

Developing a Career and skills in Academic Surgery (DCAS) Course

with Hot Topic Presenters

Dr Kate Drummond

and

Professor Julian Smith

Thursday 13 November 2025

RACS Vic Office, Melbourne, Victoria



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Certificate of Attendance

Please complete the conference survey using the QR code to receive your Certificate of Attendance. Your feedback is greatly appreciated!

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Organising Committee

DCAS Co-Chairs

Sarah Thompson
RACS Section for Academic Surgery

Craig McBride
RACS Section for Academic Surgery

Committee Members

Jonathan Karpelowsky
Chair, Academic Surgery Committee

Payal Mukherjee
Deputy Chair, Academic Surgery Committee

Matthew Read
Chair, Surgical Research Society
Chair, Annual Research Conference (ARC)

Siobhan McKay
Member, Academic Surgery Committee
Convenor, Annual Research Conference

Chris Varghese
Member, Academic Surgery Organising Committee

Chatnapa Yodkitudomying (Mint)
Member, Academic Surgery Organising Committee

Cameron Wells
Member, Academic Surgery Organising Committee

Wendy Babidge
General Manager, Research, Audit and Academic Surgery (RAAS)

Guy Maddern
Surgical Director, Research & Evaluation

General Information

Intention to Photograph

Please be advised that photographs may be taken during the course and reproduced by the course organiser.

These photographs may be used for the following purposes:

- Projection onsite
- Reporting on the course in online and hard copy publications
- Marketing a future course, including online and hard copy publications

If you do not wish to be included in a photograph, please advise the photographer.

Certificate of Attendance

Certificates of Attendance

Certificates of Attendance will be supplied upon completion of the Course Survey.

CPD Points

CPD hours will be awarded for attendance at the course with hour allocation to be advised at a later date.

Welcome from the Chair of Academic Surgery Committee



Professor Jonathan
Karpelowsky

On behalf of the Academic Surgery Committee, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Annual Research Conference 2025.

In 2024, the Academic Surgery Committee approved combining the Developing a Career in Academic Surgery (DCAS) Course with the November Annual Academic Surgery Conference (NAASC) to create one premier event for the Section of Academic Surgery – the RACS Annual Research Conference (ARC).

This conference provides an outstanding opportunity for surgeons, researchers, and trainees to come together, share their work, and engage in thoughtful discussion about the future of surgical research and practice. It is a celebration of innovation, collaboration, and academic excellence across our profession.

This year, DCAS will launch the conference as a stand-alone day today, followed by the Annual Research Conference tomorrow and Saturday. We hope you have registered to attend the full three-day program.

At the ARC, we are honoured to welcome **Professor Graeme Clark** AC as the Jepson Lecturer. Professor Clark's pioneering work on the bionic ear has transformed lives worldwide and continues to inspire new generations of surgeon-scientists.

We are also privileged to host a distinguished group of international guest speakers: **Professor Timothy Donahue**, a leader in pancreatic surgery; **Professor Vikas Dudeja**, who is at the forefront of pancreatic and hepatobiliary oncology; **Dr Juliet Emamaullee**, an accomplished transplant surgeon; and **Dr Joseph Phillips**, a thoracic surgeon excelling in minimally invasive and robotic oncologic surgery.

Their participation highlights the spirit of global partnership that strengthens our shared pursuit of excellence in surgery. I look forward to the dynamic conversations, new connections, and inspiring ideas that will emerge over the course of the meeting.

Thank you for joining us in Melbourne for what promises to be an exciting and memorable conference.

Professor Jonathan Karpelowsky
Chair, Academic Surgery Committee

Welcome from the Conference Co-Chairs



Associate Professor
Sarah Thompson



Professor Craig McBride

On behalf of the DCAS 2025 Conference Committee, we are delighted to welcome you to the Developing a Career in Academic Surgery (DCAS) Course. This program continues to provide an exceptional platform for early-career surgeons, trainees, and researchers to explore the exciting opportunities available in academic surgery.

DCAS is designed to foster the development of the next generation of surgeon-scientists by providing practical insights, mentorship, and guidance on building a successful academic career. Over the course of the day, you will hear from leading academics and clinicians who will share their experiences, advice, and strategies for navigating the challenges and opportunities of an academic pathway.

We are also excited to welcome our Hot Topic speakers, **Professor Julian Smith** and **Professor Kate Drummond**, who will share their perspectives on current challenges and innovations in surgical research and practice.

We encourage you to engage fully in the program, participate in discussions, and take advantage of the chance to network with your peers and senior mentors. It is through these interactions that ideas are shared, collaborations are formed, and careers are inspired.

We are thrilled to have you join us and look forward to a day of stimulating discussion, learning, and inspiration as we support the future leaders of academic surgery.

A/Prof Sarah Thompson and Professor Craig McBride
DCAS Co-Chairs, RACS Annual Research Conference 2025

DCAS Faculty

Association for Academic Surgery and International Invited Speakers:

- Timothy Donahue, Los Angeles, California, USA
- Vikas Dudeja, Birmingham, Alabama, USA
- Juliet Emamaullee, Los Angeles, California, USA
- Joseph Phillips, Lebanon, Boone County, Indiana, USA

Australasian Faculty includes:

- Peter Choong, Vic
- Kate Drummond, Vic
- Cody Frear, Qld
- David Liu, Vic
- Craig McBride, Qld
- Jenny Myers, SA
- Geraldine Ooi, Vic
- Bhavesh Patel, Qld
- Christobel Saunders, Vic
- Julian Smith, Vic
- Sarah Thompson, SA
- David Watson, SA
- Deborah Wright, NZ

Hot Topic Speakers

Kate Drummond, Vic

Surgical Research – why bother with research when you can spend all day operating?!

Julian Smith, Vic

Tips and Tricks to getting your work published



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PERTH 2026

Thursday 30 April –
Sunday 3 May 2026

Final
Program

Thursday 13 November
2025

08:00AM	REGISTRATIONS OPEN Level 2, Foyer
08:45AM	WELCOME ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY Level 2, Training Room
08:55AM	INTRODUCTION TO DCAS DCAS Co-Chairs, Sarah Thompson & Craig McBride
09:00AM	SESSION 1: BECOMING AN ACADEMIC SURGEON Chairs: Matthew Read & Sarah Thompson
09:00AM	Pre-Career Researcher – combining a higher degree with an MD Cody Frear, Qld
09:15AM	Now I’m in SET, how can I combine SET with research? Geraldine Ooi, Vic
09:30AM	Mid-Career Researcher – how to juggle clinical work and research Juliet Emamaullee, USA
09:45AM	Why being a surgeon scientist was the right decision for me Craig McBride, Qld
10:00AM	PANEL DISCUSSION
10:15AM	TEA & COFFEE BREAK WITH THE FACULTY
10:45AM	SESSION 2: ACADEMIC SURGERY AS A MEANS TO AN END! Chairs: Anthony Glover & David Watson
10:45AM	HOT TOPIC – Surgical research – why bother with research when you can spend all day operating?! Kate Drummond, Vic
11:15AM	Optimising your CV and choosing the “right” referees Deborah Wright, NZ
11:30AM	How to ‘smash’ the interview Christobel Saunders, Vic
11:45AM	Early-Career Researcher – making the most of early opportunities David Liu, Vic
12:00PM	PANEL DISCUSSION
12:15PM	LUNCH BREAK WITH THE FACULTY

Developing a Career and skills in Academic Surgery (DCAS) Course

Final Program

Thursday 13 November
2025

1:15PM	SESSION 3: HOW TO GET YOUR WORK NOTICED! PUBLISHING YOUR MANUSCRIPT Chairs: Deborah Wright & Craig McBride
1:15AM	HOT TOPIC - Tips and tricks to getting your work published. Julian Smith, Vic
1:45PM	Tips and tricks for writing a manuscript (including choosing the right journal) David Watson, SA
2:00PM	Tips and tricks for making stand-out tables and figures Jenny Myers, SA
2:15PM	Which meetings should I target to present my work? Writing an abstract that will stand out Vikas Dudeja, USA
2:30PM	PowerPoint presentations: pitfalls and pearls Sarah Thompson, SA
2:45PM	PANEL DISCUSSION
3:00PM	TEA & COFFEE BREAK WITH THE FACULTY
3:30PM	SESSION 4: HOW TO SUCCEED IN ACADEMIA? Chairs: Julian Smith & Siobhan McKay
3:30PM	What funding options are realistic and how to optimise my chance of success? Timothy Donahue, USA
3:45PM	AI-augmented research: hazardous, harmful or helpful? Bhavesh Patel, Qld
4:00PM	Finding your boat and rising with the tide Joseph Phillips, USA
4:20PM	How to combine a busy orthopaedic practice with research – and why I chose this path Peter Choong, Vic
4:40PM	PANEL DISCUSSION
4:55PM	CLOSING REMARKS
5:00PM	END OF PROGRAM

Hot Topic in Academic Surgery Speakers



Kate Drummond
Victoria

Professor Kate Drummond, AM, MD, Grad Dip Theol, FRACS is Director of Neurosurgery at Royal Melbourne Hospital, Head of CNS Tumours at the VCCC Parkville Precinct.

Her research and clinical interests are in the biology and management of brain tumours. She has published over 210 peer-reviewed papers, has an H-index of 50 and has received more than \$35 million in research funding.

She is Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Clinical Neuroscience and on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Neurosurgery. She has served as Chief Examiner in Neurosurgery, Chair of the Women in Surgery Committee and on the Neurosurgery Surgical Education and Training Board for the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, being awarded the RACS medal for these services.

She is president of the Neurosurgical Society of Australasia and the Asian Australasian Society of Neurological Surgeons. She is Chair of Pangea Global Health Education, a for-impact organisation specialising in health education in low resource settings.

In 2019 she was awarded Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for services to medicine.



Julian Smith
Victoria

Professor Julian Smith, a Cardiothoracic Surgeon, has been Professor and Head of the Department of Surgery (School of Clinical Sciences at Monash Health) at Monash

University and Head/Senior Cardiothoracic Surgeon in the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Monash Health (Monash Medical Centre) since 2001.

He is a former Councillor of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, a past-President and Governor of the Australian and New Zealand Chapter of the American College of Surgeons and a past-President of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgeons.

He is currently Editor-in-Chief of the ANZ Journal of Surgery. His main clinical and research interests are in less invasive cardiac surgery, robotically assisted surgery, mechanical support of the circulation, cardiothoracic surgery clinical trials/audit/registries, the use of evidence-based medicine by surgeons and surgical education from which over 500 publications have arisen.

He was amongst the first cohort of graduates to receive the Master of Surgical Education degree from the University of Melbourne and in 2018 was an inaugural inductee into the Academy of Master Surgeon Educators of the American College of Surgeons.

Association for Academic Surgery Speakers and International Faculty



Timothy Donahue
USA

Dr. Timothy R. Donahue, MD, is a Professor of Surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, with a joint appointment in the Department of Molecular and Medical Pharmacology.

Association for Academic Surgery Speakers and International Faculty

He serves as the Chief of the Division of Surgical Oncology and Vice Chair for Cancer Care in the Department of Surgery. As the Garry Shandling Chair in Pancreatic Surgery and Director of the UCLA Agi Hirshberg Center for Pancreatic Diseases, he leads one of the nation's top multidisciplinary programs in pancreatic diseases, including cancer.

As Medical Director for Cancer Services, Dr. Donahue collaborates with senior leadership to enhance UCLA's clinical cancer programs, strengthening the institution's reputation in oncology care and treatment.

Performing up to three pancreatic surgeries weekly, Dr. Donahue focuses on complex cases involving borderline resectable and locally advanced pancreatic cancer. He advocates for extended preoperative chemo or radiation therapy to better select surgical candidates, which has contributed to improved patient survival rates.

In addition to clinical work, Dr. Donahue leads an NIH-funded laboratory developing better treatments and early diagnostic markers for pancreatic cancer. His translational research bridges laboratory discoveries to clinical trials, enabling investigator-initiated studies that advance patient care. Optimistic about future breakthroughs, he envisions significant advances in pancreatic cancer therapy during his career.

Nationally, Dr. Donahue has served as President of the Society of University Surgeons and Chair of the Surgical Research Committee for the American College of Surgeons. He co-Chairs the NIH Advancing Therapeutics Study Section, advocating for surgeon-scientists in translational research.



Vikas Dudeja
USA

President-elect of the Association for Academic Surgery and recently appointed Chair and Department Executive Officer (DEO) of the Department of Surgery at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine,

Professor Vikas Dudeja is a leading surgeon-scientist in pancreatic and hepatobiliary oncology.

Previously, as a tenured professor and director at University of Alabama at Birmingham, his National Institutes of Health (NIH), Department of Defence-, and Department of Veterans Affairs-funded laboratory explores pancreatic cancer and pancreatitis pathobiology and translational therapies.



Juliet Emamaullee
USA

Associate Professor Juliet Emamaullee is the Developing a Career in Academic Surgery Course Liaison for the Association for Academic Surgery (AAS) in the United States.

She is a liver and kidney transplant surgeon and serves as the Associate Chief of the Division of Clinical Research in the Department of Surgery at USC's Keck School of Medicine. Her laboratory applies systems immunology to personalised diagnostics and therapies in liver transplantation and rejection.

Association for Academic Surgery Speakers and International Faculty



Joseph Phillips USA

The AAS/RACS Younger Fellows Leadership Exchange is a prestigious program designed to foster international collaboration between emerging surgical leaders in the Association for Academic

Surgery (AAS) and the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS).

Dr Joseph Phillips, was awarded the AAS/RACS Younger Fellows Committee Leadership Exchange for 2025

An Associate Professor at Dartmouth's Geisel School of Medicine and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Centre, Dr. Joseph D. Phillips is a thoracic surgeon excelling in minimally invasive and robotic oncologic surgery.

His research focuses on tumour immunology in non-small cell lung cancer, particularly the role of immune cells and tumour-draining lymph nodes—knowledge that may translate into future cell-based immune therapies. He also serves on leadership committees for the AAS.

RACS Section of Academic Surgery Invited Speakers and local Faculty



Peter Choong Victoria

Professor Peter Choong's career has been defined by his significant contributions to surgical leadership, medical education, and innovative research.

With a trajectory spanning decades, Professor Choong's expertise and leadership are evident in his roles as the Sir Hugh Devine Professor of Surgery at St. Vincent's Hospital Melbourne, the Head of the University of Melbourne Department of Surgery and past Associate Dean of Innovation and Enterprise in the Faculty of Medicine Dentistry and Health Sciences.

Leading the Bone and Soft Tissue Tumour Service at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and the Department of Orthopaedics at St. Vincent's Hospital Melbourne for almost a quarter of a century underscored his unwavering commitment to patient care and clinical excellence.

Educated at the University of Melbourne, Professor Choong's academic journey encompasses institutions in Australia, Sweden (Lund University), and the United States (Mayo Clinic), lending him a diverse perspective that enriches his contributions to the field. His ambitious musculoskeletal research program spans fundamental science, bioengineering, and clinical epidemiology.

He is a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, Australian Orthopaedic Association, and Australian Academy of Health and Medical Science.

His leadership roles include Chief Medical Officer at St. Vincent's Hospital (2005-8), Board Chair in Orthopaedic Surgery at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (2008-11) and President of the Australian Orthopaedic Association (2013-14).



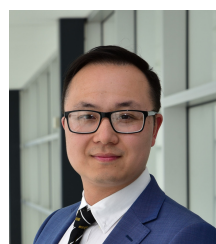
Cody Frear Queensland

Dr Cody Frear is a medical officer at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and an Honorary Dermatology Registrar with Veracity Clinical Research and Gabba

Dermatology. He graduated from the intercalated MD-PhD program at the University of Queensland in 2022. His doctoral research focused on interventions in the acute management of paediatric burn injuries.

Cody's research has been published in leading journals such as The British Journal of Surgery, The Journal of Clinical Investigation, and Annals of Emergency Medicine, and has directly informed national and international best-practice guidelines for paediatric burn care. He is an Associate Investigator on two multicentre implementation studies funded by the NHMRC and the US Department of Defense, together exceeding \$2.8 million in funding. He has presented his work at major national and international conferences, including meetings of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, the American Burn Association, the Australian and New Zealand Burn Association, and the Australasian College of Dermatologists. His recent presentations have examined peri-operative thermoregulation in burns surgery and the accuracy of frozen-section histopathology in severe cutaneous adverse reactions. Cody has been recognised with several awards, including the Children's Health Queensland Tribute Medal, the Fred Leditschke Medal for services to children impacted by burns, and the Universitas 21 Global 3MT and FameLab Australia National Final titles for science communication.

Beyond clinical and research work, he serves as an Associate Lecturer at the University of Queensland Faculty of Medicine and contributes to community health initiatives through the Australian Men's Shed Association and Parkrun Australia. His current interests span translational surgery, dermatopathology, and health-services research, with a focus on improving outcomes for patients with complex wounds and cutaneous disease.



David Liu Victoria

David Liu is an Oesophago-gastric and General Surgeon practicing at Austin Health and the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Victoria, Australia. He is also an Associate Professor within The University of Melbourne, Department of Surgery.

David has a passion for service innovation, translational biology, and clinical collaborative research, focussing on both benign and malignant upper gastrointestinal diseases, as well as general surgical conditions.

He is widely published (>110 articles) and has a strong track record for attracting research funding (>\$10M). Moreover, David leads the Victorian Interventional Research and Trials Unit at Austin Health, which canvases a wide portfolio of Phase 1 to 3 clinical trials that are investigator-led and industry sponsored.

He also works closely with the Tumorigenesis and Cancer Therapeutics Laboratory at Peter Mac to drive translational cancer research into the clinic.

RACS Section of Academic Surgery Invited Speakers and local Faculty



Craig McBride Queensland

Children have a natural and enthusiastic curiosity for life, which formal education can slowly erode. Adults don't always retain that curiosity, but if you're around children often enough their curiosity can rub off.

Craig McBride is a Paediatric Surgeon, so remains inquisitive thanks to being around children. Curiosity is not always valued in adults; unless you systematise and organise it. Then it becomes research, which sounds so much better to adult ears than curiosity.

Craig is a reluctant researcher, but it's the only way he's found of consistently getting away with being curious. It's led him down many paths - to publications, a PhD, and a Professorial appointment.



Jenny Myers South Australia

Dr Jenny Myers is a senior medical scientist at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital and a senior lecturer at The University of Adelaide & Flinders University.

Her considerable expertise in upper GI motility & physiology, fosters excellence in clinical service provision, teaching & education.

She supervises higher degree research students; authors both research & review publications and has a passion for education of physicians and surgeons embracing the challenges of clinical research.

Specialising in oesophageal function, her clinical and research interests include local, national and international collaborations for better management of motility disorders and reflux disease.



Geraldine Ooi Victoria

Geri Ooi is a Oesophagogastric and General Surgeon with Monash Health and Senior Lecturer in Monash University.

She finished her General Surgical training at Alfred and Austin Health in 2019. She was subsequently admitted into further subspecialty training with the Australia Aotearoa New Zealand Gastric and Oesophageal Surgery Association (AANZGOSA) post-fellowship training program and completed fellowships at Fiona Stanley Hospital and Monash Health.

To further her experience in cancer surgery and management, Geri undertook a final fellowship year in Surgical Oncology at the prestigious Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York in 2022-2023.

Geri completed her PhD in obesity, metabolic disease and bariatric surgery in 2019. She remains active in clinical and translational research, as well as surgical education. Her current research interests include the intersection between obesity and cancer, sarcopaenia, intratumour heterogeneity and quality improvement in general surgery.



Bhavesh Patel Queensland

Bhavesh Patel is a paediatric surgeon who believes that good surgery is only part of good care. Based in Brisbane, he works across public and private sectors, but his focus extends far beyond the operating theatre.

As Queensland's State Clinical Lead for Surgical Quality Improvement, and head of a national paediatric safety collaborative, he is driven by a single question: how can we do this better? His current focus is about better communication with patients through infographics, videos and AI avatars.

He teaches at the University of Queensland and Bond University, where he challenges students to think not just about anatomy, but about systems, equity, and the role of technology in shaping the future of care. His interests in digital health, AI, systems design, patient engagement are not distractions from surgery, but extensions of it.

Bhavesh has delivered keynote talks on artificial intelligence and, unexpectedly, calligraphy. Both, he says, are about precision, intention, and the quiet discipline of getting things right.



Christobel Saunders Victoria

Professor Christobel Saunders AO, MB BS, FRCS, FRACS, FAAHMS is the James Stewart Chair of Surgery, the Head of the Department of Surgery at the University of Melbourne (Royal Melbourne Hospital precinct), Director of Medical Research at Melbourne Medical School, Director to the VCCC Alliance Board, Board member (and previous inaugural Chair) of PathWest Laboratory Medicine and Consultant Surgeon in the Department of General Surgery at Royal Melbourne Hospital and the Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute.

She is President-elect of All.can International and co-chair of All.can Australia. Previous to this she was a General Surgeon in Western Australia from 2000 and Professor of Surgical Oncology at UWA from 2002.

Christobel is internationally recognised as one of Australia's most prominent research-orientated cancer surgeons, instrumental in the advancement of cancer management through her research, teaching, policy and advocacy work. She has substantially contributed to breast cancer research, including clinical trials of new treatments, and psychosocial, translational and health services research.

In recognition of her sustained career excellence and innovation, Christobel has been publicly acknowledged through numerous awards and honours including the Order of Australia 2018, the Uccio Querci della Rovere Award (2018), WA Women's Hall of Fame Inductee (2018), WA Scientist of the Year (2017), Cancer Council WA Career Achievement Award (2021) and was elected to the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Science in 2016.

She has performed research for >30 years evaluating the efficacy and utility of therapy for early breast cancer. In the past five years, Christobel has published over 200 peer-reviewed journal articles. She sits on other boards including Breast Cancer Trials and the Australian Centre for Value-Based Health Care.

RACS Section of Academic Surgery Invited
Speakers and local Faculty

Christobel is closely involved in strategic planning and management of health and cancer services in Australia including being a member of the Medicare Review Advisory Committee, panel member of the Medical Services Advisory Committee, Cancer Plan Navigation sub-committee. And she was the past Advisory Council member of Cancer Australia, past President of the Breast Surgical Society of ANZ, past President Cancer Council WA, and the passed Inaugural Chair of the state Health Service Provider, PathWest Laboratory Medicine.



Sarah Thompson
South Australia

A/Prof Sarah Thompson is a balanced academic at Flinders University, and sees patients with reflux, motility disorders and cancer in her private practice.

A/Prof Thompson completed her surgical training at the University of Calgary, Canada and subsequently completed a Minimally Invasive Surgery fellowship at the Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, U.S.A., and an Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery fellowship in Adelaide, South Australia.

A/Prof Thompson is a board member and treasurer of AANZGOSA (Australian & Aotearoa New Zealand Gastric & Oesophageal Surgery Association), and maintains an active membership with the Society of American Gastric and Esophageal Surgeons (SAGES).

A/Prof Thompson is the Specialty Editor for Upper GI Surgery for the ANZ Journal of Surgery, and she is on the Editorial Board of the World Journal of Surgery. A/Prof Thompson has authored more than 120 peer-reviewed scientific articles, and was included as a chief investigator in obtaining over \$1.4 million dollars in research and clinical development grants.

She has a clinical interest in reflux, oesophageal motility disorders such as achalasia, and upper gastrointestinal cancer.



David Watson
South Australia

Professor Watson was appointed to the position of Head of the University Department of Surgery at Flinders Medical Centre in 2002.

He has clinical interests in the areas of surgery for benign and malignant oesophageal disease, upper gastrointestinal surgery, advanced laparoscopic surgery and interventional endoscopy.

He has been active in the development of laparoscopic and endoscopic surgery in Australia, pioneering the development and evaluation of laparoscopic surgery for gastro-oesophageal reflux, oesophageal motility disorders, and oesophageal cancer.

He has linked this activity to the evaluation and refinement of techniques within prospective randomised clinical trials. He has authored more than 500 refereed research papers and book chapters.

He has also received numerous major research grants from major funding bodies, including NHMRC, MRFF and NIH.

He is an elected Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences (FAHMS), an honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh, life member of the Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand Gastric and Oesophageal Surgery Association, and a Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professor at Flinders University.



Deborah Wright
New Zealand

Dr Deborah Wright is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Surgery and Critical Care at the University of Otago and a Consultant General and Colorectal Surgeon in public and private practice.

Her research interests are in cancer genomics, surgical education, and collaborative surgical research. Her leadership spans national and international multi-centre trials, with significant contributions to trainee- and student-led research networks that advance surgical practice and education.

Dr Wright has authored numerous peer-reviewed publications, and secured competitive research grants.

She also holds governance and advisory roles across professional bodies, research collaboratives, and health sector committees, reflecting her commitment to improving patient outcomes, mentoring the next generation of surgeons, and shaping the future of surgical education and research.



**Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander motif**

The Māori motif indicates RACS’ commitment to address Māori health inequity to accept obligations inherent in te Tiriti o Waitangi.



**Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander motif**

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander motif indicates RACS’ commitment to address Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health inequity.

Course Organiser
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