Covidienn

THE BEST YET

Another successful meeting of minds at the 2014 SAS and SRS Meeting

RICHARD HANNEY
CHAIR ACADEMIC SURGERY

The College November Academic meetings, held in Melbourne in 2014, were the most successful in recent years. Long-term host, the hard-to-impress Guy Maddern, was delighted with both the attendance and standard of work presented. The calibre of presentations at the 31st annual meeting of the Surgical Research Society (SRS) was so high that John Windsor questioned whether it was, in fact, the best ever.

This year’s international visitors, Professors George Chang and Taylor Riall, hailed from the MD Anderson Cancer Center and the University of Texas in Galveston, respectively. They were delighted to congratulate Dr Deborah Wright from Auckland, on her winning the Young Investigator Award at the meeting; as a result, they will host her at their Academic Surgical Congress in Jacksonville, Florida, in 2016.

Now an annual two-day event, the meetings comprise a mid-career workshop for academic surgeons followed by a meeting of the Heads of all Academic Departments of Surgery in Australasia, together with other interested participants. The Academy of Surgical Educators hosts a dinner forum preceding the SRS meeting the following day.

The academic stimulation and productive working in surgical research, and at existing competency training and experience in research and/or education, to make these dimensions a significant part of their career.

Leigh Delbridge outlined how to make an international impact, and I addressed the definition of an academic surgeon: a leader who has chosen to acquire specific research training and experience in research and/or education, and to make these dimensions a significant part of their career.

James Lee thoughtfully structured the Heads of Departments meeting around three constructive workshops:

Minimum research requirements in SET training – a subject into which many groups have input and interest.

Jonty Karpelowsky has now convened a working party to follow on from earlier work, looking at surgeons as consumers of research, and at existing competency requirements. There will be an interim report provided to the Academic Section Executive in February.

Andrew Hill again oversaw the Academic Mid-Career course on Thursday morning. Highlights included an elegant reflection by Mark Gladman on addressing the triple/triad threat in academic practice, with Taylor Riall giving her keynote address on emerging trends in surgical research – think patient-centred outcomes.

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Academic career pathways – this followed an international summit held in Sydney the previous day, convened by the College President, Professor Michael Grigg. John Smith will chair a Steering Committee to develop academic career pathways, with members also from the RACP, AMC, Medical Deans of Australia and New Zealand and an AMA Council of Doctors in Training representative.

College scholarship funding – Stan Sidhu and Alan Saunton looked at the $1.5 million RACS scholarship funding provided last year and explored ways to further enhance this figure, recognising that the RACP provides roughly twice this amount annually.

College Dean of Education Stephen Tobin welcomed attendees to the dinner forum centred around professionalism in training and practice, with thought-provoking addresses by David Hills and Alison Jones. The relaxed atmosphere highlighted that the error rates reported in the table.

The evaluation forms from the meetings suggested the registrants found the hectic two-day schedule valuable and well worthwhile. The generous financial support from Covidienn, as Foundation sponsors of academic surgery, produces excellent value for attendees and we look forward to welcoming this year’s registrants to the Sydney meeting.

Congratulations on your achievements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
<th>Institution(s)</th>
<th>Abstract Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Young Investigator Award</td>
<td>Dr Deborah Wright</td>
<td>Dunedin Hospital, School of Medical Sciences, the University of Auckland, New Zealand</td>
<td>Impact of Inconsistencies in Clinico-pathological Data on Survival and Molecular Analyses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Developing a Career in Academic Surgery Award</td>
<td>Mr Cameron Wells (Medical Student)</td>
<td>Department of Surgery, the University of Auckland, New Zealand</td>
<td>Temporary Duration Reversibility is an Independent Long-Term Predictor for the Development of Intestinal Rejection Syndrome</td>
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<td>Travel Grant</td>
<td>Dr Steven Dye</td>
<td>Department of Surgery, Flinders University, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia</td>
<td>Osteogenic Protein: A Novel Therapeutic Target in Oesophageal Adenocarcinoma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel Grant</td>
<td>Dr David Liu</td>
<td>Surgical Oncology Research Laboratory, Division of Cancer Surgery, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, University of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia</td>
<td>APR-246/PRIMA-1mT Delays Growth and Induces Apoptosis in Oesophageal Adenocarcinoma Expressing Mutant P53</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel Grant</td>
<td>Dr Pramudith Sirimanna</td>
<td>Academic Colorectal Unit, Sydney Medical School, Concord, University of Sydney, Australia</td>
<td>Validation of a Virtual Reality Simulation Model for Laparoscopic Appendectomy and Incorporation into a Preclinical-Base Curriculum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel Grant</td>
<td>Dr Anthony Glover</td>
<td>Kolling Institute Of Medical Research, University Of Sydney Royal North Shore, Hospital and Newcastle, Lid, Sydney, Australia</td>
<td>Restoring Expression of MicroRNA7 Inhibits the MAPK and Mtor Pathways and Offers a Novel Therapy for Adenocarcinoma Cancer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Poster Award</td>
<td>Dr Anannya Chakrabarti</td>
<td>Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, University of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia</td>
<td>Targeting Minimal Residual Disease in Breast Cancer</td>
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