



ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Associate Professor Michael Hollands elected next President of the College of Surgeons

Thursday 23 February, 2012

Associate Professor Michael Hollands, a General Surgeon with major interests in gastrointestinal and hepatobiliary surgery and trauma, has been elected the next President of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

Associate Professor Hollands, 60, will become President of the College on 9 May at the College's Annual General Meeting, being held this year in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, as part of the College's 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Scientific Congress.

Currently the College Treasurer, Associate Professor Hollands was elected President by a vote of the College Council in Melbourne this afternoon.

A Councillor since 2006, he has previously served on the College's Annual Scientific Congress Review Committee, International Committee, Surgical Skills Committee and has chaired the Property Committee. He has also chaired the College's Early Management of Severe Trauma Committee.

He chaired the College's New South Wales Regional Committee between 2000 and 2002.

After completing his early surgical training at St Vincent's Hospital Sydney he worked and studied at Guy's Hospital London and the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith. He was a Research Fellow at Harvard Medical School, Boston and, whilst in Hong Kong, worked at Queen Mary's Hospital.

A General Surgeon at Sydney's Westmead Hospital since 1986, Associate Professor Hollands served as Head, Hepatobiliary and Upper GI Surgery, between 1998 and 2008. He was the Area Director of General Surgery for the Eastern Cluster of the Western Sydney Area Health Service, between 2003 and 2006. He holds his Associate Professorship at the University of Sydney.

Associate Professor Hollands acknowledged the work of his predecessor, Mr Ian Civil, and undertook to continue this work. "Ian has worked hard to bring the College closer to the surgical Specialty Societies, on both sides of the Tasman, for which it serves an overarching role. Strengthening these partnerships is ongoing business and I commit myself to this process wholeheartedly," he said.

"Externally, the biggest challenge facing surgeons and surgery in Australia and New Zealand is the ongoing reform of the public health system. In Australia, in particular, this has involved the centralisation of regulatory and funding responsibilities. The College is determined to work with government to get this reform process right and ensure that it leads to better resourced and better run public hospitals. The people of Australia and New Zealand expect and deserve world class healthcare, and the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons will continue to play its part in achieving this," he said.

Associate Professor Hollands will be the College's 43<sup>rd</sup> President.

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