Since 2011, the Rural Coach Program [RCP] has identified and supported more than eighty-four trainees interested in a rural surgical career. This has been through ongoing support, advocacy and the opportunity to build their rural connections by offering financial assistance to Trainees who attend the Provincial Surgeons of Australia conference.

**New Clinical Director RCP**

Dr Damian Fry FRACS is the new Clinical Director, Rural Coach Program 2019 replacing Mr Tony Heinz FRACS.

Damian joined the Rural Coach Program in 2015 as a General Surgery SET Trainee in receipt of the RCP GSA Registration Grant. He has attended the PSA regularly since then. Prior to getting onto the RACS SET program, Damian was in the Defence Force [Communications Intelligence] so brings a wealth of knowledge to his role as Clinical Director RCP. He is keen to become a rural surgeon, has completed many of his rotations in Queensland and has recently been admitted to Fellowship.

Damian is also the RACSTA Representative for Queensland and is very happy to have contact with any Trainees considering a rural surgical career.

I would encourage Trainees to contact Damian damian.fry@me.com

**Rural Coach / Rural Surgery Registration Grant**

General Surgeons of Australia [GSA] is again generously providing a Rural Surgery Grant to General Surgery Trainees who have applied to attend the Provincial Surgeons of Australia Conference [PSA]. These trainees have found the opportunities for networking invaluable.

In 2018, Australian Society of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery [ASOHNS] generously agreed to provide a Rural Surgery Grant to ASOHNS Trainees, interested in a rural surgical career, to attend the PSA.

**Provincial Surgeons of Australia (PSA) conference**

**PSA 2019 ASC - Operating in a Big Country**

2 – 4 November 2019 - Ballarat VIC.

All Trainees must first register for the PSA and then apply for the Rural Coach / Rural Surgery Registration Grant.

To apply for the ASOHNS Rural Surgery Registration Grant, ASOHNS Trainees must contact the ASOHNS SET Program Administrator.

A condition of receiving the grant is that the recipient must write a short article [about 250 words] for publication. The grant is paid to the recipients retrospectively.

The Rural Coach Project does not offer training courses but rather offers support for Trainees interested in a rural surgical career.

Trainees interested in involvement with the RACS Rural Coach Program or the Rural Surgery Section should contact RACS Rural Coach Program Officer – ruralcoach@surgeons.org