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# ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Surgeons to Gather in Auckland

Thursday 14 March, 2013

Eminent surgeons from around the world will join their New Zealand and Australian counterparts in Auckland for the 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Scientific Congress (ASC) of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

Running from 6 to 10 May, the ASC's theme will be "Sustainable Surgery" which will shape a plenary program that examines four objectives:

- Sustainable technology and health service delivery
- Sustainable training and workforce development
- Sustainable surgical research and innovation
- A sustainable role for the College

College President, Associate Professor Michael Hollands, said a total of 25 general and specific programs will be convened over the five days of the Congress. "In addition to the specialty and sub-specialty based programs, there are programs dedicated to areas as diverse as Military Surgery, Rural Surgery, Pain Medicine and Indigenous Health.

"In fact, this year's ASC will be notable for hosting the inaugural Indigenous Health Forum, which will provide trans-Tasman perspectives on the Indigenous health experience. Keynote addresses will be given by respected Indigenous and non-Indigenous academics and medical practitioners, with an emphasis on culturally appropriate and sustainable approaches to the provision of health care."

Associate Professor Hollands noted the quality of guest speakers attending the ASC.

"We are delighted that this year's Syme Oration will be delivered by Sir Peter Gluckman, a distinguished New Zealander noted for his contribution to paediatric medicine and science more generally. And this year's President's Lecture will be delivered by Sir Ray Avery, who not only invents life changing technology but develops ways of making it accessible to the poorest people in the world."

The 2013 Edward "Weary" Dunlop Lecture will be delivered by Major General Professor Alan Hawley, a British military surgeon who has completed operational tours in Northern Ireland, Rwanda, Bosnia, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Associate Professor Hollands said that a key feature of the program will be the scores of specialty-based workshops which enable delegates to consider recent developments in the science of surgery.

"Those delegates who have done particularly important work within their specialty have forwarded abstracts to the College in advance of the Congress and will make formal presentations at the ASC," he said.

The ASC will be held at the Skycity/Crowne Plaza Convention Centre. The ASC provisional program is available online at [asc.surgeons.org](http://asc.surgeons.org)

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