



*RPA Institute of Academic Surgery
e-newsletter*

March 2019

We hope everyone had a nice festive season! Everyone is back from the summer holiday break and the year has returned to full swing. It has been a busy start to the year for the RPA Institute of Academic Surgery (IAS) including holding over 30 training courses across January to March.

The IAS has a variety of events on the 2019 calendar including;

IAS 5th Birthday - late 2019

To celebrate 5 years of the IAS we will be holding an academic surgery seminar at RPA followed by a cocktail event.

The academic surgery seminar will be an opportunity for the Institute to educate staff, patients and visitors of the variety of surgical programs and research being undertaken at RPA. More information about the academic surgery seminar and cocktail evening will be released shortly.

Sydney Robotics Masterclass – Saturday 29 June

This year's Robotics Masterclass will be held at RPA showcasing the number of surgical robots across the RPA, Chris O'Brien Lifehouse and University of Sydney Campus. The program will include a lecture series on surgical robotics and innovation as well as a variety of practical robotic training masterclasses. Programs and more information can be found on the Robotics Masterclass [website](#).

WELCOME



Ms Lauren Gibson
Project Manager, Surgical Culture

We would like to warmly welcome Ms Lauren Gibson to the IAS team. Lauren has years of experience working at RPA in a variety of departments including Patient Safety and Quality Unit, Medical Training and Admin Unit and Human Resources. Lauren is now working at the IAS on a new project investigating surgical culture including implementing a baseline study. Lauren has a wealth of knowledge in this area and we are excited to have her as part of the IAS team.

We would like to also welcome Dr Andrew Jacques. Dr Jacques was working in Upper GI as a registrar in 2018 and has taken a year off to do research working with Dr David Yeo and the Upper GI department on a clinical trial.

UPDATES



3D Re-usable Kidney Mold

IAS Surgical Innovations Research Officer, Mr Kai Cheng has been working with IAS Facility Coordinator, Mr Trevor McGowan to develop a re-usable mold for making silicon kidney models using 3D scanning and 3D printing.

The above image is the 3D rendering file used to print the re-usable mold using the 3D printer. The mold is filled with silicon and once set can be used in surgical skill

training.



RPA GRAND ROUNDS

IAS Robotic Research Lead and urological surgeon, Dr Scott Leslie presented at the RPA Grand Rounds on Friday 22 March.

Dr Leslie spoke about the evolution of robotic surgery and how far surgical instruments have come. Dr Leslie explained the different types of research being done at RPA in surgical robotics as well as where robotic-assisted surgery is heading.



New & Emerging Technology in Surgery Seminar

On Monday 25 March the IAS hosted an evening for surgeons, researchers and students to discuss some of the current challenges facing surgeons and researchers when introducing new technology in surgery. The evening was organised by Associate Professor Payal Mukherjee and included talks from Professor Gerard Sutton, Professor Gordon Wallace and Professor Susan Dodds.

Professor Susan Dodds, an ethicist specialising in this area, explained there are multiple challenges facing the use of stem cells, patient specific surgery and the changes in defining a 'medical device'.

If you would like to join this discussion or find out more about these project please [contact us](#).

Research Innovations Group (RIG)

The Research Innovation Group (RIG) is designed to assist nursing and allied health staff in understanding the fundamentals of research. The RIG for this year started on Wednesday 6 March and will run fortnightly on a Wednesday afternoon for the next 8 weeks. The program includes presentations from Sydney University, Susan Wakil School of Nursing, Cancer Nursing Research Unit, Patient and Family Centered Care Research Unit and SOuRCe.

The program is open to all nursing and allied health staff.
For more information please contact IAS Director of Surgical Nursing Research, [Rachael Roberts](#)



Cardiac Advanced Life Support Course (CALs)

The third CALs course for 2019 is being held on Wednesday 10 April.

For more information about the course or to register please visit our [website](#).



SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SURGICAL SOCIETY (SUSS) ACADEMIC EVENING

On Wednesday 22 February the IAS and Sydney University Surgical Society (SUSS) hosted an academic evening for the medical students. The evening was an opportunity for our IAS surgeons to present to the students about their current research and ways in which they can get involved, as well as the importance of research in surgery.

Associate Professor Sydney Ch'ng, Dr Nabila Ansari, Dr Christopher Cao and Associate Professor Payal Mukherjee presented to the group of 60 students as well as Dr Michael Seco and Dr Mark Ly who gave a different perspective on their research and assisting in research programs.

Jessica Barklmore from SUSS said the students found the evening beneficial as it was interesting to see the variety of research being done in surgery across the various specialties.

This is the second academic evening the IAS has held in conjunction with SUSS.

RPA SURGICAL ROBOTICS PROGRAM

Urology have commenced two new randomised control trials within robotic surgery. The studies include the ROBO-Sling trial which is assessing urinary continence following robotic radical prostatectomy with or without an intraoperative retropubic vascularised fascial sling and the PNUT trial investigating early unclamping versus regular clamping in robot assisted partial nephrectomy.

For more information about our robotic surgery program please [contact us](#).



European Association of Urology (EAU) 2019 Barcelona

IAS Robotic Research Lead, Associate Professor Ruban Thanigasalam attended the 2019 European Association of Urology annual conference in Barcelona.

A/Prof Thanigasalam presented on "*Preoperative functional ultrasound imaging of the pelvic floor: correlation with early continence outcomes post radical prostatectomy*".

Functional Colorectal Conference Brisbane

RPA colorectal surgeons, Associate Professor Jonathan Hong and Associate Professor Cherry Koh attended the Functional colorectal conference held on 15 - 16th March in Brisbane.

The program focused on pelvic floor, pelvic mesh and an array of treatment options for patients with defecatory dysfunction.

EVENTS / COURSES

'University of Sydney & University of Edinburgh Partnership Symposium'

10:30AM - 2PM

Friday 5th April 2019.

IAS tutorial room.

The symposium program can be viewed [here](#)

Surgical Innovations Workshop

Sunday 31st March 2019

Royal Australasian College of Surgeons NSW

This workshop has been coordinated by Associate Professor Payal Mukherjee and her team to discuss how to commercialise research, multidisciplinary approach to research and the logistics of implementation, funding and legal protection of surgical innovations.

To view program please email – slhd-rpaias@health.nsw.gov.au



Art + Surgery Exhibition

The Art + Surgery Collection by artist Simon Fieldhouse which was launched at the end of 2018 is still on display on the level 5 corridor near Women and Babies unit until mid April.

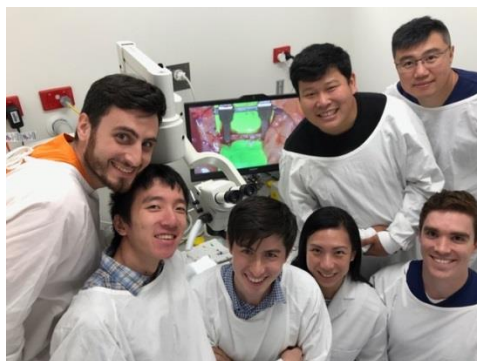
For more information or to see the full collection please contact us directly.

[More information](#) about the exhibition.

NEW PROTOCOLS & NEW IDEAS

The new protocols and new ideas meeting has commenced for 2019. The meeting started in 2017 and was set up to give staff the opportunity to present to peers on their current research. The projects can be at the early or late stage of the research timeline. The meeting is led by IAS Director of Surgical Research, Professor Jane Young and is a good opportunity to get feedback on ideas or the development of protocols and research ideas.

For more information about how to present or to attend these meetings please contact [Professor Jane Young](#)



IAS Microsurgery Course

The next microsurgery course has been confirmed for 2019. The course will be run on 14th-16th, 22nd and 23rd June 2019.

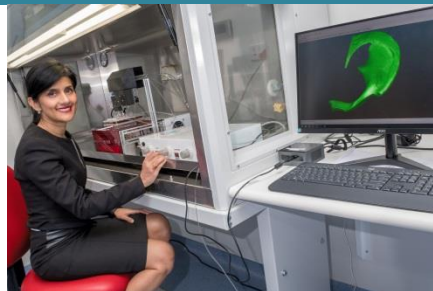
For more information or to register please visit our [website](#)



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.

NEWS & MEDIA



3D Bioprinter - 3D ALEK

On Friday 22 February, the 3D Bioprinter (aka. 3D Alek) was delivered to the IAS. The bioprinter is part of ENT Research Lead, Associate Professor Payal Mukherjee research with the vision to develop 3D bioprinted ears. The project has been made possible by the assistance and expertise of University of Wollongong researcher, Professor Gordon Wallace and his team who are using 3D Alek to bioprint ears with the hope they can assist children with the ear deformity microtia in the future.

To watch the 10 News video click [here](#)

To read 3DPrinting news click [here](#)

To read the ABC news story click [here](#)



100th Peritonectomy Case

RPA Advanced GI Surgical Program's peritonectomy team have performed their 100th peritonectomy case. The peritonectomy service commenced in 2017 and is the second hospital in NSW to offer this advanced cancer service.



Women in Surgery

As part of International Women's Day held on Friday 8 March the Sydney Local Health District published an article on our inaugural Robotic Research Fellow, Dr Danielle Van Diepen.

Read more [here](#)

CONGRATULATIONS

Associate Professor Payal Mukherjee

Congratulations to Associate Professor Payal Mukherjee who was nominated as a finalist for the 2019 Woman of the Year Award

Read more [here](#)

Associate Professor Jonathan Hong

Congratulations to IAS Deputy Director of Education, Associate Professor Jonathan Hong who won the 2018 Consultant Teacher of the Year for Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

Associate Professor Hong provide considerable education to the medical students both at the University and the IAS, and he is a very worthy recipient of this award.

PUBLICATIONS

Addressing the empty pelvic syndrome following total pelvic exenteration: does mesh reconstruction help?

Colorectal Disease

(Dr Peter Lee, Dr Kilian Brown, Professor Michael Solomon)

[View Publication](#)

Knowledge and attitudes of theatre staff prior to the implementation of robotic-assisted surgery in the public sector

PLOS One 2019

Multiple IAS Authors

(Ms Kate McBride, Dr Daniel Steffens, Prof Paul Bannon, Professor Michael Solomon)

[View Publication](#)

Addressing the ethical grey zone in surgery: a framework of identification and safe introduction of novel techniques and procedures

ANZ Journal Surgery 2019

Multiple IAS Authors

(Dr Nabila Ansari & Dr Kilian Brown)

[View Publication](#)