



ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

MEDIA RELEASE

Perth to host surgeons' Annual Scientific Congress

Monday 19 April, 2010

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons' 79th Annual Scientific Congress (ASC) will be convened in Perth this year, attracting up to 2,000 delegates from across Australia and New Zealand and featuring distinguished visiting speakers from around the world.

College President, Professor Ian Gough said this year's program has appeal on many fronts. "Beyond the respective surgical specialties, which are of obvious interest to delegates, there are presentations on surgical education, surgical history, medico-legal issues, Oncology, Trauma and military surgery," he said.

"So in addition to offering an opportunity for delegates to meet with, and learn from, those within their own specialty, the ASC enables delegates to consider broader surgical themes.

"Notably, the plenary sessions will bring together all delegates to discuss vital issues with the potential to impact upon us all – this generation and the next. Topics to be covered are as diverse as 'The future of subspecialisation in surgery', 'Are surgeons losing the fight to control surgery?' and 'Behavioural issues in surgery,'" Professor Gough said.

The Hon. Dr Kim Hames, Western Australian Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Indigenous Affairs, will deliver the President's Lecture.

This year's Syme Orator will be Professor Jorg Imberger AM PhD, Professor of Environmental Engineering and Director of the Centre for Water Research at the University of Western Australia. Professor Imberger will speak on 'The social, health and environmental costs of technology: the consequences of extending man's reach to global proportions'.

The British Journal of Surgery Lecture will be delivered by Mr Thomas Dehn MS FRCS from the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading. Mr Dehn, a world renowned general surgeon who has published widely on issues pertaining to laparoscopic surgery, gastrointestinal malignancy and oesophageal carcinoma, will address the question 'Are surgeons losing the fight to control surgery?'.

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," Professor Gough said.

The ASC will be held at the Perth Convention Exhibition Centre between 4 and 7 May. The ASC program is available online at www.surgeons.org

**Media inquiries: Michael Barrett, Manager Media & Public Relations
0429 028 933 or (03) 9249 1263**