



*RPA Institute of Academic Surgery
e-newsletter*

September 2019

WELCOME

September was a big month at the IAS with two events held to celebrate our 5th birthday and surgery at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital whilst still hosting a large number of surgical training courses in our facility.

We also had a great result with the surgical trainees winning the Golden Scalpel Games and medical students coming second.

EVENTS

RPA Institute of Academic Surgery's 5th Birthday

On Friday 20th September, the IAS held two events to celebrate its 5th birthday as well as acknowledge the last 130 years of surgery at RPA.

The theme of the day was '**tomorrow's surgery**' focusing on some of our early career academic surgeon's innovative projects and research.

Presenters and topics for the afternoon included;

Assoc. Professor Jonathan Hong - *Surgical skills and training at IAS*

Assoc. Professor Cherry Koh - *Surgical Outcomes*

Assoc. Professor Payal Mukherjee - *3D BioPrinting*

Dr Anthony Marren - *Uterine Transplantation*

The second half of the afternoon program was a Q&A session moderated by IAS Co-Chair, Professor Michael Solomon. The prestigious panel included:

IAS Co-Chair - **Professor Paul Bannon**

Ex Federal Health Minister - **The Hon Graham Richardson**

CEO of Breast Cancer Network Australia - **Kirsten Pillati**

Executive Director, The Ethics Centre - **Dr Simon Longstaff AO**

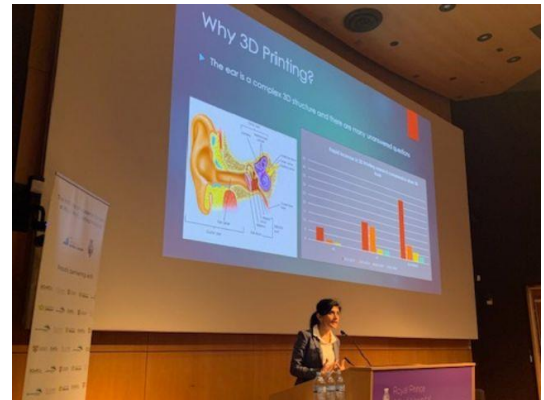
Professor of Media, Macquarie University - **Professor Catharine Lumby**

Journalist, Newcastle Herald - **Joanne McCarthy**

Plastics & Reconstructive Surgery HoD at RPA - **Assoc. Prof Harvey Stern**

President, Medical Council of NSW - **Assoc. Prof Richard Walsh**

Areas of discussion included the TGA's new ban of breast implants, the ethics and regulation around surgeon's advertising as well crowd funding for surgery and the role of surgeons in society.



Hosted by **Jean Kittson**, the evening cocktail event was held at the Museum of Contemporary Art with 250 guests joining us to celebrate surgery at RPA and the IAS 5th birthday.

The evening included a number of short vignettes about the role of the IAS and our current projects, an overview of surgery at RPA and where surgery is headed in the future.

Guests were invited to engage with the surgical departments through augmented reality

videos as well as the interactive models on display from each of the specialties.

We were fortunate to have a number of distinguished guests join us for the evening including The Hon Professor Dame Marie Bashir, Dr Michael Spence, Professor Laurent Rivory and The Hon Graham Richardson.

[Vantari VR](#) were also part of the evening showcasing their application of software and equipment in virtual reality used for teaching and training in healthcare.





Sydney Robotics Summit 2020

The Sydney Robotics Summit is back with the program confirmed for 12th & 13th June 2020.

This national program will be joining forces with the Society of Robotic Surgery to host an international program focusing on the latest in robotic-assisted surgery including the up and coming robotic devices.

This conference is the largest and only multidisciplinary and multi-specialty surgical robotics program in Australia with surgeons from around Australia and New Zealand coming together to collaborate on research and programs within surgical robotics.

For more information about the conference you can visit our [website](#).

2020 Sydney
Robotics
Summit
Research + Innovation



Save the date

12-13 June 2020
Sydney, Australia

For more information about the program visit:
sydneyroboticssummit.com/srs2020 twitter.com/RoboticsSummit



CONGRATULATIONS

Golden Scalpel Games 2019

Congratulations to our resident and student teams who finished 1st and 2nd respectively in this year's Golden Scalpel Games.

The event is run by the Health Training and Education Institute (HETI), who provide education and training for NSW Health staff. The Golden Scalpel Games has been run for the past eight years with this year's games held on Saturday 17 August at the RNSH Skills Centre.

The games are an educational team-based competition between the 6 surgical skills training networks in NSW. There is a separate competition for medical student teams from universities in NSW. Stations for the student competition included suturing, knot tying, basic laparoscopic skills, laparoscopic anatomy, trauma team care and others. Both technical and professional skills were tested.

All participants honed their skills and team work in the skills and simulation facilities in the IAS. The Sydney South West Team was comprised of residents and interns, competing against teams comprised of more senior residents. Their victory is a tribute to their dedication and the teaching sessions from Dr Daniel Lee, A/Prof Jonathan Hong, A/Prof David Storey, Mr Trevor McGowan and Mr David Fulton.

The University of Sydney (USYD) team has been practicing enthusiastically since April, with the assistance of the IAS and David Fulton, and driven with inexhaustible enthusiasm by Vijidha Shree Rajkumar (Vi).

The USYD team were ahead for most of the morning, but were pipped at the post by the UNSW team by a tiny margin and came in a close second. They should be congratulated for their dedicated practice and a very strong performance on the day.

The Trainee edition saw **Sydney South West Surgical Skills Network** winning the games and taking home the trophy which will reside in the IAS until next year's games.

A big congratulations to both teams and mentors.





RPA Surgical Robotics Program

The RPA surgical robotics program performed the 300th da Vinci robotic case on 12th September with Professor Tristan Yan and the theatre team doing a robotic lung resection.

The program started at RPA in 2017 with urology and cardiothoracic surgeons utilising the equipment. RPA now has five surgical specialties running robotic research programs and is one of the leading multi-disciplinary programs in the public sector in Australia.



Associate Professor Jonathan Hong

Congratulations to our Deputy Director of Surgical Training and Education, Assoc. Professor Jonathan Hong who completed his Master of Philosophy (Medicine) degree at The University of Sydney.

Assoc. Professor Hong's thesis was 'Predicting the complexity of laparoscopic rectal surgery with MRI' and completed his thesis under the supervision of Professor Michael Solomon and Assoc. Professor Christopher Young.

Congratulations again!

Professor John Harris

Congratulations to Professor John Harris for being recognised by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) as a ***Companion of the College*** at the May ASC in Bangkok.

The extract from the college's announcement can be viewed below.

Established in 2000 the Companion of the College is an honour created to recognise the contributions of a person to the College and to the community.

PROFESSOR JOHN HARRIS AM FRACS

PRESENTATION OF THE COMPANION OF THE COLLEGE AWARD

John Harris has been a major and continuous contributor to the affairs of the College for in excess of three decades, culminating most recently as Editor-in-Chief of the ANZ Journal of Surgery (since 2012). He retired from this position at the end of 2018.

An outstanding clinical and academic vascular surgeon, he served on the Editorial Board of the ANZ Journal of Surgery since 2004 and as Specialty Editor for Vascular Surgery prior to being appointed Editor-in-Chief. Under his leadership the Journal has remained an excellent, respected, impactful and highly valued publication for all of surgery. John has through, the Journal strongly promoted and facilitated the academic purposes of the College as well as fostered links between the College and other institutions within and outside Australia and New Zealand.

His many other surgical leadership roles included Chairman, Division of Surgery at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital from 1995 to 2014 and Foundation Professor of Vascular Surgery at the University of Sydney from 1998 (now Emeritus Professor). He was President of the ANZ Society for Vascular Surgery and was Head, Department of Surgery, University of Sydney 2000-2003 and Associate Dean, Surgical Sciences, University of Sydney 2004-2006. He strongly supported the development of the highly successful Master of Surgery program at the University of Sydney.

He was pivotal in the establishment of the RACS Section of Academic Surgery in 2002 and served as the Inaugural Chair. He has served as a RACS Councillor representing Vascular Surgery and as Senior Examiner in Vascular Surgery. In 2012 he received the ESR Hughes Medal for a distinguished contribution to Surgery and in 2013 was the recipient of an Outstanding Service Award from the New South Wales Regional Committee.

He is a Distinguished Fellow of the Society for Vascular Surgery in North America and was elected to Honorary Fellowship of that society in 2013. He is also an Honorary Member, Society for Vascular Surgery for Great Britain and Ireland. He was honoured as a Member of the Order of Australia in 2007 for advances in vascular surgery, vascular ultrasound, medical education and public health administration.

John has been an exemplary role model and ambassador for the College and for all of surgery across the clinical, academic, administration and leadership domains over an extended period of time at a local, national and international level. He certainly fulfils the criteria for and is a most worthy recipient of the Companion of the College Award.

Citation kindly provided by Professor Julian A. Smith FRACS

Jacob Wells

Congratulations to registered nurse, Jacob Wells for completing the Advanced Gastrointestinal Surgical Nursing Program (AGISNP) after a two year placement.

The Institute of Academic Surgery developed & implemented the AGISNP in August 2017.

The program is run over two to three years with nurses rotating between 4 - 8 different specialties, spending 3 - 6 months in each rotation. The program provides a unique educational opportunity for registered nurses working in upper GI & colorectal specialties.

The trainees are mentored by the clinical nurse consultant or nurse practitioner in each area. Nursing education and training is essential to ensure that high level care is provided to this complex group of patients.

This program allows nurses to gain experience in these complex specialty areas and senior nursing roles, and is a great opportunity for registered nurses to enhance their skills and training across multiple areas of nursing.

Congratulations Jacob and all the best in your future endeavours.



Jacob Wells being presented his certificate by clinical nursing manager, Judith Dixon

Sydney Local Health District Allied Health Research Forum

The Sydney LHD Allied Health Research Forum was held on 21st August 2019 at the Kerry Packer Education Centre, RPAH

Congratulations to some of the allied health staff who work closely with the IAS including;

Dr Sharon Carey who received an award for excellence in research which will see her receive funds towards education and professional development. This award was given at the inaugural allied health clinical excellence awards.

Ms Sophie Hogan who was awarded **Best Oral Presentation** for 'Barriers and enablers for surgeons to implement evidence based postoperative feeding practices after pelvic exenteration surgery: a qualitative study.'

Ms Lauren Reece for being awarded a SLHD Allied Health small grant.



Dr Sharon Carey receiving her award



Ms Sophie Hogan receiving her award



Ms Lauren Reece receiving her award

UPDATES

European Urological Robotic Urological Society (ERUS19)

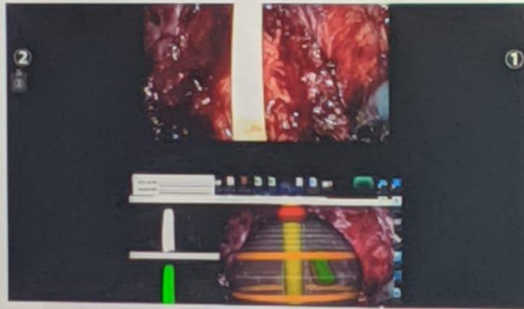
Assoc. Professor Ruban Thanigasalam attended the annual ERUS conference. This program brings high volume robotic urological surgeons together to discuss all things robotics.

Assoc. Thanigasalam met with Dr Vipul Patel from Florida and his team to discuss the Sydney Robotics Summit 2020 conference, to be held in conjunction with the Society of Robotic Surgery.

ERUS19

Real-time movement

- THE FUTURE IS NOW: OUR PRELIMINARY EXPERIENCE WITH 3D AUTOMATIC AR

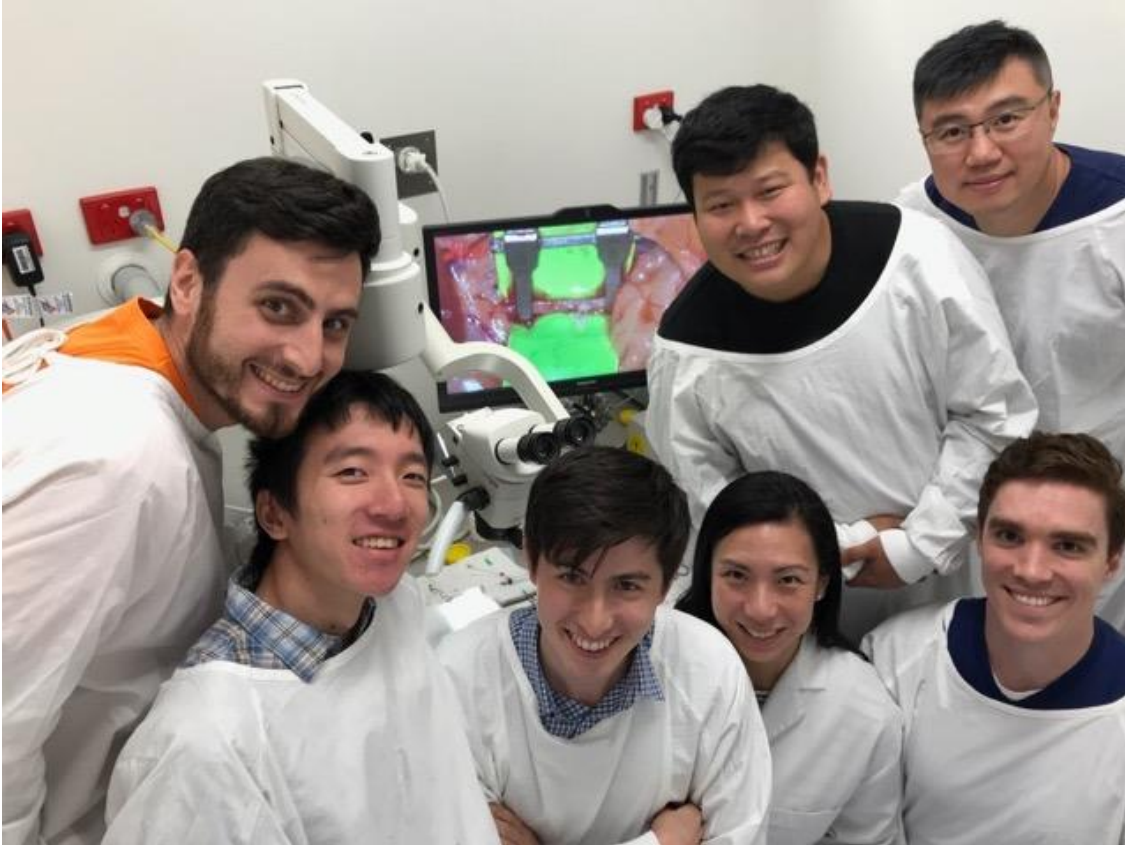


Only one click to track the overlapping

Thanks to Artificial Intelligence the catheter is correctly identified and the prostate is correctly overlapped. The 3D AR guided selective biopsy correctly identified the tumour in all the cases



COURSES



IAS Microsurgery Course

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

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.

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](#)

PUBLICATIONS

[Extended Radical Resection: The Standard of Care for Patients
with Advanced Pelvic Malignancy](#)

M. Solomon and K. Brown
Annals of Surgical Oncology
August 2019

[Surgical mentorship in a new landscape](#)

J. Laurence, J. Hong and D. Storey
ANZ Journal of Surgery
August 2019

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