



*RPA Institute of Academic Surgery  
e-newsletter*

# December 2018

## NEWS / MEDIA

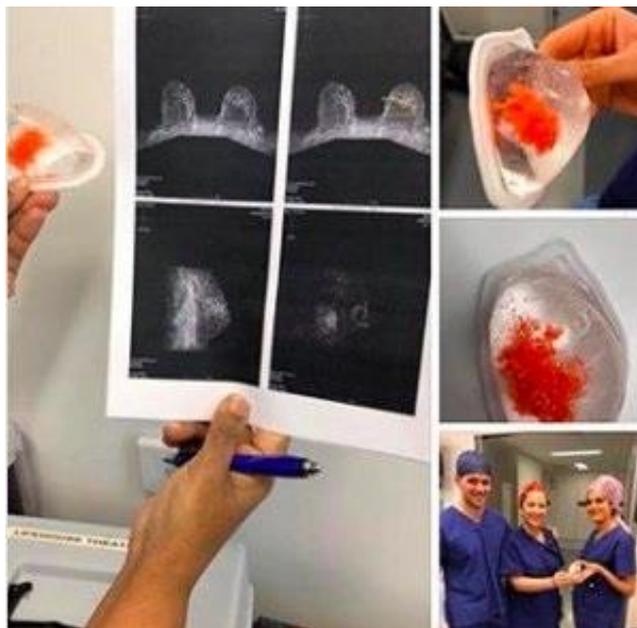
Seasons  
greetings

### CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR CLOSE DOWN

On behalf of everyone at the RPA Institute of Academic Surgery we would like to wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

The IAS will be closed from Friday 21 December 2018 and re-open on Monday 7 January 2019.

We look forward to seeing you in 2019.

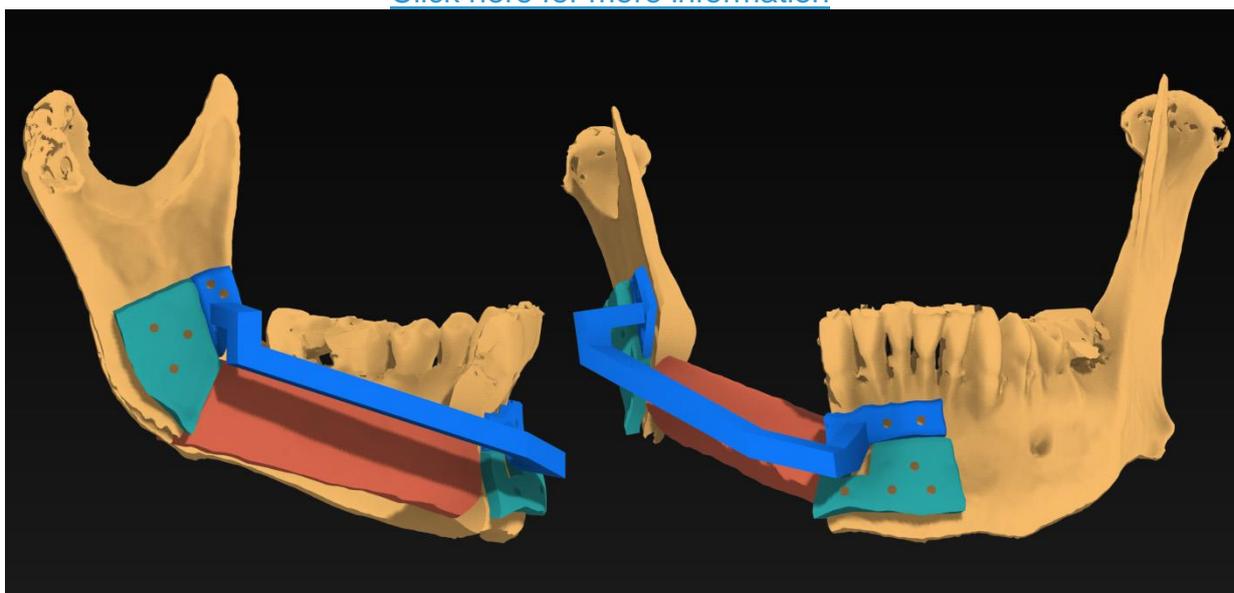


### 3D Printing and Robotic Breast Surgery

Associate Professor Sanjay Warriar and Associate Professor Payal Mukherjee have been working with IAS Surgical Innovation Research Officer, Kai Cheng in developing 3D printed breast models to assist with surgical planning for patients with breast tumours.

Associate Professor Warriar was the first surgeon in the southern hemisphere to use the da Vinci robot for breast surgery.

[Click here for more information](#)

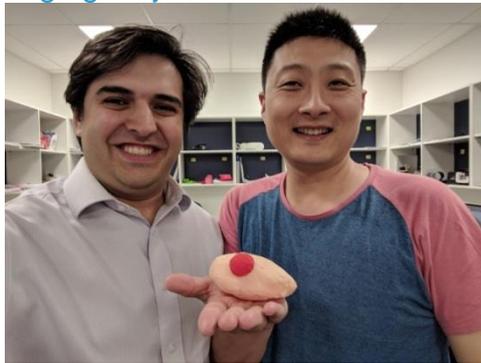


### 3D Printing and Surgical Planning Update

IAS Surgical Innovation Research Officer, Mr Kai Cheng worked with ENT Surgeon, Dr Hubert Low to 3D print guides for a patient who required mandible reconstruction due to an aggressive tumor in their mandible.

The patient's scans (image above) were used by Kai to construct the cutting guides that he then 3D printed allowing Dr Low the opportunity to plan the surgery prior to the patient being admitted into the operating theatre.

Mr Cheng also collaborated with Lifehouse urologist, Dr Nariman Ahmadi to 3D print a patient's kidney who had a tumour. The 3D printed model allowed Dr Ahmadi to plan the procedure to ensure he would have enough clearance to remove the tumour without damaging major blood vessels within the kidney.



*Dr Nariman Ahmadi and Mr Kai Cheng with the 3D printed kidney and tumour*

### NURSING EDUCATION- RIG 2

The Research and Innovations Group 2 (RIG) this term had 25 participants from varying medical and surgical units across the SLHD. RIG 2 focused on the development of participant's research ideas and worked through the process of protocol development. We were fortunate to have presenters from the University Of Sydney School Of Nursing, the Cancer Nursing Research Unit, and the Patient & Family Centred Care Research Unit as well as the Surgical Outcomes and Research Centre. Participants will continue to be supported via collaborations with the research drop in clinic to finalise their ethics protocol prior to submission. For those who have already obtained ethics approval we will continue to support them and provide assistance when required. Feedback from RIG 2 will be obtained shortly with the view of reviewing the topics presented in RIG 2 to further develop the program for the needs of the participants.



## The Art and Good Health and Wellbeing Conference

Executive Director, Kate McBride and A/Manager of Surgical Partnerships, Lucy Mackenzie attended the 10th Annual International Arts and Health Conference in Port Macquarie in November as part of the Sydney Local Health District's ongoing work with Health and the Arts.

The three day conference was attended by clinicians, artists and healthcare managers and focused on creative ageing, mental health and resilience and art and health in hospitals.



## Sri Lanka Association of Urological Surgeons

### Sri Lanka Association of Urological Surgeons

Associate Professor Ruban Thanigasalam attended the 13th Annual Academic Session for the Sri Lanka Association of Urological Surgeons held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

A/Professor Thanigasalam was part of the conference program, presenting on 'nodal management in prostate cancer' and 'the upper tract urothelial cancers diagnostic dilemma' as well as the 'management of intermediate risk organ confined prostate cancer and what's new?'

A/Prof Thanigasalam was one of the few international surgeons who presented at the two day conference.



## Sydney Colorectal Surgical Meeting 2018

Associate Professor Jonathan Hong and Associate Professor Cherry Koh presented at the Sydney Colorectal meeting held on Saturday 17 November at the Hilton Hotel in Sydney.



## ANZ Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons (ANZSCTS) 2018 Annual Scientific Conference

IAS Director of Translational Research and cardiothoracic surgeon, Dr Michael Byrom presented and ran workshops at the ANZSCTS Annual Scientific Conference

Dr Byrom ran four statistics workshops at the conference held in Noosa as well as presenting on 'CRAM Charts – State-of-the-art Performance Monitoring for Cardiac Surgery in Australasia'

## EVENTS / COURSES



### Art + Surgery Exhibition Launch

On Wednesday 5 December the RPA Institute of Academic Surgery (IAS) held the Art + Surgery exhibition launch for the project collaboration with artist Simon Fieldhouse. Held in the Atrium at RPA, the evening was attended by over 40 surgeons, staff and guests.

The exhibition showcased 20 of Simon's 'Art + Surgery' water colour drawings that he had created with inspiration from observing surgical cases at RPA including neurosurgery, colorectal, robotic-assisted surgery, cardiothoracic, orthopaedic and head and neck surgery. Simon took over 10,000 photos with a wide angled camera to get the material to create the drawings.

Simon is best known for his architecture drawings including many of the Sydney Local Health District hospitals and buildings. This collaboration was exciting and different for Simon as it allowed him to be exposed to an operating theatre and a range of surgical teams and to understand the dedication and teamwork that goes into treating each patient.

The project which has already gather a lot of interest from the public and art community came about after a discussion Simon had with the IAS Co-Chair and Executive Director; Professor Michael Solomon and Kate McBride. The artworks will be on display in the main building of RPA until the end of January and are available for purchase.

For more information about the exhibition please don't hesitate to contact the IAS directly or visit Simon's [website](#) to view some of the collection.

## NEWTOWN HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS VISIT



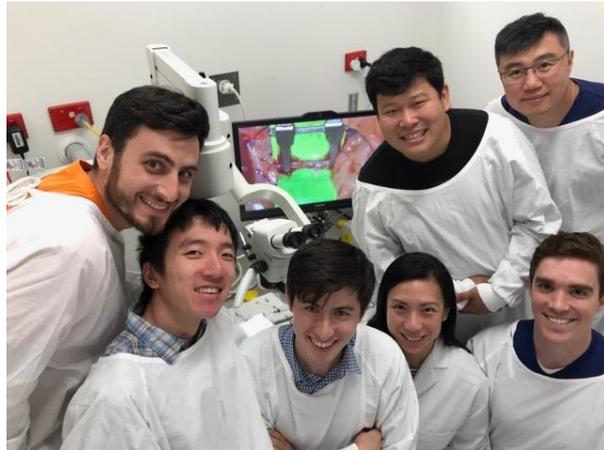
The IAS hosted nineteen female year 9 students from Newtown High School for the Performing Arts on Friday 15 December.

The visit included presentations from Manager of Nutrition and Dietetics, Ms Sophie Hogan and Colorectal Surgeon, Dr Nabila Ansari.

The excursion was organised to give the students a taste of surgical training and to educate them about the variety of jobs in the sciences, in particular within healthcare.

Ms Hogan explained to the students about the wide variety of jobs within dietetics, and what she studied to get to where she is today. She explained to the students that there are lots of types of dietitians and a clinical dietitian in a hospital is just one kind.

The students then were given the opportunity to test their surgical skills on the laparoscopic trainers, practice their CPR and use the virtual reality headsets to see inside a theatre.



## Microsurgery Course

The first two microsurgery courses have been confirmed for 2019.

The course will be run on 22nd-24th, February 2nd, 3rd March, 2019

or

14th-16th, 22nd, 23rd June, 2019

For more information or to register please visit our [website](#)



## Nursing and Midwifery Clinical Practice Forum

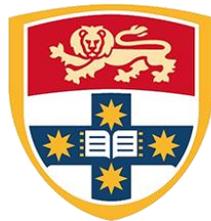
IAS Director of Surgical Nursing, Rachael Roberts spoke at the Nursing and Midwifery Clinical Practice Forum held at RPA in November. Rachael gave the attendees an insight into the IAS and how we can assist surgical nurses with research.

For more information about how we can assist please contact us directly.



**General Surgery Training  
Every Monday 6pm  
IAS**

The IAS has commenced weekly General Surgery training each Monday evening. It is now supported by the use of videoconferencing (Pexip) to permit seconded trainees to join



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**SYDNEY**

**Sydney Clinical School Summer Series**

The IAS Summer School has started and involves first and second year medical students. The series gives the students the opportunity to spend a week in RPA surgical departments to gain an introduction to surgery early in their medical careers.

## CONGRATULATIONS

### **Associate Professor Jonathan Hong**

Congratulations to IAS Deputy Director of Surgical Education, A/ Prof Jonathan Hong, assisted by A/Prof Cherry Koh for performing a rectopexy using the FlexDex on November 12th at the Chris O'Brien Lifehouse. .

A/Prof Jonathan Hong was one of the first surgeons to use the FlexDex for colorectal surgery in Australia. A/Prof Jonathan Hong said: "FlexDex is very exciting technology with great potential in particular to suture the mesh"

FlexDex had been work with the Director of Surgical Education, Associate Professor David Storey. Associate Professor Storey has been focusing on developing the right models and teaching methods for the use of the FlexDex.



Congratulations to Sophie Hogan (Manager of Nutrition and Dietetics) for being awarded the David Russell Award for most outstanding clinical service enhancement presentation. Sophie presented on "the barriers and enablers of surgeons to implement evidence-based post-operative feeding practices after pelvic exenteration surgery: a qualitative study".

Sophie is currently working closely with the RPA pelvic exenteration patients and Advanced GI Surgical Program.



**Advanced GI Surgical Program**

Congratulations to the Advanced GI Surgical Program for being awarded *highly commended* in the category 'Health research and Innovation'. The award was received at the Sydney Local Health District's Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Thursday 1 November 2018.



### Dr Danielle Van Diepen

We would like to congratulate Dr Van Diepen on completing her twelve month fellowship as the Robotics Research Fellow working along side robotic surgeons, Associate Professor Ruban Thanigasalam and Dr Scott Leslie.

Dr Van Diepen has been instrumental in progressing a number of the robotic research studies and has presented abstracts at several national and international conferences.

We would like to thank Dr Danielle Van Diepen and wish her all the best.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Novel technique for stomal isolation after extensive abdominal wall soft tissue loss

*Techniques in Coloproctology*

Multiple IAS Authors

*(Dr Nabila Ansari & Dr Kilian Brown)*

[View Publication](#)