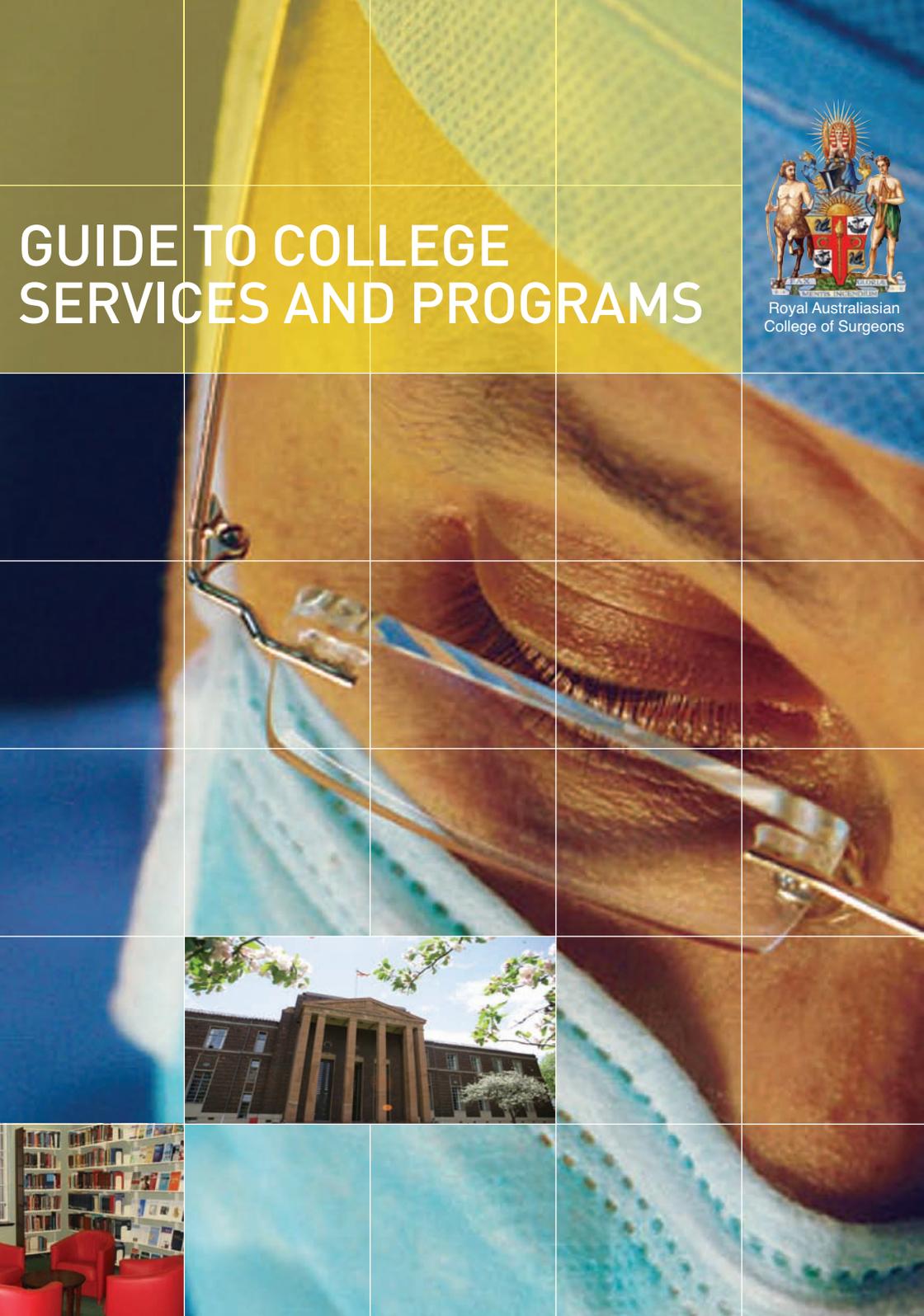


GUIDE TO COLLEGE SERVICES AND PROGRAMS



Royal Australasian
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Welcome to this guide to College services and programs. The College delivers value to Fellows in many ways. We help you to maintain your professional accreditation, we can help you to develop your professional capabilities, we advocate on your behalf, we support your information and research needs and much more. For the first time we are putting our capabilities

in the one place so that you can derive all the value possible from Fellowship.

For your convenience the guide has two components. There is a quick guide to benefits which allows you to survey what's available in a précis format. For more detail on the different services offered by the College, the balance of the guide meets your needs.

I hope you will take the time to look at the different options and that you may consider taking advantage of services you currently don't utilise.

The College maintains offices throughout Australia and New Zealand to serve you. The staff are there to meet your needs in accordance with policies set by Fellows through their representative Council and its committees.

The College values your feedback on your services and welcomes your ideas on how we can make the College even better.

I hope you find this guide useful.

Ian Civil
President



THE QUICK GUIDE



Professional development

The College is very active in the provision of tailored professional development courses on a wide range of important subjects.



Providing standards leadership

The College provides leadership by setting standards for surgery, professional practice and recertification, and surgical education, working closely with the specialty societies and associations.



Being heard as surgeons

The College advocates on behalf of Fellows, providing a strong and clear voice for surgeons. We aim to ensure that those responsible for the setting and implementation of health policy across Australia and New Zealand are well acquainted with the needs and views of surgeons.



Making a difference in the community

Our Fellows have an enormous capacity to reach out to surgical challenges in our community and neighbouring communities and to make a difference. The College fulfils Fellows' collective sense of social responsibility to important surgical challenges in Australia and overseas.



THE QUICK GUIDE

cont.



Scholarships, fellowships, grants, loans and more

There are many sources of financial support available to surgeons wishing to pursue their scientific, career and academic interests.



Access to the latest information

The College provides access to a wide range of current information resources including the online and Gordon Craig libraries, the ANZ Journal of Surgery, Surgical News, the Annual Scientific Congress and research publications.



Saving money with member benefits

The Member Advantage program uses the combined buying power of participating organisations to provide members with a range of outstanding benefits and significant savings on lifestyle and business products and services.



Getting involved

Your College provides services through regional and national operations and serves your needs and interests through a variety of interest groups, sections and committees.

Visit the College website at www.surgeons.org for more information.





PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



The pace of change and the challenges of modern surgery make huge demands on Fellows. To meet your professional development needs, the College is very active in the provision of tailored professional development on a wide range of important subjects.

Participation in professional development allows Fellows to participate in ongoing learning which supports all aspects of their professional lives. In addition participants benefit from their interactions with colleagues which can help to build professional networks and expertise. Fellows no longer practising surgery also have the opportunity to share their knowledge and experience thus contributing to the cross fertilisation of ideas and development of the next generation of surgeons.

Professional development encompasses a broad range of technical and non-technical aspects of workplace competence.

The Annual Scientific Congress (ASC) is the College's major educational annual activity and is the largest multi-disciplinary surgical meeting held in Australia and New Zealand. The ASC provides Fellows with a valuable opportunity to present your experience, wisdom and opinions to your colleagues, in a challenging and truly international forum. Each year the ASC has content of interest to all surgeons as well as different scientific programs that offer participants the opportunity to learn and experience first hand advances in surgery.

Other professional development activities focus mainly on the generic non – technical competencies of communication, scholar and teacher, collaboration, management and leadership, health advocacy and professionalism.

The College is well placed to meet surgeons' needs with a wide array of professional development workshops and courses that are offered each year. Subjects covered include medico legal, management and leadership, training and assessment, communication skills and more.

Visit the College website at www.surgeons.org for more information.



PROVIDING STANDARDS LEADERSHIP

The College provides leadership in the community setting standards for surgery, professional practice, recertification and surgical education, working closely with the specialty societies and associations.

Surgical Standards

The College provides leadership and advice on a number of matters relevant to the practice of surgery and to emerging and important issues for the profession and the community. This includes developing and promulgating guidelines and position papers such as:

- digital diagnostic imaging, surgeons' interactions with the medical industry, appointments and credentialling committees, indigenous health, safe hours, road trauma, burn injuries, obesity surgery, patenting of medical procedures, infection control, emergency and elective surgery
- the Surgical Safety Checklist (Australia and New Zealand edition), which is based on the World Health Organisation (WHO) Surgical Safety Checklist.

Continuing Professional Development

From July 2010, all medical practitioners are required to comply with their College Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Program to remain registered with the Medical Board of Australia. A similar requirement has been in place in New Zealand for several years.

The College offers a robust and evidence based CPD Program to enable Fellows to meet this requirement and issues a Certificate of CPD that provides tangible evidence of activities undertaken to maintain and enhance skills, knowledge and competence. To make record keeping for recertification easier, Fellows are encouraged to submit their CPD Program data online. The CPD Online Diary enables you to:

- maintain a record of your CPD Program activities in a real time format
- access your CPD Program requirements for the current triennium
- maintain an accurate record of your CPD activities as they occur
- have immediate access to your annual and triennial totals and
- more effectively plan your professional development activities to meet your learning needs and the CPD requirements

Visit the College website at www.surgeons.org for more information.





There are also several other resources available on the College website to assist in meeting the CPD requirements. These include a variety of audit tools and guidelines for surgical audit and peer review. The Surgical Competence and Performance Guide is another resource that contains valuable assistance in maintaining professional practice.

Research

The Australian Safety and Efficacy Register of New Interventional Procedures – Surgical (ASERNIP-S) participates in evidence-based medicine, systematic review and horizon scanning which informs College standards development. There are College guidelines for assessing and introducing new procedures into hospital.



Visit the College website at www.surgeons.org for more information.



BEING HEARD AS SURGEONS



The College advocates on behalf of Fellows, providing a strong and clear voice for surgeons. We aim to ensure that those responsible for the setting and implementation of health policy across Australia and New Zealand are well acquainted with the needs and views of surgeons.

We also keep the wider community informed of the issues of importance to Fellows and of the great work being done by surgeons. We do this by way of submissions to governments, media releases, letters to newspapers and other publications.

Be it a health policy issue of pressing concern to surgeons, a new surgical breakthrough, or the humanitarian work being done by Fellows, the College ensures that the community knows of these concerns and achievements.

The College has an impressive record of leadership on public health and safety. It campaigned effectively for the compulsory wearing of seat belts and was at the forefront of the battle against drink driving and drug affected driving. But there is always more to do. That is why the College continues to remind governments of the pressing need to

boost funding for the trauma services of our public hospitals. We maintain an emphasis on training, reminding governments that surgical trainees – the surgical workforce of the future – need access to operating theatres and an appropriate mix of surgical cases. We continue to remind governments that rural health services face particular challenges and therefore need particular assistance. And we are convinced that indigenous health services must play a central role in any meaningful attempt to address indigenous disadvantage.

The College continues to make sure the views of surgeons are known on these important public issues.



Visit the College website at www.surgeons.org for more information.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY



College Fellows have an enormous capacity to reach out to surgical challenges in our community and neighbouring communities and to make a difference. The College fulfils Fellows' collective sense of social responsibility to important surgical challenges in Australia, New Zealand and overseas.

Through AusAID and the RACS Foundation for Surgery support, the International Development Program provides a wide range of initiatives to deliver specialist health services and develop surgical capacity throughout the Pacific, Papua New Guinea, and parts of Asia. The program is led by teams of dedicated Fellows and other medical professionals who donate their time and services to support and mentor health professionals in neighbouring countries. Through the program life changing medical

services, including surgery and trauma care are provided. The program has resulted in a number of highly trained surgeons in countries such as Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste and the Pacific and nurse anaesthetists, and eye care nurses throughout Timor Leste.

There are many tremendous examples of international surgical capacity building by the College. One example is a Papua New Guinea surgeon who has been mentored by visiting RACS teams since 2002 and is a RACS Surgeons International Award and RACS Rowan Nicks Scholarship recipient. In 2009 he performed 10 open heart operations during the Operation Open Heart (OOH) visit compared to only one in 2008. This was a first in the history of OOH for the national team with unaided open heart surgery. The support received over the last 8 years from the College has significantly contributed to this surgeon's increased confidence and skills.

The program also provides scholarships and travelling grants for health professionals identified as the future leaders of developing countries in Asia and the Pacific. In 2009 the development program offered over one million dollars for research and travelling fellowships through the Scholarship and Fellowship Program.

Visit the College website at www.surgeons.org for more information.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY CONT.



The Foundation for Surgery is the philanthropic arm of the College. Through financial and in-kind donations from Fellows, the Foundation supports a range of programs that progress surgical endeavours and provides vital surgical care to thousands living in disadvantaged communities.

By making a tax deductible donation to the Foundation, Fellows can expand their dedication to surgery by helping to support pioneering research into new surgical

techniques, technologies and treatments, provide scholarships to nurture upcoming surgical talent, address indigenous health challenges and deliver crucial aid projects, skills transfer and education programs in indigenous Australia and New Zealand and underprivileged neighbouring countries. Tax deductible donations include financial gifts, objects of value such as art works, sculpture and antiques or a bequest in your will.

Visit the College website at www.surgeons.org for more information.



SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, LOANS AND MORE



The Scholarship Program is overseen by the Board of Surgical Research and offers over one million in funding annually to surgical trainees and Fellows. Funding is directed to research into new surgical techniques, novel treatment options, and the causes of surgical conditions; all leading to better patient outcomes and care.

Additionally, the Scholarship Program seeks to inspire in surgeons a life-long dedication to learning and improving technique as well as to nurture an understanding of research methodology. Today's surgeons perform operations not envisaged by their predecessors, and the achievements and abilities of tomorrow's surgeons depend on the resources and support we provide now to fund research into new technologies and treatments.

Over 30 research and travel scholarships are offered each year funded from bequests, donations, sponsorship monies and the Foundation for Surgery.

Research scholarships make up the majority of awards offered. The most prestigious of these is the John Mitchell Crouch Fellowship which for 2011 is valued at \$150,000.

Travel awards are aimed at funding surgeons to travel to specialist clinical institutions of excellence to gain skills and experience to disseminate to the surgical community in Australia and New Zealand. The newest award offered is the ANZ Chapter ACS Hugh Johnston Fellowship, which has been established to support a Fellow of the College to attend the annual American College of Surgeons (ACS) Congress.

In the future, the Scholarship Program aims to continue to steadily increase stipend values, expand the program by increasing the number of scholarships and to identify and fund important areas of surgical research that is unable to attract funding from traditional sources.

Fellows and trainees are encouraged to apply for scholarships to pursue their research interests. Scholarships are advertised on the College website and in Surgical News.

The College also provides interest free loans for Fellows who plan to undertake approved studies outside Australia and New Zealand.

Visit the College website at www.surgeons.org for more information.



ACCESS TO THE LATEST INFORMATION

College Library

Fellowship provides access to a wide range of current information resources. The College provides an extensive online library accessible via member login to the website. Once logged into the College website, no further passwords are required and the online library functions as a comprehensive resource including:

- full text e-books in all the specialties
- hundreds of journals, many of them with archives going back to the first volume
- resources organised by specialty or listed alphabetically
- Ovid Medline
- web streamed operative videos
- videos for loan
- copies of articles for journals not available online

The library provides a literature search service and consequent bibliography of key articles on any medical topic requested. Journal articles are available on request, whether or not the library subscribes to the journal. These can be printed and posted, faxed or emailed. Forms for requesting literature searches and journal articles are available from the College website.

The Gordon Craig Library in Melbourne holds collections of current reference books, current and historic books on Australian and New Zealand medicine and surgery and a special collection of military surgery books. The catalogue is available online.

Surgical News

Surgical News is a monthly publication of the College which has ten editions a year. It is the main communication tool for the College to Fellows and trainees. It includes articles of interest in surgery, news about College events and courses, features on surgical subjects, Fellows, trainees, current research activities and news on College programs in our community and neighbouring communities. It is distributed to all Fellows, trainees, hospitals throughout Australia and New Zealand and College affiliated organisations.



Visit the College website at www.surgeons.org for more information.





Australia and New Zealand Journal of Surgery

The ANZ Journal of Surgery is the leading publication for surgical research in Australia and New Zealand. The journal is available to Fellows and trainees of the College and is published ten times a year. The May edition carries all the abstracts of research papers delivered at the College Annual Scientific Congress.

Patient education

Patient education pamphlets are available for a range of surgical specialties to assist communication with patients and to provide a tool for achieving meaningful informed consent. Patient education pamphlets are sold and published by Mi-tec Medical Publishing and Specialist Management Services. Contact details for Mi-tec and specialist Management Services are provided at the college website.

Find a Surgeon

The Find a Surgeon directory is a service offered to Fellows of the College that helps patients find surgeons by specialty, subspecialty and location. The directory is a



listing of Fellows who meet the requirements of the College Continuing Professional Development Program and who have opted to be included on the list.

Visit the College website at www.surgeons.org for more information.



SAVING MONEY WITH MEMBER BENEFITS



The College offers member benefits to all Fellows and trainees. Benefits are co-ordinated by Member Advantage, an organisation that specialises in offering member benefit programs to a number of professional medical colleges and organisations. Member Advantage uses the combined buying power of participating organisations to provide Fellows and trainees with a range of outstanding benefits and significant savings on lifestyle and business products and services. You can access savings on:

- Car hire
- Health insurance
- Home loans
- Qantas club memberships
- And more through many other affiliated partnerships



Visit the College website at www.surgeons.org for more information.



GETTING INVOLVED



The College thrives on the active participation of Fellows in a host of committees, working parties and advisory capacities. These bodies ensure that the College is of and for the Fellows of the College. There are many ways for Fellows to get involved.

The College functions and delivers its services at a bi-national, national and regional level. The regional/national offices of the College are responsible for a range of activities on behalf of the College.

The State Committees and New Zealand National Board are supported in each region by a Regional Office. The Regions play a vital role as part of the College by:

- communicating the decisions of Council to local members
- providing educational opportunities to local trainees and Fellows
- providing advice to Council on local issues
- assuming responsibility for local issues and if necessary providing recommendations to Council
- administering selection and training on behalf of head office

Getting involved in education

Fellows contribute greatly to teaching surgeons of the future through the educational initiatives of the College. Opportunities for involvement include:

- Skills course instructor (Early Management of Severe Trauma (EMST), Care of the Critically Ill Patient (CCrISP), Australian and New Zealand Surgical Skills Education and Training (ASSET), Critical Literature Evaluation and Research (CLEAR).
- Supervisor of Surgical Education and Training (SET) trainees
- Supervisors and Trainers for SET (SAT SET)
- Keep Trainees on Track
- Surgical Teachers Course
- Clinical examiner
- Membership of the Court of Examiners

As a teacher you will not only enhance your individual knowledge and learning but have the opportunity to mentor and develop the emerging surgeon. Fellows are encouraged to become involved with these core College activities.

The College supports the interests of Fellows and the people and communities of Australia and New Zealand through various groups, working parties and sections.

Some of the interest groups and sections are highlighted below.

Academy of Surgical Educators

Surgeons are critical to the success of the College education, training and professional development programs at multiple levels. The quality of the College education programs is dependent on the broadest skills of these surgeons as educators.



The Academy of Surgical Educators is an inter-specialty resource and includes Fellows and trainees who are educators at various levels who have a keen interest in learning and teaching and a commitment to surgical education.

Younger Fellows

There are more than 1500 Younger Fellows of the College (defined as those in their first ten years of Fellowship), who are supported by the Younger Fellows Committee. The committee represents Fellows from all regions of Australia and New Zealand.

Senior surgeons

Surgeons from all specialties gather within the Senior Surgeon Group to prepare for retirement from practice. The Senior Surgeons Group works to provide information and plan for retirement, share the experience of retired Fellows, stimulate interest in alternative careers and lifestyles and gain financial and legal management information and resources.

Trauma

The Trauma Committee has a long history of development and activity in trauma prevention and the management of trauma patients. The College is active in the development of quality systems for trauma including quality indicators, the promotion of national trauma registries and the review of trauma systems under the Trauma Verification Program.

Rural surgeons

The Divisional Group of Rural Surgery is active in developing and delivering solutions to surgical challenges in remote and regional Australia and

New Zealand. Challenges like workforce recruitment, retention and professional development are of particular interest to the committee. The committee provides a network throughout Australia and New Zealand that supports and nurtures rural surgeons.

Women in Surgery

The College is committed to expanding the number of women in surgical training and to ensuring that training programs do not disadvantage them. The development of the Women in Surgery Committee reflects this commitment.

Medico-Legal

The Medico-Legal Section has more than 500 members. The section assists in the development of educational activities in the medico-legal area and provides Council with advice on medico-legal issues. The section co-ordinates the Medico-Legal Program of the College Annual Scientific Congress and also provides a number of professional development workshops.

In addition, there is an array of smaller interest groups and sub specialty sections catering for particular needs – including surgical oncology, military surgery, transplant surgery etc.

College Museum and historical collections

The College maintains an impressive collection of books, portraits, surgical instruments and miscellaneous items through occasional purchases, gifts, and bequests. The collections are accessible via the College Museum at the Melbourne headquarters.

Visit the College website at www.surgeons.org for more information.



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