



ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

MEDIA RELEASE

Mr Ian Civil elected next President of the College of Surgeons

Thursday 25 February, 2010

The Director of Surgery at Auckland City Hospital, Mr Ian Civil has been elected the next President of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. He is the seventh New Zealand surgeon to achieve this honour.

Mr Civil, 56, will become President of the College on 6 May and will replace Professor Ian Gough who has served the College with distinction over the past two years.

Mr Civil was elected by a vote of the College Council in Melbourne this afternoon. He currently serves as the College's Censor-in-Chief and as such has overarching responsibility for the education and training of Fellows.

A Vascular Surgeon with particular interest in trauma epidemiology, injury scaling and trauma systems development, Mr Civil was educated at the University of Auckland before travelling to the United States where he did specialist vascular training in Cleveland and trauma training in New Jersey. He returned to Auckland in 1987. In 1990 and 1991 he commanded the 1st New Zealand Army Medical Team.

Mr Civil was appointed a Member of the British Empire (MBE) in 1991.

"I am honoured to have been chosen as President-elect by my fellow Councillors and will do my utmost to preserve the finest traditions of the College," Mr Civil said.

"With issues of health at or near the top of the political agenda in both Australia and New Zealand, I will endeavour to ensure that the voice of surgeons is strong, unified and, most importantly, heard.

"We will continue to lobby governments for greater and smarter investment in health. This is fundamental to addressing the problems associated with ageing populations in both Australia and New Zealand, notably the shortage of hospital beds, elective surgery waiting lists and the developing crisis in health workforce numbers.

“We will also closely monitor the implementation of new centralised arrangements for the registration of health professionals and the accreditation of medical education courses in Australia,” Mr Civil said.

“The College is first and foremost a teaching institution. We will work to ensure that the quality of surgical education and training in both countries remains of the highest standard and continues to reflect the constant advances made in surgical technology and technique.

“And we will maintain our emphasis on Continuing Professional Development, reflecting the College’s belief that a good surgeon never stops learning.”

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, established in 1927, is a not-for-profit organisation training surgeons and maintaining surgical standards in Australia and New Zealand. Approximately 95 per cent of all surgeons practising in Australia and New Zealand are Fellows of the College (FRACS).

The College commits to ensuring the highest standard of safe and comprehensive surgical care for the community it serves through excellence in surgical education, training, professional development and support. The College trains surgeons in nine specialties: Cardiothoracic, General, Neurosurgery, Orthopaedic, Otolaryngology Head and Neck, Paediatric, Plastic and Reconstructive, Urology and Vascular Surgery.

Mr Civil will be the College’s 42nd President.

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