



## **Surgical training in the private sector – the patients’ perception**

**Thursday 10 May, 2012**

While debate over the viability of widespread surgical training in the private sector continues, delegates to the 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Scientific Congress (ASC) of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons have been given a glimpse of patients’ views on the subject.

Dr Rhiannon Koirala, a Surgical Trainee, conducted a patient survey at Melbourne’s Epworth Private Hospital where there are currently three accredited surgical training positions and one fellowship position.

“Over six weeks, one hundred patients admitted under the surgical units with full time surgical registrars were given a survey to complete in two parts on the training of surgeons in private hospitals,” Dr Koirala said. “Seventy per cent of surveys were returned completed.”

“Ninety per cent of respondents agreed that private hospitals should be involved in surgical training and 86 per cent of patients were agreeable to having Trainees involved in their operation. Only 8 per cent of patients were not in agreement with surgical training in the private sector.

“Our results clearly show that private hospital patients are generally favourably disposed to the presence and participation of surgical Trainees in the private hospital setting,” Dr Koirala concluded.

With governments unable or unwilling to fund further surgical training posts in the major public teaching hospitals, there is a growing awareness that more surgical training needs to be done in the private sector, where approximately 65 per cent of elective procedures are currently performed in Australia and approximately 55 per cent in New Zealand.

This year’s ASC, with the theme ‘The Making of a Surgeon’, runs from 6 to 10 May and is being held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. Approximately 2,500 delegates from Australia, New Zealand and around the world are attending.

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