others' research projects
- conducting research on a part-time basis
- A Masters degree by research
- Full PhD over three years full-time study

While research experience enhances one's ability to assess, conduct and supervise research, it is not for everyone. Some surgeons are destined to be technicians rather than innovators or researchers. A pragmatic way forward may involve enrolling in a Masters and, if motivated, converting to a PhD. With PhDs now possible by publications, one is able to gain research experience, publications and an enhanced CV in a single move. With supportive College scholarships this research period need not be done in abject poverty but should be considered before the mortgage, school fees and spouse become an unmanageable burden.

The skills and experience that go with such an opportunity are likely to ensure increased career opportunities and satisfaction.



WHY SHOULD SURGEONS BE INTO GENOMICS? – THE ESSENTIALS

Andrew V. Biankin FRACS

Traditionally surgeons as a whole have been slow to adopt new approaches outside that of technical advances. As a consequence, their role in the management of human disease is becoming restricted and clinical decisions concerning the management of patients are often removed from their influence. Instead, referrals are based around whether or not an individual's management requires operative intervention.

Despite the substantial investment in systemic therapies in the treatment of cancer, almost 90% of all cures are still the consequence of surgical resection, yet in more and more instances, patients are directed along other routes of management based on staging and management decisions made by non-surgeon clinicians. The biological heterogeneity of cancer and other diseases is unveiling the inadequacies of current indirect assessment of disease, particularly cancer, where surrogates of tumour biology (imaging) are used to define treatment options. Biomarker directed therapeutic strategies are emerging as the new paradigm for cancer care. Central to these strategies is genomics, which aims to define the underlying genomic aberrations that drive a particular phenotype, and as a consequence clinical decisions. The global investment in understanding the genomic drivers of cancer is huge, is redefining how we research and treat cancer. Surgeons, especially trainees, involved in the care of cancer patients have a choice to make. They are either going to abrogate the opportunity to participate fully in the new paradigm, or they are to going to seize the opportunity to remain conversant with the molecular biology of cancer and contribute to the exciting future of surgical oncology.

THE TIMING OF RESEARCH PROJECTS: HOW MUCH TIME IS RIGHT AND WHEN TO FIT IT IN?

John A Windsor

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The timing of a research project depends on its nature and purpose. The nature of research projects vary greatly including those that are part of everyday surgical practice (e.g. critical appraisal of a manuscript to inform patient care, participation in a clinical trial or the audit of a procedure or disease). And there are those, at the other end of the spectrum, that involve several years of full time research. The research project may be based in the laboratory, the hospital or the community. Research projects might be quantitative or qualitative, one-off or part of an integrated program, basic or translational, applied or blue skies, a requirement or voluntary, externally funded or not and most importantly, in regards timing, is whether the research project is full-time or not. No surgical speciality in ANZ requires a period of full-time research as part of surgical training

The purpose of research projects vary as well. Those that directly relate to the optimisation of individual patient care fit into the surgeons working week and do not merit special consideration here. Research projects that are solely motivated by selection criteria or career advancement contrast with those that are driven by curiosity and the joy of discovery. Research projects that require dedicated time, money and supervision are the real challenge. They require careful consideration, are usually directed towards a higher degree (a one or two year masters or a three year doctorate) and are usually essential for training as an academic surgeon.

A period of full-time research can be before, during or after SET. The arguments for and against each of these need to be understood in the light of an individuals particular circumstances. My general advice to those considering an academic surgical career is to secure their place on SET, since becoming a surgeon is the foremost objective. And decision regarding the surgical specialty can help select and shape the research project. Once on SET the bonus is eligibility for financial support from the College. A good time to fit in a full-time research project is after completing one year on SET. The advantage of this is that it will not crowd the lead up to the final Fellowship examinations.

BUILDING AND PRESENTING AN ACADEMIC CV/ PROMOTION AS AN EDUCATOR

Andrew Hill FRACS

While it is true that very few Universities will promote without evidence of research activity it is also true to say that promotion without evidence of educational activity is also unlikely. This talk will focus on the development of an educational portfolio that can be used alongside evidence of other academic activity to develop a convincing case for promotion.

DOING AN OVERSEAS FELLOWSHIP - HOW TO CHOOSE WISELY

Warren Hargreaves FRACS

St Vincent's Clinic, Sydney

Many young Fellows feel they need more training before taking up a consultant post. Local Fellowships are scarce and overseas Fellowships provide another way of obtaining such training. But they are not for everyone. Potential applicants should consider their own needs and goals as well as thinking about the requirements of a Fellowship employer. Long-term goals and the needs of a future employer should also be considered. I will discuss the benefits and pitfalls of overseas training and provide some practical advice for those considering this option. Hopefully, those who have not yet considered this option will be stimulated to do so.



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