

Making the most of your membership



Advocacy

The College represents you on local, national, bi-national and international issues that impact you and quality patient care in New Zealand and Australia. In 2020 this included several priorities:

New Zealand

- An election statement and responses from major parties.
- Making changes to the specialist training years and rotations.
- Advocating for changes to Bowel Screening age for Māori.
- Proposed changes to Medical Council of New Zealand statements on telehealth, unprofessional behaviour and ending a doctor – patient relationship.
- Proposed changes to the Otago University Medical School Admissions Policy.
- Meetings with Ministry officials regarding Covid-19 including access to PPE, impact on and reintroduction of elective surgery.
- Advocating with individual politicians on arms legislation, to Select Committees on Smokefree Amendment Bill for vaping and to Health Ministry on review of Deaths, Funerals, Burials and Cremation.

Australia

- Election statements and responses in the Northern Territory, ACT and Queensland.
- Advocated for publicly restricting the title of surgeon.
- National Medical Workforce Strategy.
- Collected Fellow and patient data on telehealth and advocating for extension of MBS item numbers.
- 2021 Commonwealth National Road Safety Strategy.
- Royal Commission into Natural Disaster Arrangements (the Bushfire Royal Commission).
- Australian National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce.
- Australia's Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade policy in a post-pandemic world.
- Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training Program.

As a RACS Fellow you can help develop and advocate for policies which promote the safety and sustainability of surgery in our healthcare systems. As well as regularly respond to government consultations and other calls for input, the year 2020 has also seen the development of new initiatives including:

Sustainability in Healthcare Working Group

A key element in both our nations' mixed healthcare systems, significant focus was given to the sustainability of private health insurance under current policy settings. The RACS Sustainability in Healthcare Working Group works on longer term policy projects. For example, in 2020, we worked with a research partner to develop and distribute two surveys on telehealth – one aimed at Australia-based surgeons and the other at their patients. Data from the surveys was used to engage with the Australian Government – first to advocate for an extension to the temporary telehealth MBS item numbers, and then to make them permanent. The group has also driven the College's advocacy to protect the public by restricting the title 'surgeon', an issue on which the COAG Health Council is now undertaking significant work.

Developing environmental credentials

The Lancet Commission on Climate and Health has previously called for the healthcare community to take a leadership role in advocating for emissions reductions, and to critically examine its

own activities with respect to their effects on human and environmental health. RACS supports these calls, has developed a position paper on the Environmental Impact of Surgical Practice and formed the Environmental Sustainability in Surgical Practice Working Group (ESSPWG). The Group's focus is to continue to develop RACS' position by focussing on issues such as environmental sustainability, the possible effects of climate change on the public health system, and waste management.

Advocating for rural health equity

RACS continues to advocate for a more equitable and accessible rural surgical workforce. The shared goals to select, train and retain surgeons for rural communities have facilitated collaborative efforts with RACS Specialty Training Boards and their respective societies to develop proposals that:

- increase positive rural work experience of SET Trainees through curricula and training posts.
- increase post-Fellowship opportunities in rural surgery.
- continue to support rural Fellows in professional

development and fostering networks with other Fellows in urban settings.

- leverage the existing Australian Federal government funded Specialist Training Program (STP) and regional training networks.

RACS launched a New Fellow Rural Placement Pilot aimed at attracting Fellows who had recently completed surgical training to work in a rural setting long term. The pilot program took place at the Royal Darwin Hospital and Cairns Hospital where these new consultants experienced a comprehensive, high quality workload and case mix. Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health through the Specialist Training Program (STP).

Surgical Community

In both New Zealand and Australia RACS advocates strongly in partnership with specialty surgical societies and associations to strengthen and present a united voice from across the surgical community.

For more information contact us at:
RACS.Advocacy@surgeons.org

COVID-19

Early in 2020 the College launched the COVID-19 Hub bringing together information from government, specialty societies and College activities including exams and CPD. To inform practice the College commissioned a series of rapid reviews. These reviews have been updated as new evidence and guidelines have become available and include:

- Guidelines on the Preoperative Diagnostic Workup for COVID-19 - A rapid review commissioned by RACS
- RACS Guidelines for Safe Surgery: open versus laparoscopic
- Surgery Triage: Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic - A rapid review commissioned by RACS
- Guidelines for Personal Protective Equipment - A rapid review commissioned by RACS
- Position Statement: Guidance for Endoscopy Training in New Zealand and Australia in the peri-COVID-19 era

Benefits of membership

FRACS: a badge of quality

Using the internationally recognised FRACS badge of quality sends a reassuring message to your patients that they are cared for by a surgeon who has attained the highest standards of professionalism and has a proven commitment of lifelong learning and surgical care.

RACS encourages you to use the FRACS logo on letterheads, business cards and websites.

FRACS logo and other artwork are available on the members' only portal on the RACS website.

Learning and development

Developed by surgeons for surgeons, the continuing professional development (CPD) program meets and often exceeds the rigorous requirements of the Medical Board of Australia (MBA) and the Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ).

You have access to a range of programs that provide educational and networking opportunities including:

- Professional development and skills programs developed especially for you and your colleagues. Some run free of charge or at low cost to Fellows, and

- A range of conferences, scientific meetings and programs providing educational and networking opportunities such as the RACS Annual Scientific Congress.
- 'Micro Learning' activities on key surgical standards and reflective practice
- Webinars for sections and interest groups such as Trauma

Access to the CPD Online platform including;

- Online learning plan
 - Automatic entry and verification of approved CPD activities
 - Access to current and previous CPD statements
 - Dedicated support team
- Coming soon in the CPD space:**
- New 'CPD Online' platform
 - Access to patient resources
 - *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Surgery* CPD activity including MCQ.

Safety and quality programs

- You are supported to maintain the highest possible levels of patient safety through access to:
- Standards, guidelines and position papers that provide guidance for what we do
- Mortality audits that monitor surgical safety,

address process errors and identify significant trends in surgical care

- A trauma verification program to help hospitals and trauma teams measure their skills and processes against international benchmarks to decrease patient mortality, expenditure and hospital stay.

The latest research and information with RACS publications

Fellows are provided free subscriptions to publications funded through the College including:

- The *ANZ Journal of Surgery* is a leading publication for surgical research in Australasia that carries peer reviewed papers and research
- *Surgical News* focuses on research funded by RACS scholarships, news, the latest surgical developments and College events and courses
- FaxMentis is an e-bulletin, shares news, information and events relevant for you once a fortnight
- Post Op Podcast presents interviews with surgeons from Australia and New Zealand.

RACS library

- You have access to the comprehensive RACS library with its wide range of books, guides, journals and databases. Most resources are available through our members portal, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Experienced health librarians can assist you with journal article requests and literature searches.
- Access the library via the RACS website or email college.library@surgeons.org

Surgical research, travel and training scholarships

- You have access to over A\$2 million dollars annually in surgical research and travel scholarships and grants.

Awards

- You are eligible to receive a variety of awards that recognise your career and contribution to surgery in your local area, Australia and New Zealand.

As a RACS Fellow you can help shape the future in many ways by:

- becoming a hospital supervisor, for Surgical Education Training (SET), or a skills course director
- participating in RACS' governance to contribute

to strategic priorities for future surgeons

- Contributing to special interest groups working to increase the diversity of the next generation of surgeons.

Opportunity to support the Foundation for Surgery

- As a member of RACS, you can be part of significant positive changes being made in global health, Indigenous health and surgical research. You can help ensure all people have access to safe and quality surgical care when they need it most by supporting the Foundation for Surgery, RACS' philanthropic arm.

Support from your local RACS office

Each Australian state, territory and New Zealand office with staff understand the local issues and can assist you in various ways.

The offices also run professional development programs, meetings and networking events cater that you will find useful for your personal and professional growth.

In most jurisdictions, you can also have access to meeting space for professional use.

Contact your local office to discuss the support you need.

Additional members only benefits

Fellows are encouraged to take advantage of other services available via the members only section of the website. These include:

- Profile to share information with the public through the Fund a Surgeon database
- Discounted products and services catering for surgeons in Australia and New Zealand through Member Advantage
- Access to converge International for confidential support to you and your immediate family members in times of need. This is available 24/7.

For more information on any of the benefits or opportunities mentioned visit the RACS website.

Telephone +61 3 9249 1200
Email R.A.C.S@surgeons.org
Website www.surgeons.org

We are undergoing a big transformation!

RACS is undergoing a transformation to better support and advance your needs in today's rapidly changing world. The One College Transformation is a College-wide initiative, comprising technology, people and culture, and governance.

As part of this initiative, RACS has become one of 1,700 Microsoft partners worldwide, ensuring access to the latest enterprise resources. This partnership will deliver significant benefits to Fellows, Trainees and Specialist International Medical Graduates over the next few years and create new opportunities within the surgical community for collaboration with our specialty societies and associations.

With our leaders, staff and partners all working as one, you will experience a new sense of openness and responsiveness that marks a new chapter – and your new relationship – with the College.

We are continually improving the ways you engage with the College

- An improved member management system to allow you to access information and services you need from any device, at any time.

- Establishing a single view of your profile across the College.
- Enabling you to move between platforms more intuitively, making it quick and easy for you to:
 - update your profile
 - make payments
 - get timely alerts for your Continuing Professional Development.

We are putting you at the centre of the experience

- A centralised member management system will bring together your interactions with the College into one unified profile.
- A new single system that will require you to only sign in once.
- Timely alerts will help you stay up to date with your professional development requirements.

We are creating a modern workplace with greater flexibility

- A whole-of-College change to further enable a collaborative and flexible workplace – the better supported our staff are, the better they can support you.

We're reducing inefficiency to improve value for you

- We are streamlining our

governance model to reduce administrative overhead and focus on outcomes.

- Technology such as SharePoint Online, Microsoft Teams and OneDrive for Business will improve productivity and relationships between College staff and you, our members.
- Business processes will be enhanced, enabling College staff to better cater to your needs.

We need your contribution to shape surgery's future

- We are making it easier for you to contribute to the College's development.
- We are moving to a contemporary model of governance, removing internal roadblocks for approvals.
- We are working to exceed diversity targets in our committees to hear from more people

We want our Fellows, Specialist International Medical Graduates and Trainees to be involved in and contribute to the transformation program. If you have any questions or would like to indicate an interest in participating in pilot reviews for the 1CT program, please email 1CT@surgeons.org.



CPD ROADMAP 2020-2021

Welcome to CPD 2020

1 Jan to 31 Dec 2020
Due 28 Feb 2021

COVID-19

How do I do my CPD?



Let us help you

CPD.College@surgeons.org
+61 3 9249 1282

Peer Review Audit (Category 1)

Clinical Governance and Quality Improvement (Category 2)

You can claim
your COVID
meetings
for 10 points



Maintenance of Knowledge and Skills (Category 3)

- CPD activity list
- Micro learning activities
- General activities now capped at 30 points



Reflective Practice (Category 4)

- Cultural Competence for Medical Specialists
- Learning Plan available in your portfolio
- Micro learning Activity

Happy New Year!!!

CPD January to June 2021

Choose 2 out
of 3 activities
Learning Plan
Micro learning
activity or RACS
ASC or your
society ASM



Complete your CPD activities and they will populate into your CPD

1 July 2021

Welcome to the NEW IMPROVED RACS CPD program

