



ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Developing the National Trauma Registry

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After a long battle, efforts to establish a National Trauma Registry seem likely to prove successful, delegates to the 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Congress (ASC) of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons have been told.

Professor Clifford Pollard, Director of Trauma Services at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, said such a trauma registry would enable the collection of data which in turn would facilitate the identification of best practice and lead to measurable improvements in the care of trauma victims. To this end, the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons' National Trauma Committee had established a Trauma Registries and Systems Performance Improvement sub-committee in 2001.

"One of the sub-committee's objectives was to develop a National Trauma Registry, incorporating a bi-national approach for Australia and New Zealand," Professor Pollard said. "In 2003, the National Trauma Registries Consortium, with a steering committee composed of representatives of the major funders, of the state and hospital based registries of the two countries and several research centres, was formed."

"The major funder was the Centre for National Research on Disability and Rehabilitation Medicine (CONROD), a centre within the University of Queensland's School of Medicine. Other funders were the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, the Australasian Trauma Society and the Institute of Trauma and Injury Management of New South Wales. A full-time project officer was employed from 2003 to 2007, and four reports were prepared between 2002 and 2005 with data on serious injury contributed by all participating registries in the two countries. Significantly, a Minimum Data Set has now been developed," Professor Pollard said.

"Despite many attempts to obtain further funding, including several approaches to the federal government and the compulsory third party insurers, from 2009 no further support could be obtained, and the project officer could not be replaced. The future looked bleak."

"However, in 2010 negotiations with the National Trauma Research Institute and the National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre in Darwin resulted in the announcement in November of a joint \$750,000 contribution to the continued development of a National Trauma Registry and supporting trauma quality improvement programs. The future now looks considerably brighter," Professor Pollard concluded.

Professor Pollard's presentation is one of hundreds at this year's ASC, covering all surgical specialties and aspects of surgical history and education. Nearly 2,000 delegates are expected to attend the ASC, which runs from 2 to 6 May and is being held at the Adelaide Convention Centre. The ASC program is available online at [www.surgeons.org](http://www.surgeons.org)

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