

2025 Gratitude Report

Letter from the Chair

To our donors

On behalf of the RACS Foundation for Surgery, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for your support throughout 2025.

Due to the ongoing generosity of our donors and their support this year, the Foundation for Surgery has been able to continue to fund activities:

- that allow access to surgical care, to those who need it in the Indo-Pacific region;
- for mentoring Aotearoa New Zealand Māori medical students and surgical trainees following a surgical pathway through the Te Rau Poka Māori Surgical Academy;
- offer learning and development grants for Australian First Nation and Māori medical students and Trainees;
- in education and training;
- for Younger Fellows; and
- through the scholarships and grants program.

This year, the Foundation for Surgery Committee has been concentrating on revising and commencing the implementation of its Strategic Plan for 2025-2027. The focus for the new strategic plan will include a more comprehensive communications and fundraising strategy, increase donorship reach, more prominent engagement, and improved digital experience for the donor.

You can view the Foundation for Surgery 2025-2027 Strategy and Strategic Plan on a Page at www.surgeons.org/Foundation-for-surgery.

In February 2025, we welcomed Ms Fiona McAllister as the Chief Operations and Partnerships Officer for RACS, who oversees the work of the Foundation for Surgery.

The Foundation for Surgery Committee and management team are excited for 2026 and the fundraising year ahead, actioning and achieving a number of goals set out in the new strategy, and working with you, our donors, to continue the vision to raise the much-needed funding to strive to support quality surgical care when and where it is needed most.

To all of you and your families, the Foundation for Surgery Committee and team wishes you a wonderful festive season and year ahead.

Sincerely,



John Batten
Chair, Foundation for Surgery

Impact in Action

Dr Tim Shiraev, 2025 recipient of the John Hargrave Research Scholarship

Dr Tim Shiraev is a vascular surgeon at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. The John Hargrave Research Scholarship supports surgeons and SET Trainees who wish to take time away from clinical positions to undertake a research project under the supervision of an experienced investigator. Dr Shiraev is undertaking a project looking into the outcomes and mechanisms of the function of a novel tropo-elastin neovessel for arterial bypass.

“Bypass surgery is the gold standard for revascularisation for most patients with lower limb arterial disease. However, patency of the currently available bypass conduits is poor, risking graft occlusion and limb loss, in addition to the significant morbidity associated with graft harvesting. A novel graft (polyglycerol sebacate electrospun to include tropoelastin) has been trialed in a pilot animal study, which was replaced by a vessel with structure and function of the native vessel. That is, a neo-vessel had been formed and maintained good patency. The aim of the project is to assess the outcomes of insertion of this novel graft as a bypass conduit and elucidate the mechanisms behind the vascular ingrowth of the graft. This will determine whether this graft is suitable for use as an alternative to current graft choices (long saphenous vein (LSV) or synthetics like PTFE or dacron).”

Te Rau Poka Māori Surgical Academy

Te Rau Poka was initiated in 2021 by Professor Jonathan Koea who is Kaiārahi, Trainee Liaison Lead for RACS. Early on, an agreement was formed to collaborate with Pūhoro Trust that run a STEMM careers roadshow across Aotearoa New Zealand and involves over 1000 secondary school students each year. Pūhoro visits 12 regions in terms two and three of the school year.

RACS is the only medical college participating at the Pūhoro roadshows. In 2025, Te Rau Poka attended 6 Pūhoro STEMM academy wānanga. Seven surgeons presented at the sessions and at least one RACS staff member was in attendance. Johnson and Johnson MEDTEC provided equipment for each venue and staff at Auckland and Christchurch venues. It is estimated that the roadshow presented to approximately 700 Māori secondary school students this year. Pūhoro asks the students to evaluate each session they attend. Most of the feedback for Te Rau Poka was highly positive and there were suggestions given to improve the sessions such as expanding the material to include other medical specialties. Most of the surgeons talked about their career pathway from medical school on how they came to decide on surgery. More specific feedback was sought regarding if students indicated an interest in medicine or surgery. Over 90 students had shown interest in a career in medicine over the three-year period.

Te Oranga Māori Medical Students Association

Te Rau Poka also has an agreement with Te Oranga. RACS is one of the many Colleges that sponsor the medical student's annual hui and Kura Reo (Māori language weekend wānanga). Professor Koea was an invited speaker at their July hui and also attended the Kura Reo in September. Reports received from both events acknowledged the Colleges' support and there was a mention of Professor Koea's presentation at the careers day.

Te ORA hui a tau

Te Ohu Rata o Aotearoa (Māori Medical Practitioners Association) had their AGM in Otaki in September at Te Wānanga o Raukawa. Three RACS staff including Kevin Falzon (Fellowship Executive Officer) and two Te Rau Poka contractors attended the event and two surgeons were helping at the stand.

RACS recruitment video.

In late 2024, a company was hired to make a video of surgeons speaking about their favourite surgery and what advice they might give a student considering surgery. The video was launched at the Indigenous Breakfast at the 2025 Annual Scientific Congress (ASC) in Sydney. The video has since been shown to the Pūhoro students and at the Te Oranga and Te ORA careers day.

Summary Te Rau Poka registrations

At each event, a QR code is displayed that takes the students to a Microsoft Form. The information collected includes what Medical School they attend, what year they are in and what surgical specialty they might apply to. There are 60 students currently registered with the academy. Forty registered this year.

The Foundation for Surgery proudly funds the Te Rau Poka through donations.

Global Health Specialist ENT Surgical team to Tuvalu

In early September, RACS Global Health deployed a Specialist ENT Surgical team to Tuvalu to deliver critically needed surgical care in country. An Ear Health team comprised part of the ENT team and this team established an Ear Health Clinic at the Princess Margaret Hospital. This clinic was made possible through the funding provided by the Government of Australia.

The team for this trip included Dr. Jae Park (ENT Surgeon & Team Leader), Dr Jay Bond (Anaesthetist), Oriole Wilson (Audiologist), Suzi Pandey (Nurse), trainers Hannah Holm-Hansen (Nurse & trainer) and Mary Loduha (Nurse & trainer). During the surgical trip the team conducted two tympanomastoidectomies, four tympanoplasties, one grommet insertion, three examinations of ears under General Anaesthetic (GA), one examination of nasal cavity.

Team leader, Dr Jae Park stated:

“It was a delightful trip. I really enjoy these trips. I did trips to Fiji, Solomon Islands and now Tuvalu. Jay Bond has done a few trips as well along with trips to Africa. We enjoy the trips because you really get to experience the joy of giving. We get to make bigger differences than in Australia as well. A few highlights: certainly the food was amazing. The dinner hosted by PNA was probably the best food that I have had. The challenging surgery that we almost had to abort was right up there along with the smile the patient had for us after the surgery. Amazing trip overall!”

The Foundation for Surgery enables visiting medical teams to continue being deployed to Indo-Pacific nations such as Tuvalu to provide essential medical and surgical care. Funding through the Foundation is also used to purchase and maintain equipment and cover necessary costs for visiting medical teams and missions.

Indigenous Health

Te Rau Poka: Māori Surgical Trainee Academy

Te Rau Poka Māori Surgical Academy is a Kaupapa Māori intervention programme that supports the identification, recruitment and career aspirations of future Māori surgeons based in Aotearoa New Zealand. The focus of this project has been to establish Te Rau Poka through which RACS can achieve its goal of increasing numbers of Māori surgeons as a significant step towards achieving equity in surgical outcomes for Māori.

The highlight for 2025 was the Te Rā Tuhura / Careers Day at the Te ORA Māori Medical Practitioners Annual General Meeting. Held at Te Whare Wānanga o Raukawa in Otaki, an hour north of Wellington, the hui ā tau was attended by over one hundred Māori Doctors, medical students, and High school students looking at careers in medicine. RACS is one of the many Medical Colleges that sponsors the event and takes part in the career's day, scientific conference and gala dinner. Professor Jonathan Koea attended the full three-day event in his role as Kaiārahi Trainee Liaison Lead.

Dr Kopa Manahi and Dr Wiremu McFater were part of the team demonstrating surgical techniques and competing in the Shark Tank - each had 3 minutes to pitch their specialty to the students

A quarterly newsletter has been developed and features on the Te Rau Poka webpage. [Te Rau Poka – Māori Surgical Academy | RACS](#).

Fifty-eight medical students have registered with the Academy since 2023. On offer is a range of support, including a research grant to develop research papers, free registration for the annual hui and travel and support to attend the ASC if they have submitted a successful abstract for a poster or oral presentation.



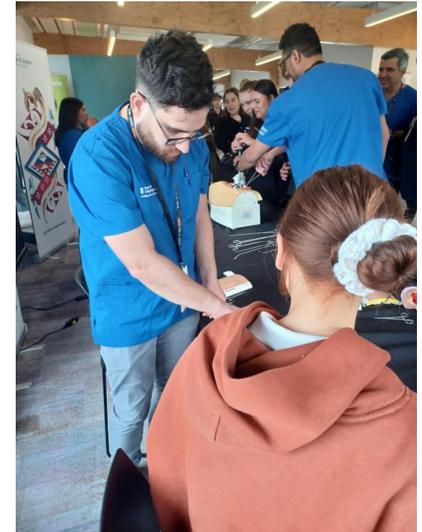
Children of Doctors attending the hui were able to take part in all the activities including learning to suture.



RACS Staff set up for hui



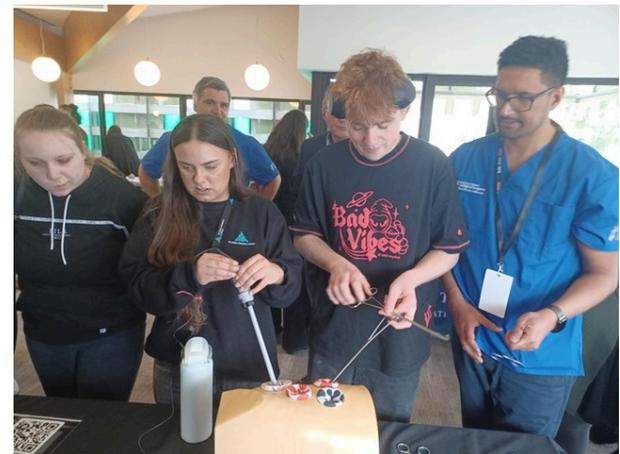
Mindfulness books , pencils and pens were given out



Dr Wiremu MacFather demonstrating suturing



Younger local students enjoying the activities



Dr Kopi Manahi showing students how to use the stupnik equipment

Māori Director of Surgery and funded staffing for Te Rau Poka Māori Surgical Academy

The Māori Supervisor of Surgical Training position aims to increase the rate and success of the Māori surgical workforce growth enabling RACS to train Māori medical graduates in surgical careers but ensuring that Māori in RACS are culturally supported, valued, and maintain their cultural links and skillsets. The purpose of the RACS Māori Supervisor of Surgical Training is to provide culturally competent pastoral care and support for Māori non-accredited surgical registrars and SET trainees with the goal of increasing the Indigenous Māori surgical workforce in a culturally competent and culturally safe manner which values Indigenous ways of practicing and providing surgery. This position continues to be funded by the Foundation for Surgery through to 2026.

A part-time Administrator to support the academy activities was recruited for a 6-month contract in 2025 and will be readvertised in May 2026. A part-time position for counselling and pastoral care for trainees and/or surgeons was contracted. The service was advertised through the newsletter but was not utilised and will end on December 31, 2025.

Indigenous Health Scholarships and Grants

There were 9 recipients of the Indigenous Health learning and development grants in 2025.

Global Health

Highlights from 2025

Indo-Pacific Clinicians Trained in Surgical Technique

12 training deployments for 2025 across 4 countries: Cook Islands, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and Timor Leste.

Training courses covered the following topics: Advanced Paediatric Life Support (APLS); Paediatric Life Support (PLS); Generic Instructor Course (GIC); Emergency Management of Severe Trauma (EMST); Care of the Critically Ill Surgical Patient (CCrISP); and Primary Trauma Care (PTC).

Candidates Trained

APLS: 165 candidates

PLS: 19 candidates

GIC: 16 candidates

EMST/CCrISP: 32 candidates

PTC: 45 candidates

Visting Medical Teams Deployments

23 surgical deployments for 2025 were undertaken across 12 countries:

Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, The Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

Consultations

1256 consultations were undertaken: 642 male, 611 female, 3 unknown

Operations

391 surgeries were conducted: 204 male, 154 female, 30 unknown

Surgical Excellence and Sustainable Capacity: RACS Global Health Establishes Ear Clinic in Tuvalu

In a significant step forward for the health of the Tuvaluan population, RACS Global Health deployed a Visiting Medical Team (VMT) in early September to Princess Margaret Hospital. This mission served a dual purpose: to deliver specialist surgical care and establish a permanent Ear Health Clinic. This crucial initiative was funded by the Australian government and included supply of essential equipment including otoscopes, ENT headlamps, tympanometry devices, audiometers, suction machines, and a surgical microscope.

Surgical Outcomes: Immediate Impact and Complex Cases

The VMT, consisting of Dr. Jae Park (ENT Surgeon), Dr. Jay Bond (Anaesthetist), Oriole Wilson (Audiologist), Suzi Pandey (Nurse), and trainers Hannah Holm-Hansen and Mary Loduha, delivered high-level clinical services and clinical training. Surgical procedures were a core component of the deployment, providing immediate, life-changing treatment for patients with complex and chronic conditions.

The surgical team successfully completed 11 procedures:

- 2 Tympanomastoidectomies
- 4 Tympanoplasties
- 1 Grommet Insertion
- 3 Examinations of Ears under General Anaesthesia (GA)
- 1 Examination of Nasal Cavity under GA

During clinics, the RACS team treated 18 patients, 12 of whom had severe conditions such as perforated ear drums and suppurative otitis media, which were suctioned and cleaned. These efforts are critical, as unmanaged middle ear infections lead to chronically discharging ears that prevent surgical intervention, as well as life long hearing disabilities which significantly impact educational outcomes, employment opportunities and quality of life.

Team leader, Dr. Jae Park, reflected on the deployment's impact, stating, "We enjoy the trips because you really get to experience the joy of giving. We get to make bigger differences than in Australia as well... The challenging surgery that we almost had to abort was right up there along with the smile the patient had for us after the surgery. Amazing trip overall!"

Funding from the Foundation for Surgery assist in supporting Global Health management and logistical necessities.

Foundation for Future Health: Ear Health Clinic Establishment and Training, Tuvalu

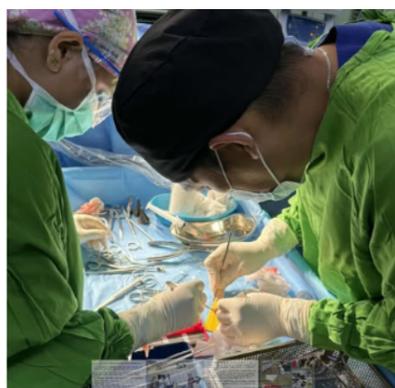
The establishment of the Ear Health Clinic—located adjacent to the CT scanner room and fully equipped—is critical in lifting Ear Health across the entire Tuvuluan population. This groundwork is necessary to enable the much broader impact of future visiting ENT teams. The clinic addresses the concerning high prevalence of ear health conditions, including extremely high numbers of perforated eardrums in children, training and capacity Building.

Three specialist RACS volunteers provided training using the WHO Primary Ear and Hearing Care manual. Key training and capacity development highlights include:

- **Effective Training:** Training was effective for the detection and treatment of common, preventable ENT diseases (e.g., Otitis Media with Effusion, perforations, cholesteatomas).
- **Audiometry:** Training focused on pure tone audiometry, unmasked bone conduction, and tympanometry.
- **Community Outreach:** The team spent the remainder of the week conducting clinical work, including follow-up on 52 students previously detected by the Christian Blind Mission (CBM) Vision and Hearing Screening Programme.
- **Ongoing Support:** The team is providing remote support to the Tuvalu trainee, though this is minimal.

This RACS VMT deployment serves the dual purpose of reducing the burden of significant hearing loss and ear disease and improving the effectiveness of future surgical visits. Once local staff are fully trained, they can travel to outer islands to provide outreach triage (including surgery referral pathways) and education to local health staff. Funding from the Foundation for Surgery ensures RACS VMTs can continue to provide this essential surgical and medical care across the Indo-Pacific.

RACS Global Health Team
in action



Team in action delivering
ENT surgery



Jae, Jay and Suzi in
Princess Margaret
Hospital, Funafuti, Tuvalu



Key participants in
Official Opening of
Tuvalu Ear Health
Clinic - Australian
High Commission,
local clinicians
and RACS
Global Health Team



Investing in Expertise: Pacific Trainees Shine in RACS Gastroenterology Programme

Thanks to the generous support of our donors and the strategic funding from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the RACS Global Health (RACS GH) Visiting Medical Team (VMT) successfully delivered an intensive Gastroenterology capacity-building mission at Colonial War Memorial Hospital (CWMH) in Suva, Fiji, from July 14 to August 8, 2025. The core objective—to build capacity in endoscopy and gastroenterology—was achieved through the empowering of a new generation of Pacific health professionals.

Impacting the Indo-Pacific: Our Trainees Lead the Way

The heart of this deployment was a dynamic, hands-on training programme, bringing together a multidisciplinary team of eleven RACS sponsored trainers with nineteen dedicated medical and nursing trainees from across the Pacific. This group included nine medical trainees (from Fiji, Kiribati, and the Solomon Islands) and ten nurse trainees (from Fiji, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Tonga, and the Solomon Islands), and empowered Trainees through Focused Practice.

The training philosophy centered on active participation, with trainees allocated clear roles of responsibility and rotated throughout the day. This ensured no one was merely observing; all participants were directly engaged, maximising clinical care and practical skill transfer.

Medical Training: This went beyond theory, focusing on the complete patient journey:

- **Pre-Procedure Evaluation:** Assessing patient fitness and ensuring appropriate indications for endoscopy.
- **Endoscopic Mastery:** Hands-on teaching of safe theatre setup, technical aspects of the instrument, and performance of minor endoscopic procedures.
- **Post-Procedure Care:** Mastering safe recovery protocols, post-procedure management planning, and peer-to-peer discussion.
- **Nursing Excellence:** The nursing roles were critical, focusing on triage, theatre assistance, reprocessing, and recovery. Trainees gained competence in assisting with advanced interventional procedures (like biopsies and polypectomy), patient monitoring, consistent documentation, and ensuring high-standard infection control through thorough cleaning protocols.

We are immensely proud that four local CWMH nurses demonstrated their readiness by working independently during diagnostic gastroscopy and colonoscopy procedures, a huge step toward sustainable, local expertise. Furthermore, many trainees, for whom this was their first experience with endoscopy, left with a clear vision of how they can now contribute to their local hospitals and whether this will be their future specialisation.

Securing the Future of Endoscopy

RACS Global Health work ensured that vital equipment was provided and put to immediate educational use. Thank you to our partners who donated the new Olympus 190 scopes (including gastroscopes, colonoscopes, and paediatric scopes), which replaced older, failing equipment and immediately allowed the program to proceed and thrive.

While the clinical and training results were exceptional, the team identified key infrastructure goals to solidify this progress:

A Permanent Endoscopy Home: We are actively collaborating with CWMH administration to secure a dedicated endoscopy unit. This dedicated space will be safer, more efficient, and will allow local physicians significantly greater access to practice and build competence, increasing the life-saving impact of endoscopy.

Safety First: The team made a critical intervention by introducing Carbon Dioxide insufflation—a safer technique than air—and addressing urgent safety concerns in the reprocessing area, including advocating for better ventilation and the safe use of available automated cleaning equipment. This ensures a healthier environment for the dedicated nurses who carry out this vital work.

Global Health's VMT deployment is about more than a trip; it is an investment in human capital in the Pacific. By funding and supporting these missions, our donors are not just delivering medical aid—they are empowering local clinicians to lead the fight against gastrointestinal disease in the Pacific. We look forward to supporting the trainees as they continue their journey toward becoming the independent specialists their nations need.



Dr Ruppin instructing trainees



Dr Lesley-Ann Smith instructing trainees



Farewell to trainers and trainees

Paediatric Critical Care Capacity Building in Timor Leste

Case Study: Bonifacio Soares Martins - Emergency Nurse, APLS Graduate and APLS Local Training Coordinator

Bonifacio Soares Martins is an Emergency Nurse who plays a very important role in delivering urgent care where every moment matters at the Hospital Nacional Guido Valadares (HNGV) in Timor-Leste. In March 2023, he completed the Advanced Paediatric Life Support (APLS) course. Following his training, Bonifacio assumed the role of APLS Local Training Coordinator in Timor-Leste. His responsibilities include working closely with instructors and participants to ensure every session runs smoothly and effectively. As a nurse with hands-on experience in emergency care, he recognises the deep relevance of the APLS training courses to the realities faced in Timor-Leste's health sector.

HNGV is the only national hospital in Timor Leste, and it delivers advanced medical services and health initiatives, and training of healthcare professionals. When the ANCP-supported project was initially introduced, HNGV naturally emerged as a primary focal point for its implementation. APLS training provides health care professionals with the skills and knowledge to recognise and respond to life-threatening emergencies in children. It is widely recognised as best practice in paediatric emergency training and is recommended for all hospital staff who deal with children. Both the (1-day) Paediatric Life Support (PLS) and 3-day Advance Paediatric Life Support (APLS) courses are designed to supplement the ongoing training of health professionals by building on existing knowledge, skills and attitudes. Both courses involve pre-requisite online learning, practical hands-on training and assessment.

Bonifacio acknowledged that, during the implementation of the project in Timor-Leste, language and communication emerged as challenges. However, the training process also highlighted some key strengths, particularly in time management and inter-professional collaboration. These elements became critical to the success of the sessions and, ultimately, helped build a more cohesive team.

What Bonifacio found most valuable was the opportunity to strengthen not only practical knowledge, but also soft skills such as teamwork and adaptability under pressure. He has observed the tangible impact of APLS capabilities in the emergency department, where personnel who have already completed the training have been equipped with the knowledge and confidence to carry out paediatric life-saving interventions.

“There is a need for APLS course in Timor-Leste to develop skills in providing immediate treatment in serious cases. Through the project, significant changes have already happened at HNGV. Doctors and nurses have acquired the skills and knowledge to perform life-saving interventions for both children and adults”. — Bonifacio Soares Martins

Looking ahead, Bonifacio advocates for transitioning the APLS, PLS and GIC training courses to local ownership, whilst embedding sustainable practices and integrating the trainings in the national healthcare system. Firstly, he emphasises that the Ministry of Health and HNGV must adopt APLS as a national standard for paediatric training by formally incorporating it into medical curricula and Continuous Professional Development (CPD) systems. Secondly, building a local team of certified instructors will reduce reliance on foreign trainers and support self-sufficiency. Thirdly, diversifying funding - through NGOs, UN agencies, private sector partners, or regional alliances - and implementing modest course fees can enhance financial viability. Moreover, a robust monitoring and evaluation framework will highlight the trainings' impact on paediatric outcomes and justify ongoing investment. Finally, the collaboration between HNGV, regional and referral hospitals, and training institutions is key to maintaining the project's relevance and broader support.

“With strong leadership and local commitment, the APLS trainings can be sustained and grown to improve paediatric emergency care in Timor-Leste.” — Bonifacio Soares Martins

Bonifacio gives his appreciation to the Australian Government for its ongoing financial support of the initiative in Timor-Leste. This support has been essential in delivering practical and meaningful training outcomes that translate into real improvements on the ground, particularly in high-pressure environments like the emergency room.



From left: Bonifacio Soares (Nurse and Local Coordinator for the APLS Program in Timor Leste), Leonisia Maria (Nurse), Tomas Ratoni (APLS and PLS Instructor), Beatriz Gonzaga (Nurse), Madalena da Costa (Nurse), and Frederica Maria (Nurse) were pictured following the successful completion of the APLS program in Dili, May 2025.



Bonifacio Soares, Nurse and APLS Graduate, served as Local Coordinator for the Pediatric Life Support and Advanced Pediatric Life Support Courses in Dili, May 2025.

Generosity Fuels Global Health: PNG Clinicians Shine at ECO Conference

The Emergency, Critical, and Operative (ECO) Care Conference was held in Suva, Fiji, in early November 2025. The ECO Conference, a crucial forum for strengthening care systems in the Asia-Pacific region during an era of accelerating climate change, brought together key stakeholders including the Pacific Island Surgeons Association (PISA), the Global Alliance for Surgical Obstetrics, Trauma and Anaesthesia Care (G4 Alliance), and the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS). The Foundation for Surgery provided \$20,000 to RACS Global Health, enabling the critical funds necessary to ensure the voices of three leading clinicians from Papua New Guinea (PNG) were heard on the international stage. This funding covered all essential logistics—flights, accommodation, registration, and entrance to key welcome events—making their attendance at the ECO Care Conference possible. The PNG contingent made invaluable contributions that directly addressed the conference themes.

Dr. Esther Apuahe, a distinguished Neurosurgeon from Port Moresby, was a powerful advocate and leader throughout the PISA segment. She delivered two insightful presentations: one detailing the current status of National Surgical, Obstetric, and Anaesthesia Plans (NSOAPs) in PNG, and a second, powerful talk entitled: “Breaking Scalpel Ceilings – Women Shaping Pacific Surgery.”

Addressing the core theme of climate change, Dr. Ian Umo, a Surgical Registrar and health researcher, presented crucial data on the second day of the PISA segment. His presentation, titled “Estimating the carbon emissions from a resource limited surgical suite in Papua New Guinea: The climate change potential,” highlighted the path toward more Sterile, Safe, and Sustainable theatre practices in the Pacific.

Completing the trio, Dr. Desmond Aisi, an Emergency Physician, contributed to the G4 segment on the ECO Continuum. Dr. Aisi’s presentation, “WHO ECO toolkit in action: Implementing the Interagency Integrated Triage Tool across PNG,” showcased critical steps being taken on the ground to improve patient outcomes through unified triage systems.

The invaluable participation and sharing of expertise from Dr. Apuahe, Dr. Umo, and Dr. Aisi would simply not have been possible without this generous support. Their contributions significantly enriched the conference dialogue and contributed to grounds for improvements in the delivery of ECO care across the region.

Dr Esther Apuahe from PNG,
whose attendance was
supported by the Foundation
for Surgery



Dr Desmond Aisi
from PNG whose
attendance was
supported by the
Foundation for Surgery

ECO conference



Cava ceremony at the PISA
welcome event

Global Health Scholarships

Thanks to the generous support of donors, Global Health's international scholarship programs provided opportunities such as:

- Placing one Rowan Nicks International Scholar, one Katherine Edyvane in Humanitarian Surgery Scholar, and two Weary Dunlop Boon Pong Scholars in Australia to receive specialist training.
- Appointing Rowan Nicks Lecturer Dr Esther Apuahe, first PNG female neurosurgeon, as the 2025 ASC Global Health Section keynote speaker.
- Sending RACS previous President Associate Professor Kerin Fielding to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with The Royal College of Surgeons of Thailand.
- Collaborating with SBS Thai on an in-depth article about the Weary Dunlop Boon Pong (WDBP) Exchange Fellowship.



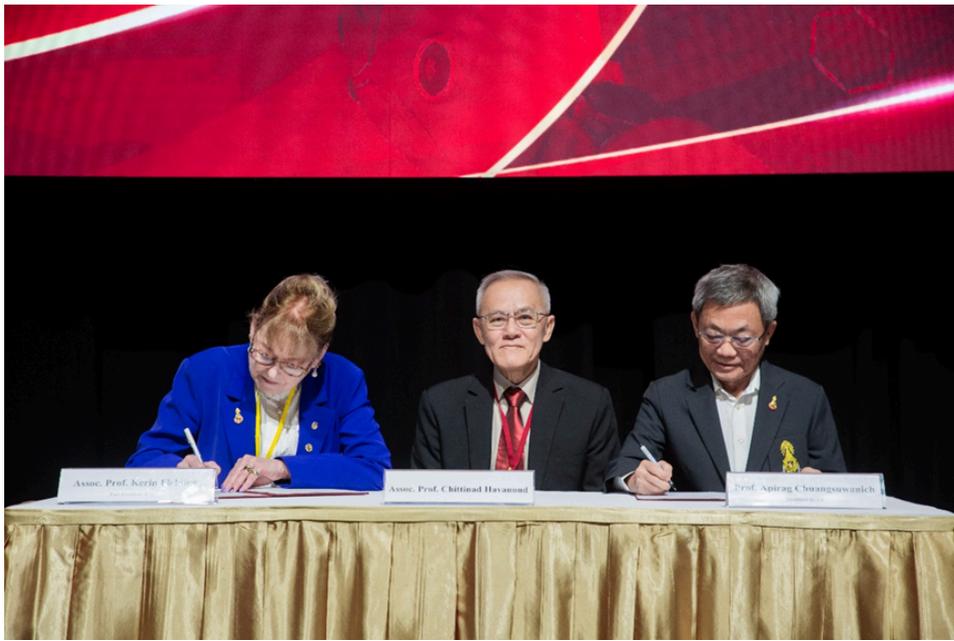
Rowan Nicks scholar
Dr Mahnaz Tabassum Prova at the 2025



Weary Dunlop Boon Pong scholar Dr Anan Srinivorn visiting the Melbourne RACS office



Katherine Edyvane Scholarship for Humanitarian Surgery scholar Dr Anip Joshi with supervisor Professor Chris Pyke at Mater Hospital, QLD



Signing the MoU: RACS previous President A/P Kerin Fielding, RCST Chair A/P Chittinad Havanond, RCST President Prof Apirag Chuangsuwanich



RACS previous President A/P Kerin Fielding, RCST Chair A/P Chittinad Havanond, RCST President Prof Apirag Chuangsuwanich



A/P Kerin Fielding with RCST President Prof Apirag Chuangsuwanich and members of the WDBP subcommittee

Scholarships and Grants

19

*Research
Scholarships (new
and continuing)*

27

*Learning and
Development
Grants*

Due to the generosity of our donors, living and through bequests, RACS was able to offer 19 surgical research scholarships and 27 learning and development grants in 2025. The scholarships and grants enable recipients to enhance their careers, increase their knowledge and lead to better surgical care of patients.

Some of the 2025 recipients submitted acceptance videos which include the details of what they will use their scholarship or grant for. You can view the recipients and videos at <https://www.surgeons.org/Resources/Member-benefits/scholarships-and-grants-program/about-the-program>. Here are a few of the 2025 recipients:



Dr Ned Kinnear
Majorie Hooper Scholarship



Prof. Eugene Ek
John Mitchell Crouch Fellowship



Dr Michael Stuart
Bongiorno National Network Younger Fellows Travel Grant



Dr Sarah Bormann
PASC Peer Support Awar

Younger Fellows

In 2024, the Foundation for Surgery established a fund for donations to be received and used to support the continuation of the Younger Fellows Forum. This forum is held annually prior to the RACS Annual Scientific Congress.

The Younger Fellows Forum aims to develop leadership and performance skills for new consultants to thrive within the surgical workforce and become leaders within their communities. The 3-day forum allows new Fellows of the College to share ideas and experiences while discussing current issues affecting surgical practice. It is an opportunity to explore the structure and workings of the College. The forum also provides an opportunity to contribute to College discourse and priorities by developing a set of recommendations to be presented to Council.



2025 Younger Fellows Forum



Performance Psychology Program for Surgical Registrars

The Foundation for Surgery provided funding through its annual funding proposal submissions to support a pilot program - The performance psychology program for surgical registrars through the South Australian RACS office. The initiative will include group education sessions and one-on-one coaching by an AHPRA registered Performance Psychologist. The aim will be to reduce performance anxiety, improve psychological flexibility, and enhance performance in the late SET training years and Fellowship Examination.

2025 DONATIONS

(RECEIVED BETWEEN 1 DECEMBER 2024 AND
30 NOVEMBER 2025)

TOTAL AMOUNT OF DONATIONS
RECEIVED IN THIS TIME

\$683,962

Number of
individual donors

 **412**

Average donation
amount

\$559

Number of Bequests

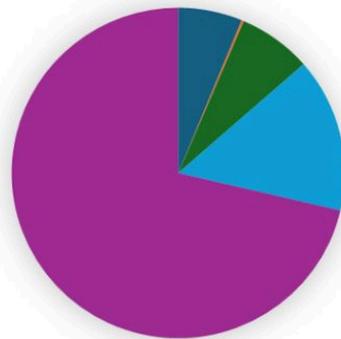
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Bequest Amounts

\$453,539

\$460

Areas funds wished to be donated to



■ Indigenous Health - \$41,380
■ Younger Fellows - \$1,450
■ Foundation for Surgery general purposes - \$47,271
■ Global Health general purposes - \$100,345
■ Scholarships and Grants - \$474,399

What Your Donations Make Possible!



Funding to support visiting medical teams deployment to nations in the Indo-Pacific region to provide critical surgical care



Continuation of Te Rau Poka Maori Surgical Academy and Director of Surgical Education



Funding support for ASC grants for Australian First Nation and Māori Medical Students and Trainees, including an additional 4 grants from a donation in 2025 for 2026 recipients



Funding for scholarships provided by the Foundation for Surgery



Funding to support annual Younger Fellows Forum



Royal Australasian College of Surgeons

Foundation for Surgery

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