



ANZGOSA

Australia & New Zealand  
Gastric & Oesophageal  
Surgery Association

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 23

January 2016

## President's Report

As we start 2016 it is a chance to reflect on all that happened for ANZGOSA members in 2015 and to look ahead at this year's programme. A highlight of last year was the first ever combined ANZGOSA and OSSANZ meeting on Hamilton Island in October. We were extremely fortunate to have an outstanding international and local faculty plus a really beautiful location for a meeting. Overall, the combined meeting was a great success and we are looking forward to a further combined meeting in 2019. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the event. The major event this year will be our combined meeting with the Sydney Upper GI Surgical Society (SUGSS) on 9 and 10 September at the Intercontinental Hotel, Double Bay, Sydney. This is an outstanding venue and very family friendly. We have two eminent international visitors confirmed – Professor Han-Kwang Yang of Seoul National University of Medicine (ANZGOSA visitor) and Professor Guy-Bernard Cadriere Chief of Surgery, St Pierre Hospital, Brussels (SUGSS visitor) plus two Sydney experts Professor Michael Bourke Director of Endoscopy at Westmead Hospital and Chris Naoum Cardiologist Concord Hospital. Many of you will already be well acquainted with these speakers. We are also planning a workshop on Thursday 8 September so please keep this in mind. Further updates will be provided soon.

Please see page 9 of this Newsletter for more information about this meeting and diarise it now. I hope to see you there.

Very pleasingly our membership is growing strongly and we now have nearly 200 members. There are a multitude of benefits of ANZGOSA membership so encourage your colleagues and other health professionals to join as either full or associate members. Further information on membership is provided on page 3. Please also see the information on page 6 regarding ANZGOSA / Medtronic Travelling scholarships. This year we are offering a separate scholarship to attend the 15<sup>th</sup> ISDE World Congress in Singapore which will be held on 19 – 21 September. As ANZGOSA is now an Associated Society of ISDE there is an added incentive to attend.

There are several changes being implemented for the ANZGOSA Audit with the goal of getting all ANZGOSA members engaged. Funding remains the most pressing challenge and suggestions for funding options are welcomed.

Finally I would like to thank all present and recent ANZGOSA board members for their tremendous work in so many areas and acknowledge our Executive Officer Leanne Rogers who does an outstanding job. I hope you all have the opportunity to participate in ANZGOSA's many activities this year and that 2016 goes well for you.

Ross Roberts  
ANZGOSA President

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## **Future Dates**

### 2016

9 and 10 September  
ANZGOSA / SUGSS meeting  
Intercontinental, Double Bay Sydney

### 2017

24 - 25 February  
IsDEAS



## **Secretariat**

Please feel free to contact our Executive Officer, Leanne Rogers, should you have any queries.

Contact details are: 08 8278 1249 (phone), 08 8278 1249 (fax), or, [anzgosa@gmail.com](mailto:anzgosa@gmail.com).

Postal address:

P.O. Box 374, Belair S.A. 5052

## **Facebook**

Please "like" and check out ANZGOSA on facebook.

Regularly updated with pictures, latest news and announcements.

Together with our website [www.anzgosa.org](http://www.anzgosa.org) we are keeping you up to date with the latest regarding our Association.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Anzgosa/304387776331914>.



## **ANZGOSA Members**

We welcome all our new members

## **Financial Report**

A full financial report and Treasurers' report was provided, and emailed, to all members after the AGM in October, for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

ANZGOSA continues to be in a good position. We thank our industry partners for their ongoing support of the Association.

We have deductible gift recipient "DGR" status through the Australian Taxation Office. ***The Association can now accept donations.***



## **Find a surgeon**

"Find a Surgeon" section on the website. The aim of this is to have most of our ANZGOSA members listed.

If you would like to be included could you please email me the following information -

SURNAME  
FIRST NAME (and title)  
LOCATION  
PHONE  
WEBSITE.

## **Membership**

Membership numbers are steadily growing with a membership now around 199.

Full membership is available for Medical practitioners with an interest in Upper Gastrointestinal, Gastric and/or Oesophageal surgery practice who hold FRACS or equivalent. Full members are entitled to full voting rights, and may stand for office. Associate membership is available to trainees or retired Upper Gastrointestinal surgeons, and other health professionals working in the area of Upper Gastrointestinal, Gastric and/or Oesophageal practice. Associate members do not have voting rights, and are unable to stand for office. A discount on membership fees is available to members who are also members of ANZHPBA. Please contact the Secretariat for an application for membership.



## **Website**

**[www.anzgos.org](http://www.anzgos.org)**

We are happy to hear of any suggested improvements to the website or any errors you may see. We do endeavour to keep it as up to date as possible.

If you encounter any areas of the website not working please report these immediately so our website managers can be advised.



# NEWS

## Membership Renewals

ANZGOSA membership renewals for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017 will be emailed in May.

## ANZGOSA Hospital Unit Accreditation

We continue to invite any hospital unit to apply for ANZGOSA board recognition as a training centre.

Applications for 2017 Fellows are now open. Ultimately accepting a Fellow will be at the discretion of the training unit. Hospital Unit site inspections will occur once you receive a Fellow. Fellow offers occur from late June each year.

Please note that if a training unit requires accreditation for both HPB and Upper GI then separate applications will need to be made to both ANZHPBA and ANZGOSA.

Could each unit applying please submit a letter addressing each Hospital Unit criteria below and nominate a future programme director (with contact details). All future communications will be to that director.

Applications should be either emailed [anzgosa@gmail.com](mailto:anzgosa@gmail.com) or posted to:

Leanne Rogers  
Executive Officer ANZGOSA  
P.O. Box 374  
Belair SA 5052

### Guidelines for a unit

#### ***Surgical and Related Staff***

*An Upper GI Surgery Unit would be defined as a clinical team of at least 2 predominantly Upper GI surgeons and related staff. This may include other Upper GI surgeons.*

#### ***Surgeons***

*The Unit should consist of a Unit Head and at least one other surgeon with the following specifications:*

- a. FRACS
- b. Postgraduate experience in Upper GI surgery, either within Australia, New Zealand or overseas
- c. Experience in one or more of the following:
  1. Interventional endoscopy (eg oesophageal stent placement, Barrett's oesophagus ablation etc)
  2. Oesophageal and Gastric Endoscopic Ultrasound
  3. Oesophageal Cancer Surgery
  4. Gastric Cancer Surgery
  5. Anti reflux Surgery and advanced laparoscopic surgery
  6. Bariatric surgery
  7. Postgraduate Research Degree/Diploma
- d. Member of ANZGOSA.
- e. At least 50% of practice related to Upper GI surgery

#### ***Other Medical Staff***

*The Unit shall have allocated to it:  
An Advanced Trainee in General Surgery or its equivalent and/or a Upper GI Fellow  
An HMO (RMO) as either an Intern or second year level dedicated to the Unit.*

#### ***Nurse Unit Manager and Staff***

*The Upper GI Unit should have access to one ward, or part thereof, to serve the majority of the patients admitted to that Unit. Some of the nursing staff on this ward should have a specific interest in Upper GI surgery. Ideally, the ward should be shared with the Gastroenterology Unit and/or other Gastrointestinal Surgery Units of the hospital.*

#### ***Ancillary Staff***

The Unit should have available, other allied health professionals to provide a spectrum of care (for example dietician, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and medical social worker, pastoral care and liaison psychiatry).

### **The Hospital and Supportive Services**

To support an Upper GI Unit, the hospital involved should be equivalent size to, at least, a 300 bed metropolitan teaching hospital with availability of the following services:

1. Laboratory and Anatomical Pathology with a 24 hour frozen section service.
2. Intensive Care Unit and/or High Dependency Unit with the capacity to manage epidural anaesthesia.
3. Operating Theatres with a fully staffed recovery room.
4. Anaesthetic Department with at least one member of the anaesthetic staff with a particular interest in gastrointestinal surgery and pain management and regional anaesthesia.
5. Operating theatre nursing and technical staff with at least one team with a specific interest in Gastrointestinal Surgery.
6. Access to emergency endoscopy services either under the Banner of the UPPER GI unit or the Gastrointestinal Medical service.
7. There should be support for time and venue for a MDT meeting
8. Accident and Emergency Department adequately staffed
9. Radiological sciences and an accredited imaging department with facilities for x-ray screening, CT scan, Visceral Angiography, MRI and Nuclear medicine.
10. Oncology and Radiotherapy access either within the hospital, network or region for ambulatory care or inpatient radiotherapy and chemotherapy. Specifically the availability of an inpatient consultative service in medical oncology and radiotherapy.

### **Specifications and Function of the Upper GI Surgery Unit**

#### **Operating facilities**

Each surgeon should have, on average, one half day operating per week.

#### **Pre-admission Process**

The Unit should have access to a pre-admission clinic or similar arrangement to assess elective surgical patients to facilitate same day surgical admissions.

#### **Outpatient or Private Office Assessment**

The Unit should have a dedicated outpatient clinic.

#### **After Hours Cover**

The unit should provide 24 hour cover for the unit's inpatients.

#### **Weekly Ward Rounds and Meetings**

The Unit shall meet on a regular basis to conduct meetings to discuss the patients, protocols or any other business combined at some stage with a visit to the patients (ward round).

#### **Quality Assurance and Audit**

The Unit should be involved in a regular mortality and morbidity meeting, at least on a monthly basis with a six monthly or annual review. Quality assurance programmes (for example Clinical Indicators or quality projects) should become standard and reviewed at the weekly Unit meetings or audit meetings.

#### **Research**

The Unit shall have an interest in research either by encouraging individual research projects within the hospital or collaborating with existing clinical research projects.

#### **Academic Affiliation**

The Unit should have an affiliation with one of the University Medical Schools and be involved in Undergraduate Teaching Programmes.

#### **Basic and Advanced Training in General/Upper GI Surgery**

Members of the Unit should be involved with the RACS activities to encourage surgical trainees in basic and advanced training in General and Upper GI Surgery. The Unit should also encourage overseas trainees or Upper GI surgeons to visit the Unit.

#### **CME and Recertification**

The Unit head should be responsible for ensuring that the Guidelines provided by ANZGOSA are fulfilled and participate in CME activities.

The purpose of hospital accreditation is to ensure the highest quality of training for the Upper GI Fellowship and that the approved posts provide an appropriate supervision and learning environment to the prescribed standard.

1. The process for accreditation for appropriate centres for training in Upper GI surgery will be initiated by the Upper GI unit in conjunction with the hospital administration. The appropriate documentation will be completed and sent to the ANZGOSA training committee (see details).
2. The inspection will consist of at least 2 members of the ANZGOSA committee. Accreditation will be provided on a five year basis. Provisions for limited accreditation for one year and subsequent review should be available.
3. The recommendation of the supervisory team will be communicated to the ANZGOSA training committee and subsequently sent to the CEO (or other appropriate representative) of the hospital for comments. The final draft will be presented to the ANZGOSA executive for final approval
4. The accreditation committee should allow for at least a half day for the process.

Meetings would normally include:

- a) Meeting with Hospital Unit Supervisor and administrative staff of hospital and supervisor of Upper GI training to discuss general issues
- b) Meeting with members of the Upper GI unit to discuss case load and other issues
- c) Individual, confidential meetings with current trainee(s)/fellow.
- d) Inspection of the facilities.
- e) Briefing session to the whole team regarding issues of concern.

### **Post Fellowship Trainees Weekend**

The 2016 Post Fellowship Trainees' Weekend is being hosted by ANZHPBA and being held at Mercure Clear Mountain Lodge in Brisbane, 22 – 23 October. 2016 ANZHPBA and ANZGOSA Fellows will attend. As part of the two year Fellowship they are required to attend the Post Fellowship Trainees Weekend. The weekend will have significant local faculty and each Fellow will have one presentation topic focused on their specialty, HPB or GI.

### **2016 Fellows**

Congratulations to all our 2016 Year 1 and Year 2 ANZGOSA fellows on their placements –

Mark Boccola to St Vincent's Hospital (NSW)  
David Murray to Royal North Shore Hospital (NSW)  
Benjamin Keong to St George Hospital (NSW)  
Peter Hamer to Christchurch Hospital (NZ)  
Benjamin Woodham to Flinders Medical Centre (SA)  
Lara Freeman to Austin Hospital (VIC)  
Ramez Bassari to The Alfred Hospital (VIC)  
Andrew Hardley to Box Hill Hospital (VIC)  
Yuki Watanabe to Fiona Stanley Hospital (WA)  
Jonathon Foo to Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (WA)  
Adrian Teo to Auckland Hospital (NZ)

### **2016 ANZGOSA / Medtronic Travelling scholarships**

ANZGOSA is very excited to announce that **applications are now open** for the 2016 ANZGOSA / Medtronic Travelling Scholarships.

Total value of scholarships is \$15,000 (excluding GST). Final number of scholarships available will be determined upon receiving all applications.

One scholarship will be awarded to an application attending the 15th ISDE World Congress in Singapore in September 2016 [http://www.isde.net/singapore\\_2016\\_world-congress](http://www.isde.net/singapore_2016_world-congress)

## **Eligibility Criteria**

The applicant must be a member of ANZGOSA at the time of submitting their application.

All applicants are required to provide specific details of their planned visit to the International Conference in question (1 page), including proposed itinerary, explicit details of work and/or study to be undertaken and envisaged benefits of this activity. Details of any financial support or funding already secured (eg research grants, sponsorship and / or other grants) and the proposed use of the funds should also be included. *Please note that additional funding from external bodies may affect selection.*

## **Guidelines for Selection**

The aim of the Scholarship is to financially assist ANZGOSA members to attend Conferences (relating to Upper GI Surgery) held overseas.

### Selection Criteria:

1. The applicant demonstrating the benefits of his/her attendance at the Conference and ability to share this with the Upper GI surgical community in Australia & New Zealand.
2. Provision of a clear plan of proposed trip.
3. Inclusion of conformation letter from the Society holding the conference with regards to any other funding provided. (if applicable)
4. Consideration will be given to those in their earlier post Fellowship years (ten years), and to those who have not secured alternative financial support.

## **Financial Arrangements**

1. The recipient must refer his/her financial or taxation advisor to ascertain the taxability of the stipend.
2. Payment of the award will be made in one instalment after attendance.
3. The Scholarship will only be paid on receipt of a valid tax receipts and attendance certificate.

## **Reporting and Other Requirements**

On completion of the Scholarship, the recipient is required to:

- Provide a written report on their experience for the ANZGOSA Board and be prepared to present a brief descriptive paper at the next ANZGOSA Annual Scientific Meeting / Conference following their return.
- Prepare a paper suitable for production in any ANZGOSA publications and website.

Applicants should provide specific details of their planned visit to the International Conference in question (1 page), including proposed itinerary, explicit details of work and/or study to be undertaken and envisaged benefits of this activity. Details of any financial support or funding already secured (eg research grants, sponsorship and / or other grants) and the proposed use of the funds should also be included, to Leanne Rogers, Executive Officer ANZGOSA, P.O. Box 374, Belair S.A. 5052, or email [anzgosa@gmail.com](mailto:anzgosa@gmail.com).

For further information please contact the Executive Officer at [anzgosa@gmail.com](mailto:anzgosa@gmail.com)

**Applications close 5pm, Friday 22nd April, 2016**

## **New Board Members**

Welcome to the ANZGOSA Board Jon Shenfine. At the 2015 Annual General Meeting Wendy Brown was formally announced as the ANZGOSA President Elect. Tim Bright has been appointed ANZGOSA Training Committee Chairman.



## **2017 Upper GI Post Fellowship Training Programme – Applications open**

Applications are invited from eligible Post Fellowship Trainees for training in Upper GI Surgery.

ANZGOSA's Post Fellowship Training Program is for Upper GI surgeons. The program consists of two years education and training following completion of a general surgery fellowship. A compulsory portion of the program will include clinical research. A successful Fellowship in Upper GI surgery will involve satisfactory completion of the curriculum requirements, completion of research requirements, minimum of twenty four months clinical training, successful case load achievement, and assessment. Successful applicants will be assigned to an accredited hospital unit. Year one fellows are given the option to preference a state but not a hospital unit.

For further information please contact the Executive Officer at [anzgosa@gmail.com](mailto:anzgosa@gmail.com) or the website [http://www.anzgosa.org/advertise\\_info.html](http://www.anzgosa.org/advertise_info.html)

To be eligible to apply, applicants should have FRACS or sitting FRACS exam in May 2016. Any exam fails will not be offered an interview.

Applicants should submit a CV, an outline of career plans and nominate four references, one must be Head of Unit, (with email addresses and mobile phone numbers), to Leanne Rogers, Executive Officer ANZGOSA, P.O. Box 374, Belair S.A. 5052, or email [anzgosa@gmail.com](mailto:anzgosa@gmail.com).

Successful applicants will need to be able to attend interviews on Saturday May 28<sup>th</sup> in Melbourne.

**Applications close 5pm, Friday March 25<sup>th</sup> 2016.**

## **ANZGOSA / OSSANZ 2015 Conference**

Thank you to all who attended last years combined meeting with OSSANZ on Hamilton Island. This combined meeting was a great success and we will continue to run a combined meeting with OSSANZ every four years. We had excellent delegate numbers and the international speakers were outstanding.







## **ANZGOSA / SUGSS Meeting 2016**

**SAVE THE DATE**

9 and 10 September  
Intercontinental Hotel, Double Bay Sydney

ANZGOSA international visitor – Professor Yang  
Professor, Chief, Division of GI Surgery  
Department of Surgery & Cancer Research Institute  
Seoul National University Hospital  
Seoul National University College of Medicine

Dr. Yang's team performed clinical practice of over 1,000 gastric cancer operations (about 65% by minimal access surgery) and conducted over 30 clinical trials and 20 translational studies in 2014. Dr. Yang is involved in several large scale RCT's for gastric cancer treatment. He is Korean PI of REGATTA study (Phase III study for the role of gastrectomy in stage IV gastric cancer with a single incurable factor; a collaboratory study between JCOG and KGCA). He is investigators of CLASSIC trial, KLASS trials as well as the Korean PI of a phase II study for the role of neoadjuvant imatinib treatment in large gastric GIST (a collaborator study between Japan and Korea). He is the founding chairman of KLASS (Korean Laparoscopic Gastrointestinal Surgery Study Group). His translational research interests are Gastric Carcinogenesis, DDS, familial gastric cancer, biomarkers. Dr. Yang is Chairman of Board of directors of Korean Gastric Cancer Association and executive council member of International Gastric Cancer Association. He is editor of "Gastric Cancer" and "Asian Journal of Endoscopic Surgery and editorial board member of several internal journals including Annals of Surgery, JAMA Surgery etc.

SUGSS international visitor Professor Guy-Bernard Cadiere  
Chief of G.I. surgery, Saint Pierre University Hospital, Brussels.

Professor Cadiere has an interest in all aspects of benign and malignant Upper GI surgery including bariatric procedures such as sleeve gastrectomy and gastric bypass plus he has experience in robotic surgery, minimally invasive oesophagectomy and anti-reflux surgery

### **ANZGOSA Audit**

As a practising **FULL** member of the Association, we encourage you to participate in the ANZGOSA Audit, officially launched on August 31 2010, a bi-national audit of surgical cancer treatment.

Participating in the audit demonstrates both an appreciation of the importance of quality surgical care in this area and a commitment to achieving such quality. Participants will receive an annual participation certificate.

Through the reporting feature of the data entry portal surgeons have access to instant reporting on key areas against aggregated peer results and be able extract their own data for personal analyses. Audit staff will also be able to provide customised analyses if requested. Upgraded report suite now available and institutional downloads.

Collated bi-national data will provide the ANZGOSA opportunities for research into surgical treatment in the two countries. Participants can also make an official data request to gain de-identified information from the database for their own research.

The audit is being conducted on behalf of the ANZGOSA by the Research, Audit and Academic Surgery Division of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. **College Ethics Committee approval was granted in June 2010** and an application has been made to recognise the audit as an approved activity so that participants can use this to claim points in the College Continuing Professional Development program.

***For further information or to become part of this initiative and gain access to the online portal, please contact the College managers of the audit:***

**Ph: +61 8 8363 7513**

**Audit helpdesk: [anzgosa.audit@surgeons.org](mailto:anzgosa.audit@surgeons.org)**

### **New to the Audit –**

A formal process has been put in place for participants and external researchers to request tabulations and analysis from the ANZGOSA Audit.

With almost 1500 cases in the database, the audit is now ready to be used for research or to answer more specific quality assurance questions than those available through the automated reports.

More details on this process are available from the [Data Request Policy](#) and [Data Request Form](#)

**The two data request documents are now up on the College ANZGOSA Audit webpage:**  
**[www.surgeons.org/anzgosa](http://www.surgeons.org/anzgosa)**

## ANZGOSA Board and committees

The current Board is:

<b>President</b>	Ross Roberts (New Zealand)
<b>Vice President</b>	Wendy Brown (VIC)
<b>Secretary</b>	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tim Bright (SA)
<b>Board members</b>	David Martin (NSW)
	Iain Thomson (QLD)
	Wendy Brown (VIC)
	Krishna Epari (WA)
	Andrew MacCormick (NZ)
	Neil Merrett (NSW)
	Leigh Rutherford (QLD)
	Jon Shenfine (SA)

### Training Committee

Tim Bright (Chairman)  
Ross Roberts (ANZGOSA President)  
David Martin  
Neil Merrett  
Simon Bann  
Richard Cade  
Leigh Rutherford

### Scientific Research and Audit Committee

Wendy Brown (Chair) (VIC)  
Ross Roberts (NZ)  
Krishna Epari (WA)  
Iain Thomson (QLD)  
Ahmad Aly (VIC)  
Sarah Thompson (SA)  
George Kiroff (SA)  
Peter Cosman (NSW)  
Andrew MacCormick (NZ)  
Katherine Economides (RACS)  
Michelle Oglivy (RACS)

### Membership Liaison Committee

Wendy Brown (chairman)  
Ross Roberts (ANZGOSA President)  
Rob Bohmer  
Jenny Myers  
Sebastian Kwon  
Michael Devadas



# Medtronic

