

## Upper GI, HPB and Obesity Surgery Section Newsletter March 2017

Preparations for the RACS ASC in Adelaide in May are progressing extremely well and a fantastic [program](#) has been prepared. Congratulations, and many thanks, to the 3 Section convenors Tim Bright, John Chen and Jacob Chisholm for their work in preparing this program for the Section.

The RACS Section visitors are: Upper GI: Professor Giovanni Zaninotto London, UK and Dr Amir Ghaferi Michigan, USA, HPB: Professor Pierce Chow Singapore and Professor Charles Vollmer Philadelphia, USA and Obesity Surgery: Associate Professor Matthew Kroh Cleveland, USA. Important events during the ASC are: Tuesday 9 May 2017 Bariatric / HPB / Transplantation / Upper GI Surgery Dinner 7:00pm – 10:30pm at the Adelaide Oval Cathedral Room Level 3, Eastern Stand War Memorial Drive, North Adelaide and Wednesday 10 MAY 5:30pm Upper GI, HPB and Obesity Surgery Section Annual Business Meeting.

Planning for the 2018 ASC in Sydney is well underway and the convenors are David Links (Upper GI), Vincent Lam (HPB) and Garrett Smith (Obesity) The HPB Visitors are: 1) Professor Rebecca Minter, Chief, Section of Hepatopancreatobiliary Surgery at UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, United States, and 2) Professor Herbert Zeh III, Watson Family Professor of Surgery, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, United States. The Upper GI and Bariatric Visitors are still to be confirmed.

Last year funds generated from the investment of the Upper GI, HPB & Obesity Surgery Fund enabled the Obesity Surgery College Visitor (Mr Shaw Somers) to visit several centres in New Zealand and Australia prior to the ASC. This year the returns were at a lower level and will therefore be re-invested to assist with future international visitors.

I am pleased to advise that the Australian and New Zealand Hepatic, Pancreatic and Biliary Association (ANZHPBA) and the Australia and New Zealand Gastric and Oesophageal Surgeons Association (ANZGOSA) proposals for Post Fellowship Education and Training Programs (PFETs) have been accredited by RACS which is a major endorsement of the quality of these two training programs.

The Section [website](#) has direct links to the ANZGOSA/ANZHPBA/OSSANZ sites plus the ANZGOSA audit and the Bariatric Surgery Registry

### **Current Committee Members** are:

Ross Roberts Chair (NZ), Wendy Brown Deputy Chair (VIC), Val Usatoff Committee Member (VIC), George Hopkins Committee Member (QLD), Neil Merrett Committee Member (NSW), Gary Crosthwaite Committee Member (VIC), Arthur Richardson Committee Member (NSW), Jacob Chisholm ASC 2017 Convener (Bariatric) (SA), Tim Bright ASC 2017 Convener (Upper GI) (SA), John Chen ASC 2017 Convener (HPB) (SA), David Links ASC 2018 Convener (Upper GI) (NSW), Vincent Lam ASC 2018 Convener (HPB) (NSW), Garrett Smith ASC 2018 Convener (Obesity) (NSW). Please approach any of these Committee members if you would like an issue discussed by the Committee or tabled at the ABM in May.

Committee members who are standing down from May 2017 are Gary Crosthwaite, Val Usatoff and myself. I would like to thank Gary and Val for the great contribution they have made to the Section and to warmly welcome the new members of the Committee.

Following the Call for Nominations run in October 2016, the new Committee is: Wendy Brown (VIC), George Hopkins (QLD), Arthur Richardson (NSW), Neil Merrett (NSW), Jonathan Koea (NZ), Samuel Baker (QLD), Jeff Hamdorf (WA), and Reza Adib (by invitation) (QLD).

Vincent Lam, David Links and Garrett Smith will also remain on the Committee as co-opted ASC Convenors 2018.

The new Committee will take office at the 2017 ASC.

Finally I would like to thank Paul Cargill (Manager, Fellowship Services VIC) and Janet Devlin (Secretariat VIC) for all their hard work and support – it has been a great pleasure working with them and the whole Committee.

**Ross Roberts**  
**Chair Upper GI, HPB & Obesity Surgery Section**

**Upcoming meetings**

**RACS ASC** 2017 Adelaide (8 – 12 May)

IFSO World Congress – London 29 August to 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2017

ANZGOSA / AGITG Combined Meeting Cairns Convention Centre 4 – 6 October 2017

Joint Scientific Meeting of the ANZOS, OSSANZ & AOCO

ANZHPBA “Emergency HPB Surgery” Meeting Adelaide 23 – 24 October 2017

**RACS ASC** 2018 Sydney (7 – 11 May)

International HPB Association 13<sup>th</sup> World Congress, Geneva. 3 – 7 September 2018

16<sup>th</sup> World Congress of ISDE, Vienna, Austria 16 – 19 September 2018

Combined ANZHPBA and ANZGOSA Meeting, Te Papa National Museum, Wellington, New Zealand  
8 - 9 October 2018

**RACS ASC** 2019 Bangkok (May)