2017 REPORT ON THE ACS CLINICAL CONGRESS AND CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

It is a great honour for me to have been elected the ANZ Chapter President and Governor for the next three years. I would like to acknowledge and to thank Ian Civil for his outstanding contribution to the ANZ Chapter over many years.

ACS Clinical Congress - San Diego, CA, October 21-26, 2017

The 2017 Clinical Congress was held for the first time in San Diego under brilliant sunshine with temperatures around 30 degrees. The huge San Diego Convention Centre was an excellent venue. The theme of the Congress was “Do what's right for the patient”. A strong delegate and industry attendance was noted. Some highlights from the Clinical Congress relevant to our Chapter were as follows:

The ACS CEO, Dr David Hoyt, presented on the State of the ACS to the Governors and at the Convocation. The ACS is considered the “House of Surgery”. Its organisational and financial strength has been maintained. Its four Platforms of activity are: (1) Quality, (2) Education, (3) Member Services, and (4) Health Policy and Advocacy. The recent strategic focus has been on: (1) International Engagement, (2) Educational developments, (3) Gun violence (not control), (4) Value of the ACS now, and (5) Board of Regents relationships and communication with stakeholders.

Quality & Safety Initiatives are the top ACS priority

The “Red Book”, Optimal Resources for Surgical Quality & Safety, was published in 2017.

Order a copy at: https://www.facs.org/quality-programs/about/optimal-resources-manual

- Quality Programs are being established within individual surgical specialties
- Accreditation/verification of quality initiatives ongoing
- Continuous quality improvement programs under development
- Overlapping & concurrent surgery given recent attention
- Credentialing, privileging, volume outcomes under review
- Operating room attire – bouffant found to be more porous than cloth skull cap; controversy continues; cloth skull cap “making a comeback”.
- Quality & Safety Conference, Spring 2018
Maintenance of Certification (MOC)

There is a concerted push to do away with the 10-year recertification examination and replace such with a robust process of self-assessment based upon several criteria such as case-specific operative activity, an operative log, an assessment of contemporary literature, quality and audit activity, courses and leadership etc. ACS needs to advocate strongly as some States are already legislating on the matter. Self-regulation remains key for our profession.

Education

The Academy of Master Surgical Educators launched; Will have Member, Affiliate, Associate categories with domestic and international input; Call for applications in December 2017, First cohort inducted June 2018; Plan is for diverse inclusion with important mentoring, teach the teacher and patient care impact roles; More details at: https://www.facs.org/education/program/academy.

Other educational initiatives:

- Resident training issues under consideration by ACS include (1) Selection, (2) Core training, (3) Late training, and (4) Transition to practice.
- Improving measures of educational effectiveness
- Accredited Education Institutes being recognised
- ACS Model for verification of surgical skills (Levels I – V) introduced
- Telementoring and coaching of regional/rural surgeons
- Decision making programs
- Preceptorships for practicing surgeons

A celebration was held marking the 50th Anniversary of the publication of Schwartz’s Principles of Surgery with Dr Seymour Schwartz in attendance.

Member Services and Resources for International Chapters

There are now 45 International Chapters with Qatar the most recent. Ongoing initiatives and resources include:

- Improved administrative support in Chicago for International Chapters
- Open lines of communication with Chicago headquarters facilitated
- The recruitment of members in all categories is encouraged – Fellows, Associate Fellows, Residents, Medical Students, Affiliates
- Member list available on ACS web site (Member Services, ACS Chapters, Find a Chapter, Member List)
- Promote our Chapter Meeting – web, Bulletin
- Chapter News in Bulletin
- ACS Communities
Communication Strategy

Extensive discussion at multiple venues re how communication within the ACS should occur - its content; marketing; media relationships; social media; on-line communities being under utilised.

Stop the Bleed Program

The program involves fundamental first aid instruction to lay citizens to recognise and to control life-threatening bleeding. Included are simple compression, tourniquet use and hands-only CPR. Further details available on-line at: https://www.facs.org/publications/newsletters/the-cutting-edge/postcc2016/dyk-stop-the-bleed. Chapter ownership in local instruction where relevant.

International Fellow Application Interview Process

Commencing for applicants in 2018, all ANZ applicants will be interviewed by two members of the ANZ Chapter Executive. This will be face-to-face or via teleconference/video link. The purpose of the interview is to engage the applicant with the ACS and ANZ Chapter. It is meant to be a “conversation” focusing on how the applicant will contribute to the ACS and the ANZ Chapter. There will an evaluation of the applicant’s clinical judgement and surgical ability, CPD compliance and medical ethics. There are no other changes to the existing application process and all applicants will be interviewed. Rowena Bentley will be assisting with logistics so we can comply with the ACS timelines.

Region 16 (Australia and New Zealand, Bangladesh, China-Hong Kong, India, Japan, Pakistan, Philippines, South Korea, Thailand)

Representatives from ANZ, Bangladesh, China-Hong Kong and Japan were in attendance. A resolution to hold a Region 16 Meeting every two years was supported. The next Region 16 Meeting will be a half day meeting in Sydney on Monday 7 May 2018 in association with the RACS ASC. The meeting will be convened by Ian Civil and will focus on Quality and Safety in Surgery. Invitations to present will be forwarded to each Region 16 Chapter and to the ACS.

New Initiates from ANZ in 2018
The following are to be congratulated as they were welcomed to Fellowship of the ACS at the San Diego Convocation:

Richard Hanney, Baulkham Hills, NSW  
Sivakumar Gananadha, Bruce, ACT  
Benjamin Thomson, Fitzroy, Vic  
Chandika Liyanage, Five Dock, NSW  
Jeremy Hsu, Gladesville, NSW  
Koroush Haghighi, Kensington, NSW  
Scott D’Amours, Sydney, NSW  
Peter Campbell, Spring Hill, Qld

Scholarship and Travelling Fellow Awardees 2017 - 2018

International Guest Scholar 2017 – Dr Nicola Mills, OHNS, NZ

ANZ Chapter ACS Hugh Johnston Travelling Scholar 2017 – Dr Jane Mills, Surgical Oncology, Aus

John Buckingham Travelling Scholar 2017 – Dr Shin Sakata, SET 5 in General Surgery, Qld

RAS-ACS International Exchange Scholar 2018 – Dr Casar Berazaluce, University of Texas, San Antonio

ANZ Travelling Fellow 2018 – Dr Mayur Patel, MD FACS, Trauma & Critical Care, Vanderbilt University. He plans to visit trauma centres in Sydney, Melbourne and Auckland
From left to right: Dr Nicola Mills, Dr Jane Mills, Prof Julian Smith & Dr Shin Sakata at the ACS International Travellers Luncheon in San Diego.

ACS Leadership 2017 – 2018

President: Dr Barbara Bass, Houston, TX
First Vice-President: Dr Charles Mabry, Pine Bluff, AR
Second Vice-President: Dr Basil Pruitt, San Antonio, TX

President Elect: Dr Ronald Maier, Seattle, WA
First Vice-President Elect: Dr Mark Weissler, Chapel Hill, NC
Second Vice-President Elect: Philip Caropreso, Keokuk, IA

Dr Bass is particularly looking forward to coming to Sydney to join us next May.

Combined RACS ASC with ACS, Sydney, May 7 – 11, 2018

A reminder that the 2018 RACS ASC will be a partnership with the ACS. A strong contingent of ACS Fellows is expected to attend. In addition to the Region 16 Meeting mentioned above, the Chapter will be hosting a reception for the ACS during the ASC. It is hoped that as many Chapter members as possible will travel to Sydney next May.
My best wishes for the Festive Season and for 2018.

Prof. Julian A. Smith  
President & Governor ANZ Chapter ACS  
November 2017