



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

Thursday 13 November 2025  
Melbourne, Victoria

8:00am - 8:30am	Registrations Open
8:45am	Acknowledgement of Country
8:45am	Welcome
8:55am	Introduction to DCAS
9:00am	<b>Session 1: Becoming an Academic Surgeon</b> Pre-Career Researcher - combining a higher degree with an MD - <i>Cody Frear, Qld</i>  Early-Career Researcher – making the most of early opportunities - <i>David Liu, Vic</i>  Mid-Career Researcher – how to juggle clinical work and research - <i>International Speaker TBA</i>  Why being a surgeon scientist was the right decision for me - <i>Craig McBride, Qld</i>
10:00am	Panel Discussion
10:15am	Morning Tea with Faculty
10:45am	<b>Session 2: Academic Surgery as a means to an end!</b> <i>HOT TOPIC in Academic Surgery: Surgical Research - why bother with research when you can spend all day operating?! - Kate Drummond, Vic</i> Optimising your CV and choosing the “right” referees - <i>Deborah Wright, NZ</i>  How to ‘smash’ the interview - <i>Christobel Saunders, Vic</i>  Now I’m in SET, how can I combine SET with research? - <i>Geraldine Ooi, Vic</i>
12:00pm	Panel Discussion
12:15pm	Lunch with Faculty
1:15pm	<b>Session 3: How to get your work noticed! Publishing your manuscript</b> <i>HOT TOPIC – Tips and Tricks to getting your work published - Julian Smith, Vic</i>  Tips and tricks for writing a manuscript (including choosing the right journal) - <i>David Watson, SA</i>  Tips and tricks for making stand-out tables and figures - <i>Jenny Myers, SA</i>  Which meetings should I target to present my work? Writing an abstract that will stand out - <i>International Speaker TBA</i>  PowerPoint presentations: pitfalls and pearls - <i>Sarah Thompson, SA</i>
2:45pm	Panel Discussion
3:00pm	Afternoon Break with Faculty
3:30pm	<b>Session 4: How to succeed in Academia?</b>  What funding options are realistic and how to optimise my chance of success? - <i>International Speaker TBA</i>  AI-augmented research: hazardous, harmful or helpful? - <i>Bhavesh Patel, Qld</i>  Finding your boat and rising with the tide - <i>Joseph Phillips, USA</i>  How to combine a busy orthopaedic practice with research – and why I chose this path - <i>Peter Choong, Vic</i>
4:40pm	Panel Discussion
4:55pm	Closing remarks
5:00pm	Meeting Concludes