



ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

MEDIA RELEASE

Adelaide to host surgeons' Annual Scientific Congress

Monday 4 April, 2011

The 80th Annual Scientific Congress (ASC) of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons will be convened in Adelaide this year, attracting up to 2,000 delegates from across Australia and New Zealand and featuring distinguished visiting lecturers from around the world.

Under the theme “Unity through Diversity” the ASC program reflects the broad range of surgical specialties while also bringing Fellows and Trainees together to discuss the many issues that involve the whole surgical community.

College President, Mr Ian Civil noted that plenary sessions will address such issues as the challenges surgeons face when negotiating with government, the ethical dilemmas posed by commercial enterprises making inroads into surgical practice, and the effectiveness of traditional models of surgical training as trainee numbers rise and training resources dwindle.

“I am particularly pleased that one plenary session will address the fundamental challenge facing all surgeons, namely the processes we should follow to improve the quality and outcomes of surgical care,” Mr Civil said.

The Hon. Alexander Downer, for twelve years Australia’s Minister for Foreign Affairs, will deliver the 2011 Syme Oration. The President’s Lecture will be delivered by Lord Ara Darzi, who will attend the ASC as the British Journal of Surgery Distinguished Lecturer. The subject of the President’s Lecture, healthcare reform, will draw on Lord Darzi’s experience as Parliamentary Undersecretary of State for Health when he undertook two wide ranging reviews of the United Kingdom’s health system.

The inaugural Australian and New Zealand Journal of Surgery Lecture will be delivered by Mr Robert Padbury who established the South Australian Liver Transplant Unit. Mr Padbury’s major interest outside his surgical specialty is improving the quality of healthcare.

A key feature of the program will be the scores of specialty-based workshops and presentations which enable delegates to consider recent developments in the science of their surgical specialty.

“Delegates who have done particularly important work within their specialty have forwarded abstracts to the College in advance of the Congress and will be making formal presentations in Adelaide,” Mr Civil said.

The ASC will be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre between 2 and 6 May. The ASC program is available online at www.surgeons.org

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