



*RPA Institute of Academic Surgery
e-newsletter*

May 2019

WELCOME

We hope everyone had a nice Easter break. April was a short month with Anzac Day and Easter falling in the same week but this did not stop the IAS from having another busy period, holding 22 courses with 243 attendees across the month of April. This included suturing programs, neonatal workshops and visits from local school students.

The IAS has some complex surgical workshops and courses being held in the coming months some of which are listed below. For more information about upcoming events or to speak with our Facility Coordinator about holding an educational program at the IAS visit our [website](#).

UPDATES

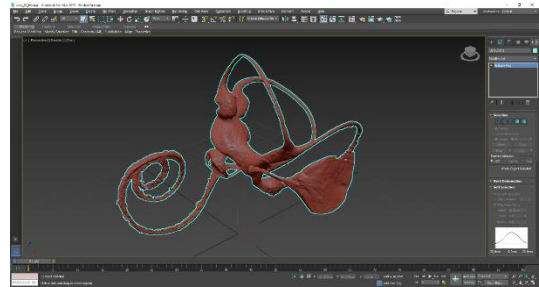
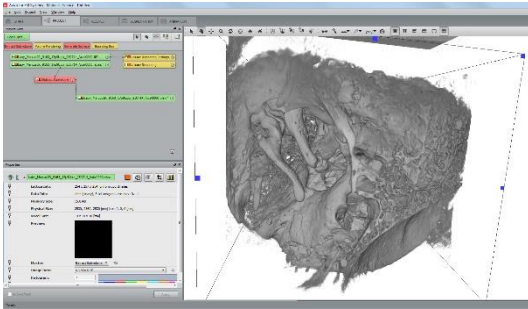


RPA Robotic Training Institute 2nd Birthday

Congratulations to the RPA Surgical and Robotic Training Institute (RTI) for celebrating their second birthday in April.

The RTI was opened in 2017 by the Hon. Brad Hazard and Dame Professor Marie Bashir. The Institute is a collaboration between RPA, Sydney Local Health District and commercial partners; Device Technologies and Intuitive Surgical.

Since opening, the RTI has trained over 230 surgeons on Intuitive's da Vinci Xi and da Vinci Si Surgical Systems.



3D Printing - Surgical Planning

Surgical Innovations research officer, Mr Kai Cheng has been working on two major projects to assist with research and education. The first used designed software to assist with the lack of exposure for medical students to cadaveric specimens in particular difficulty for students to study hard-to-reach areas such as the middle and inner ear.

Kai and Associate Professor Payal Mukherjee collaborated with Dr Matthew Foley from Australian Centre for Microscopy & Microanalysis (ACMM) at the University of Sydney to construct a 3D visualization on high resolution from MicroCT middle ear data to construct a 3D human middle ear model with intricate anatomical details. These 3D models will then be viewed via Virtual Reality (VR) headsets as part of undergraduate medical students' anatomy teaching at Sydney Medical School.

The other major project was 3D modelling and fluid dynamics simulation of the endolymphatic spaces in the membranous labyrinth of the inner ear. Ménière disease is a disorder of the inner ear that is also known as idiopathic endolymphatic hydrops. Endolymphatic hydrops refers to a condition of increased hydraulic pressure within the inner ear endolymphatic system. This project is about creating 3D surface models of endolymphatic spaces in the membranous labyrinth of the inner ear and conducting the simulations of the hydropic vestibular system.

This project was a collaboration between Professor Ian Curthoys from University of Sydney and Dr Jorge Rey Martínez from University Hospital Donostia (Spain).



Turkish Colorectal Meeting

IAS Co-Chair Professor Michael Solomon presented at the Turkish Colon and Rectal Surgery Congress in April.

The congress was held in Antalya, Turkey with Professor Solomon presenting on "Complex radical pelvic surgery: setting scope and learning from Sydney University experience" and "Surgical techniques for locally recurrent rectal cancer: difficulties, tips and pitfalls".

Professor Solomon was one of seven international speakers who presented at the conference.



RACS Annual Scientific Congress

The annual Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) conference was held the first week of May in Bangkok.

The IAS had 4 posters presented at the conference as well as presentations from Professor Jane Young, Associate Professor Payal Mukherjee, Associate Professor Sanjay Warriar and Associate Professor Charbel Sandroussi.

Full list of presentations and posters can be found [here](#)





Robotic Surgery: Mount Sinai Hospital Visit

In April, IAS robotic research lead and urologist, Associate Professor Ruban Thanigasalam met with Professor Ash Tewari at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City to collaborate on robotic research projects and observe his team performing robotic prostatectomy.

Professor Tewari is the highest volume robotic-assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy (RALP) surgeon in New York.

The visit was a great opportunity for Associate Professor Thanigasalam to understand how Professor Tewari does his procedures, their current research and to build a relationship with his team for future research collaborations.

RPA is currently performing robotic prostatectomies as part of a comprehensive research program.



Yurungai Learning Centre Group Visit

On Tuesday 16 April, a group of eight local children from Yurungai Learning Centre at Waterloo visited the IAS facilities. The morning visit included the students practicing their surgical skills on our laparoscopic trainers, learning how doctors train to become surgeons and all about key hole surgery.

The students also visited the IAS simulation operating theatre and had a turn at performing CPR on the training mannequin. They then made their way to our Surgical and Robotic Training Institute (RTI) where they all had a turn using the da Vinci Si and Xi robot simulators.

The group also spent a day with the RPA Arterie team learning about Arts and health.



EVENTS / COURSES



Sydney Robotics Masterclass 2019

The Sydney Robotics Masterclass series is being held on Saturday 29 June as part of the annual Sydney Innovation week, held by Sydney Local Health District.

This year's Sydney Robotics Masterclass is a similar program to the Sydney Robotics Summit held in 2017 and 2018 but has a more practical component.

The Masterclass series has a half-day Robotics Seminar being held at Kerry Packer Education Centre (KPEC) Auditorium as well as practical robotic workshops, utilising the seven surgical robots over the RPA and Chris O'Brien Lifehouse campus.

For more information about the robotics seminar or the robotic workshops please click the link below.

[More information](#)

CELEBRATING SURGERY AT RPA and IAS 5th Birthday

On Friday 20th September 2019, the IAS will be holding two events to celebrate surgery at RPA and the 5th birthday of the IAS.

The events will include an afternoon seminar from 1- 4pm in the Kerry Packer Education Centre (KPEC), which will be open to anyone to attend and incorporate presentations on innovations in surgery and a Q&A session with an expert panel discussing all things surgery.

This will be followed by an invitation only cocktail evening to celebrate 5 years of the IAS and surgical milestones at RPA.

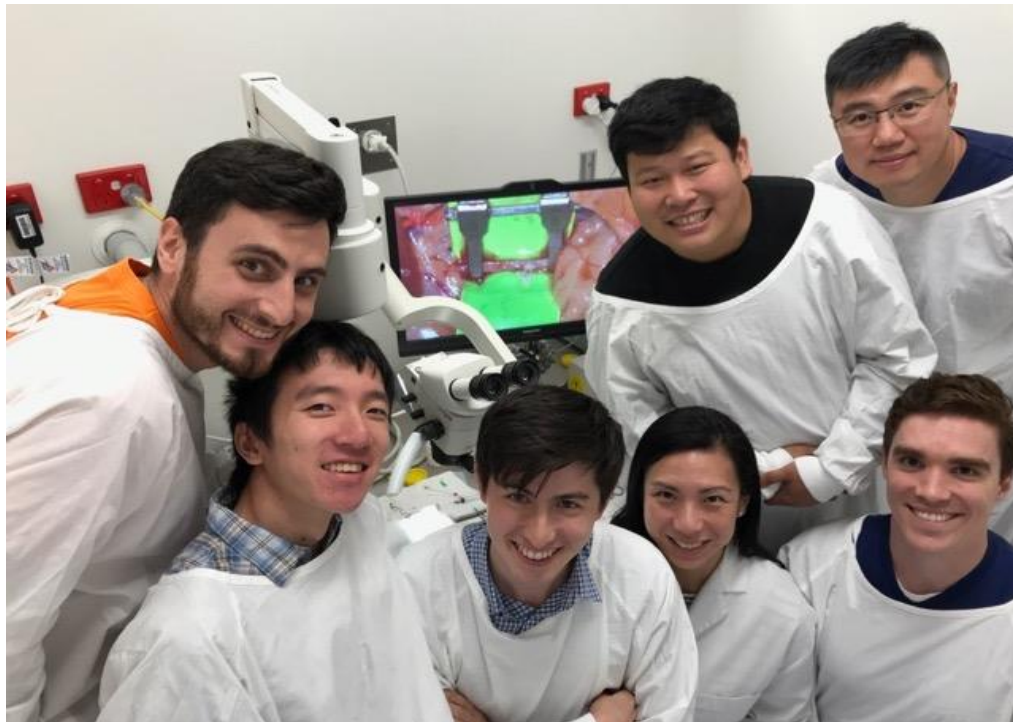
More information about both events will be distributed in the coming weeks.

NEW PROTOCOLS & NEW IDEAS

The new protocols and new ideas meetings have seen 20 research staff and clinicians meet monthly to discuss surgical ideas. The meeting started in 2017 and was set up to give staff the opportunity to present to peers on their current research and to get feedback on the development of protocols and research ideas.

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 are held at 08:30am on the 4th Friday of the month.

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



IAS Microsurgery Course

The next two microsurgery courses have been confirmed for 2019 and will be
held on the following dates:

Course 1: 13th - 15th, 21st and 22nd September 2019

Course 2: 8th -10th, 16th and 17th November 2019

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



General Surgery Training

Every Monday 6pm at the 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.

CONGRATULATIONS



Associate Professor Sanjay Warriar

Congratulations to Associate Professor Sanjay Warriar who has been appointed as the President of the Australia and New Zealand Breast Society.

Dr Lewis Chan

Congratulations to Dr Lewis Chan for winning the best poster in the Uro-Radiology division for his research titled "***Preoperative functional ultrasound imaging of the pelvic floor: correlation with early continence outcomes post radical***"

prostatectomy" which was presented at the Australian Urology Associates meeting.



RPA Excellence in Nursing and Midwifery Practice Awards 2019

The RPA Excellence in Nursing and Midwifery Practice Awards were held on Thursday 9 May as part of the International Nurses and Midwives Day.

We would like to congratulate the following nurses within surgery at RPA

Ms Annie Tang

Congratulations to the Peritonectomy Clinical Nurse Consultant, Annie Tang for being awarded **Excellence in Clinical Practice for research and Quality Improvement** in the RPA Peritonectomy Program.

Mr Kevin Ancog

Congratulations to JL Operating Theatres, Registered Nurse, Kevin Ancog for being awarded for **Excellence in Clinical Practice in operating theatres.**

Ms Milorose Felipe

Congratulations to Clinical Nurse Consultant for Gynaecology, Milorose Felipe for being recognised for **Partnering with Patient Carers and Community and Clinicians.**

Ms Virginia Tridgell

Congratulations to Registered Nurse, Virginia Tridgell from Ward 7East2 who was recognised for her **Excellence in Clinical Practice**

OPPORTUNITIES

THE HCF RESEARCH FOUNDATION



HCF Research Foundation - Expression of Interest

The HCF Research Foundation is making its 9th annual call for research projects to deliver \$1 million in funding to the research community in health care areas that provide opportunity to significantly improve health services.

The HCF Research Foundation is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from research teams interested in funding for health services research to begin in 2020.

[Click here for more information](#)

PUBLICATIONS

Steroid profiles by liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry of matched serum and single dominant ovarian follicular fluid from women undergoing IVF

Reproductive BioMedicine Online

Walters, K.A., Eis, S., Edwards, C.E., Thuis-Watson, R., Desai, R., Bowman, M., **Marren, A.J.**
and Handelsman, D.J.

[Read Article](#)

Ms Christina Stanislaus developed a virtual poster detailing the SLHD Robotics program at RPA which was displayed through Sydney Catalyst as part of their Early Researcher Symposium

The poster is an '**Overview of robotic cancer surgery in a tertiary public hospital**', presenting the data and milestones of RPA da Vinci robot since its inception, up until May 2019.

[View electronic poster here](#)

Updated Australian consensus statement on management of inherited bleeding disorders in pregnancy

The Medical Journal of Australia

Volume 210, Issue 7

April 2019

Pages 326 -332

Dunkley, S., Curtain J.A., **Marren A.J.**, Heavener, R.P., McRae, S. and Curnow, J.L.

[Read Article](#)

