



ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Promoting surgery as a career in Indigenous communities

**Tuesday 4 May, 2010**

As part of efforts by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons to promote surgery as a career in Indigenous communities, an Indigenous doctor and intern are attending the College's Annual Scientific Congress (ASC) in Perth this year.

Dr Nino Scuderi, a Resident Medical Officer with Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health, and Mr Cody Morris, an intern at the Lyell McEwin Hospital in Adelaide, are attending the ASC as guests of the College. Dr Scuderi is also welcomed as the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA) representative on the College's Indigenous Health Committee.

The strategy to promote Indigenous representation in the surgical profession is an objective of the College's Strategic Plan 2010-2015. AIDA has also facilitated the participation of Te ORA, the Maori Medical Practitioners Association of Aotearoa/New Zealand in the College's Indigenous Health Committee. AIDA and Te ORA shall collaborate to inform the College's Indigenous health strategy and to give effect to Indigenous workforce objectives for the surgical profession in Australia and Aotearoa/New Zealand. The involvement of AIDA and Te ORA is a priority in this move forward.

This year the College will be a sponsor of AIDA's annual symposium at which it will host a surgical career expo showcasing the various surgical specialties and giving prospective trainees the opportunity to meet current trainees and surgeons. It is hoped that the College's Mobile Surgical Simulation Unit will be available to provide hands-on experience of surgical techniques.

Recently the College called for expressions of interest in a surgical career from student and graduate members of AIDA. So far 18 responses have been received, a particularly encouraging response. It is anticipated that applicants will be offered encouragement and assistance commensurate with their year of study and level of interest in a surgical career. Mentoring, work experience, participation in surgical related research, and attendance at the ASC are some of the activities being considered for the program.

The ASC coincides with a meeting today of the College's Indigenous Health Committee at the Centre for Aboriginal Medical and Dental Health at the University of Western Australia.

Nearly 2,000 delegates are expected to attend the ASC, which runs from 4 to 7 May and is being held at the Perth Convention Exhibition Centre. The ASC program is available online at [www.surgeons.org](http://www.surgeons.org)

**Media inquiries: Michael Barrett, Manager Media & PR Manager - 0429 028 933  
Ruth Charters, Senior Media & PR Officer - 0409 330 274**