



ANZGOSA

Australia & New Zealand
Gastric & Oesophageal
Surgery Association

NEWSLETTER

Issue 25

February 2017

President's Report

Happy new year to all our ANZGOSA members! It feels like we are already well into the year, even though it is only 6 weeks old, somehow the relaxation of January quickly evaporates when February comes along! 2017 is shaping up to be a busy year and I think very rewarding for our Society with some important initiatives and great meetings to look forward to.

Our **Fellow training programme** has now been assessed by the RACS Post-Fellowship Training and Education Committee. We are very hopeful that we will be approved by the Committee, which means we can offer our trainees the surety that the RACS recognises and approves of our programme. Immediate Past President Ross Roberts has done an enormous amount of work to ensure we gain this recognition and we are very grateful for the time he has invested in this process.

The **ANZGOSA audit** continues to grow. Sarah Thompson has had the first publication arising from the dataset accepted in the ANZ Journal of Surgery. It will soon be a requirement for all hospitals that host an ANZGOSA fellow that they are contributing to the audit. Andrew MacCormick has taken over as Chair of the Audit Committee. Under his leadership we anticipate moving towards a leaner dataset with more of an emphasis on Quality and Safety. We hope these changes will not only appeal to surgeons, but help us

attract funders. We will be looking for feedback – so please watch this space!

The year kicks off with the biannual **ISDEA** meeting being held in Glenelg, Adelaide. Leigh Rutherford and Iain Thomson have put together a very interesting programme with sessions covering emergencies, controversies, operative techniques and a new session focusing purely on what new trials we should be thinking about. This is always a very collegial meeting and a great opportunity to discuss in depth the issues we all come across in our oesophageal surgical practices. The Glyn Jamieson prize will again be awarded for the best scientific paper, and the Cockeral is always a highlight. Socially, Leanne has arranged a great dinner! We will sail up the Torrens in Popeye and dinner will be served at the historic Jolley's Boathouse. I look forward to seeing you all in a couple of weeks in lovely Adelaide.

In July we have our **Fellow's weekend** at Werribee Mansion. Our visitor will be Mike Griffin – who is by now almost an honorary Australian! He is always an engaging guest and is very generous with his time, ensuring the trainees get the most out of the weekend. All of our Fellows will attend and it is a great opportunity for them to get to know their colleagues and the faculty.

Our **annual meeting** this year will be combined with AGITG October 4 to 6 in Cairns. There will be a definite Cancer focus, and Iain Thomson is well advanced with programme planning. More information will be forthcoming soon – watch the website for more details. Structurally and politically things are also changing.

Fortunately we don't have to contend with a Donald Trump, however, there is currently a major review of the MBS and changes to the way that the College acknowledges endoscopy training that will impact upon us. We will continue to monitor these issues and keep you informed.

ANZGOSA is now into its second decade. It is an exciting time and we will continue to engage you and seek your support as we continue to grow.

All the best

Wendy Brown, ANZGOSA President

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Future Dates

24 - 25 February 2017

IsDEAS

Stamford Grand Hotel, Glenelg Adelaide

4 - 6 October 2017

Cairns Convention Centre

Combined with AGITG

Website: www.anzgosa.asnevents.com.au

2018

8 - 9 October 2018

Te Papu National Museum

Wellington, New Zealand

Combined ANZHPBA and ANZGOSA



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.

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 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

ANZGOSA continues to be in a good position.

A full financial report and Treasurers' report will be provided, and emailed, to all members after the AGM in October, for the year ended 30th June 2017.

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 190.

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.anzgosa.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 1st July 2017 – 30th June 2018 will be emailed in May. Please ensure prompt payment.

ANZGOSA Hospital Unit Accreditation

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

Applications for 2018 Fellows have 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 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 was held at Mercure Clear Mountain Lodge in Brisbane, October. All 2016 ANZHPBA and ANZGOSA Fellows attended this successful and residential weekend. As part of the two year Fellowship they are required to attend the Post Fellowship Trainees Weekend. Many thanks to all local faculty and Professor James Garden who contributed to the weekend and mentored our fellows.



Welcome 2017 ANZGOSA fellows

Welcome to all ANZGOSA fellows starting their 2017 placements this month. We hope you have a very successful year.

2017 ANZGOSA / Medtronic Travelling scholarships

ANZGOSA is very excited to announce that **applications are now open** for the 2017 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.

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.

For further information please contact the Executive Officer at anzgosa@gmail.com

Applications close 5pm, Friday 12th May, 2017

New Board members

We welcome new board member Cuong Duong. We look forward to your contributions over the next three years.



Post Fellowship Training in Upper GI Surgery

Applications are invited from eligible Post Fellowship Trainees for training in Upper GI Surgery. Applicants MUST be citizens or permanent residents of Australia and New Zealand.

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 or the website http://www.anzgosa.org/advertise_info.html

To be eligible to apply, applicants should have FRACS or sitting FRACS exam in May 2017. 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.

Successful applicants will need to be able to attend interviews on Saturday June 3rd in Melbourne.

Applications close midnight, Friday March 31st 2017.



ANZGOSA/AGITG Meeting 2017

SAVE THE DATES
4 – 6 October
Cairns Convention Centre

Abstracts now open

<http://anzgosa.asnevents.com.au/>

ANZGOSA invited international speaker – Professor John Reynolds, Professor of Clinical Surgery at St James' Hospital and Trinity College Dublin



ANZGOSA / SUGSS meeting 2016



Medtronic

Further, Together