

NOMINEES TO THE ENDOCRINE SURGERY SECTION COMMITTEE 2022 – 2025

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

A/Prof Senarath Edirimanne (NSW)

I am a specialist endocrine surgeon based in Sydney and a clinical academic/researcher at University of Sydney. I have been a full member of Endocrine Section of RACS, Australian and New Zealand Endocrine Surgeons (ANZES) and Endocrine Society of Australia for over 10 years. At national level, I have experience in leadership groups, curricular and national clinical guideline developments, as a member of General Surgeons of Australia, Academy of Surgical Educators and Cancer Australia. My aim is to promote the highest standard of endocrine surgical care in Australia and New Zealand through training; especially with the upcoming post fellowship endocrine surgical training program and bi-national collaborative, multi center, endocrine surgical research into standards, delivery and outcomes of endocrine surgery using ANZES as a platform.

A/Prof Anthony Robert Glover (NSW)

I would like to join the RACS Endocrine Surgery Section Committee to build and continue the success the section has had with training, education, and research. I am a Specialist Endocrine Surgeon with clinical practices at Royal North Shore Hospital and St Vincent's Clinic (Sydney).

In addition, I am an active researcher and a Cancer Institute NSW Early Career Fellow at the Garvan Institute where I lead a group studying endocrine cancer biology and outcomes. I am active in surgical education, being the Program Director for the Master Surgery, University of Sydney which is one of the largest surgical education programs in Australia with over 350 enrolled students and 50 staff members. I am a current committee member of ANZES and sit on the steering committee of the Australian New Zealand Thyroid Cancer Registry.

I am committed to understanding and improving outcomes from Endocrine Surgery and would like to continue and use my skills and experience in research and education to continue to grow the section and its standing within RACS to promote safe and competent endocrine surgery practice around Australia and New Zealand.

A/Prof Justin Gundara (QLD)

Dear colleagues in endocrine surgery,

With your support, it has been a privilege to serve during the present term. Maintaining QLD representation has been key and has translated into numerous endocrine surgery ventures including the first national pheochromocytoma audit and more recently the soon to be published binational hyperparathyroidism guidelines. My section representation ensured QLD was at the forefront of these initiatives. Beyond this, my tenure overseeing the Endocrine Section (and ANZES) Training and Education portfolio has seen the development of the first ever fellowship training program in endocrine surgery. With expected commencement in 2023, I aim to see this through to completion,

with success dependent upon the knowledge and experience accrued by driving this process over the last term. Lastly, I continue to be committed to the Endocrine Section through the ASC and as nominated convener for the 2022 Congress in Brisbane, I look forward to ongoing collaboration toward a successful event. This will only be achieved with the continued support of the section membership. I ask that you support me on the basis of a solid representative foundation, proven success and a motivated plan moving forward. Ongoing Queensland representation will facilitate a truly diverse and representative leadership group.

Dr Simon Harper (AoNZ)

Please consider me for election to the RACS Endocrine Surgery Section Committee. I believe that I have the skills and experience to represent the diverse group that is RACS Endocrine Surgeons effectively in this role. I am a high-volume Endocrine Surgeon in Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand working in both public and private practice. My post-fellowship training was in the UK. I was privileged to convene the Endocrine section of the ASC in Bangkok in 2019 and have been involved with ANZES as the AoNZ representative on that committee since then. More recently I have been a member of the multidisciplinary expert author panel who wrote the soon to be published Australasian position statement on the management of parathyroid disease. Locally I am the chair of our regional thyroid cancer MDM and have experience in working in RACS committees as a former RACSTA representative and current member of the AoNZ General Surgery training board. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to stand for election.

Dr Christine Lai (SA)

I am a surgeon on The Queen Elizabeth Hospital Breast and Endocrine Surgical Unit, South Australia. I have been involved in the Endocrine Surgical Section as a committee member and as the Endocrine Section convenor of the 2017 RACS Annual Scientific Meeting. I have also been a long-standing member of the Australian and New Zealand Endocrine Surgeons Society, including being a co-opted committee member over the last 4 years and on the organising committee that hosted Asian Endocrine Surgeons Congress in March 2020. I am passionate about postgraduate training and have been involved with the curriculum and regulations of the post fellowship training (PFT) which was led by A/Prof Justin Gundara. If elected I would like to continue working on the implementation and RACS accreditation of an Endocrine Surgical PFT.

A/Prof James Lee (VIC)

I am an academic endocrine surgeon at The Alfred and Monash Health in Melbourne. During my current term on the Endocrine Surgery Section and ANZES committees, I enjoyed working as the Scientific Convener of the 2020 Asian Association of Endocrine Surgeons and the 2021 RACS ASC. I am also proud to have been involved in the re-build of the ANZES website. It is my belief that, as a boutique subspecialty, the importance of a professional society to provide a united voice cannot be underestimated. The society should also be a body that facilitates training and education, ongoing support, and collegiality to its members.

I have a wide range of research interests in all aspects of endocrine surgery, including clinical studies, biomarkers discovery, application of machine learning, and patient-reported outcomes research. Following the support of the RACS Senior Lecturer Fellowship in 2017-18, my current research is funded by The Aftershock charity, IMPACT Philanthropy and Epworth Research Grant. Taking part in the training of the next generation of surgeons, by supervising trainees and research students, and being part of the Court of Examiners, is fulfilling work. Through my involvement in our section and research, I hope to contribute to the advancement of endocrine surgery in Australasia.

Dr Edwina Moore (VIC)

I am an endocrine surgeon in private practice on the Mornington Peninsula.

I obtained my fellowship in General Surgery in 2015 and subsequently completed three years of post-fellowship training in breast and endocrine surgery. In particular, I spent two years at the Cleveland Clinic (USA) under the direct mentorship of Allan Siperstein (outgoing President of American Association Endocrine Surgeons AAES) as a clinical research fellow and clinical associate (junior faculty).

My clinical practice comprises all aspects of endocrine surgery. Further to this, my other current extra-curricular activities are:

- Course Director of Ultrasound Workshop for Endocrine Surgeons (Brisbane May 2, 2022)
- Elected member of the AAES Emerging Therapeutics and Guidelines subcommittee
- Elected member of RACS Women in Surgery subcommittee
- Mentee within both AAES and RACS mentoring programmes
- Peer reviewer for multiple endocrine specific journals (Surgery, Gland Surgery, ANZJS and Endocrine Practice).

In addition, I am also completing a PhD to investigate the status of hereditary endocrine tumours in Australia, with view to establishing a central data repository for these complex patients and their families. I believe that this an area of interest for the Endocrine Surgery Section, with vast opportunities for international collaboration but is presently overlooked.

I am an advocate of surgical excellence and am keen to promote endocrine surgery as a stand-alone specialty amongst colleagues and the community at large. I have fresh ideas and am motivated to make impactful changes to the benefit of our members. As a mother of three and wife of a colorectal surgeon, my personal strengths are time management and collaboration.

A/Prof Navin Niles (NSW)

A/Prof Navin Niles works in the Liverpool area and works at the Northern Beaches, Sydney Adventist and Macquarie University Hospitals. A/Prof Niles performs over 400 endocrine procedures per year. His research interests are in immune checkpoint pathways in thyroid cancer. He has supervised multiple PhD and Masters candidates through the Ingham Institute of Applied Medical Research and Western Sydney University. He is the Head of General Surgery at Sydney Southwest Private Hospital. A/Prof Niles played an important role in developing the curriculum and structure of the post graduate fellowship in Endocrine Surgery. A/Prof Niles convened the Endocrine Section for the 2018 Sydney RACS Annual Scientific Congress. At this time A/Prof Niles was co-opted to the Endocrine Section Committee where he learned and contributed to the important work the committee undertakes.

Dr Chris O'Neill (NSW)

Chris O'Neill is an endocrine surgeon from Newcastle NSW. She has a high-volume endocrine surgery practice across both the public and private sectors and chairs the Hunter New England Endocrine Surgery MDT. She is current head of general surgery at John Hunter Hospital and a conjoint associate professor at the University of Newcastle. Chris is also undertaking a PhD in health-related quality of life in thyroid cancer and is supervising high degree students investigating patient and clinician roles

in shared decision making in low-risk thyroid cancer. Through this research she is developing expertise in behavioural and implementation science. She has previously been the supervisor for SET training for the Newcastle network and participates in the accreditation process of SET training posts via GSA. In her spare time Chris enjoys swimming, running and spends a lot of time running around after her 3 children.

A/Prof Mark Sywak (NSW)

A/Prof Mark Sywak is a Sydney based Endocrine Surgeon practicing at Royal North Shore Hospital. He has an 18-year experience in Specialist Surgical practice. Dr Sywak is a graduate of the University of Sydney Medical School and completed specialist training in General surgery and Endocrine surgery at Royal North Shore Hospital and University of Calgary. He performs over 500 endocrine surgical procedures annually. His research interests are focussed on thyroid cancer and surgical outcomes studies. Dr Sywak is lead Clinician for the Endocrine Tumour Group at RNSH and is an Examiner in Surgery for the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. He is dedicated to promoting the evolution of endocrine surgery in Australia and New Zealand through collaborative research and teaching the next generation of surgical specialists.

Dr Clement Wong (QLD)

I am the Director of Endocrine Surgery at the Royal Brisbane Hospital. I received my fellowship training in Brisbane and Adelaide, and have since been fortunate enough to have the opportunity to pass on this knowledge by becoming the supervisor for surgical registrars and overseas endocrine surgical fellows. I have set up a dedicated endocrine surgical service with close collaboration with endocrinologists and radiation oncologists in a multidiscipline thyroid cancer clinic.

Besides having interests in teaching and research, I am also keen in international collaboration. In 2018, I organised a live workshop on laparoscopic posterior retroperitoneal adrenalectomy, bringing in international expert Professor Martin Walz and establishing ongoing research opportunities with him. I also established an ongoing working relationship with Professor Brian Lang in Hong Kong using RFA and HIFU in the management of thyroid nodule. I was the breast section convenor for ASC 2016, and a co-opt committee member of BreastSurgANZ for 2 years. My passion is to promote best practice endocrine surgical services in Australia, and foster collaboration research opportunities both nationally and internationally.

Dr Sze Ling Wong (WA)

I am a specialist endocrine and general surgeon. I obtained my medical degree and underwent general surgery training in Canada. I then spent two years of post-fellowship training in endocrine surgery at the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne in 2013 and Royal Perth Hospital (RPH), Perth in 2014. I am part of the RPH Endocrine Surgery unit who introduced Transoral Endoscopic Thyroidectomy Vestibular Approach (TOETVA) to Australia. I am actively involved in Western Australia Endocrine Surgeons (WAES), the main endocrine surgery association in WA. I have been organising WAES journal clubs and WAES Annual Scientific Congress. I also participate in WAES annual audit to ensure best practices in endocrine surgery. I am currently the WA representative in Australian and New Zealand Endocrine Surgeons (ANZES) council. I believe I have the experience and ability to serve on the RACS Endocrine Surgery Section Committee.