



*RPA Institute of Academic Surgery  
e-newsletter*

**November 2019**

## WELCOME

The IAS wraps up another big year of courses, research and events with a number of advanced courses being coordinated and run at the IAS and the RTI throughout October and November.

The IAS is currently working with heads of department and research and education leads to ensure that 2020 is another big year for surgery at RPA. A number of planning meetings are being held in the coming weeks to ensure that we hit the ground running in January with more exciting projects, events and conferences.

Next year is already shaping up to be an eventful year with our facility starting to book up with simulation courses, training sessions and journal club meetings. The Sydney Robotics Summit will be returning on 12 and 13 June

with the largest program yet in 2020 and we will also be hosting a number of new and exciting programs and events throughout the year, watch this space!

Details of the events, courses and research from 2019 will be distributed in a 'Year in Review' document in December. If you wish to receive this document please email us [directly](#)



*From everyone at the IAS, we wish you a safe and joyful festive season. We thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you in 2020.*

## EVENTS

### **IAS 5th Birthday Cocktail Evening**

As mentioned in the September e-newsletter we hosted the IAS 5th Birthday cocktail evening at the MCA on Friday 20th September.

Photos from the evening can now be viewed in the link below.

[IAS Birthday Photos](#)

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## SLHD Nursing & Midwifery Research Symposium 2019

The 2019 Nursing and Midwife Research Symposium was held at RPA and was well represented by the IAS with two presentations and five poster presentations being made by surgical nurses.

Poster presentations were provided by participants of the Advanced Gastrointestinal Nursing Training Program as part of their Master of Philosophy (MPhil) research project. The following trainees presented:

- **Albert Dalao** on *“Identifying the prevalence of burnout and stress among healthcare professionals within a specialised colorectal unit and its impact on staff wellbeing and job satisfaction. A cross sectional study.”*
- **Sunny Wu** on *“What are the pre-operative learning needs of patients undergoing ostomy surgery for the first time?”*
- **Agnes Asence** on *“Enhanced recovery after surgery (ERAS) protocol compliance after implementation or educational sessions on a colorectal unit.”*

There were also poster presentations from senior nursing staff including:

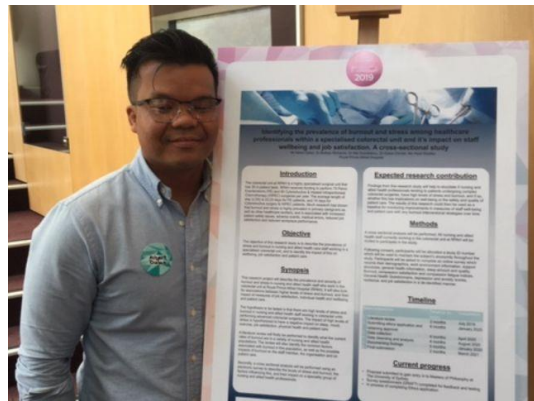
- **Sophie Hatcher** on *“25 years of pelvic exenteration surgery at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital”*
- **Hayley Gibbs** on *“Cardiac Advanced Life Support – Emergency chest reopening in Cardiac Intensive Care.”*

And presentations from:

- **Sarah O’Shannassy**, the Advanced GI Surgical Program Manager on part of her MPhil project, *“Referral patterns and outcomes of a highly specialised pelvic exenteration multidisciplinary team meeting”*
- **Rachael Roberts**, Director of Surgical Nursing Research, was asked to present her findings on recent interviews with surgical Clinical Nurse Consultants, *“Research experiences of surgical Clinical Nurse Consultants at RPA.”*



*Above: Senior nursing panel answering questions about their research experience.  
Below: Nursing staff and their poster presentations.*



**CONGRATULATIONS**

## **Gastrostomy Training Program**

Congratulations to the Gastrostomy Training Program who were named as a finalist for Providing High Quality Education category in the Premier's Awards 2019.

The Gastrostomy Training Program was developed in 2018 as a collaboration between the Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI), RPA Dietetics department, RPA Institute of Academic Surgery, RPA Gastroenterology department, the Centre for Education & Workforce Development (CEWD) and expert clinicians from South Eastern Sydney Local Health District and Mid-North Coast Local Health District.

The aim of the program is to deliver comprehensive training for medical, nursing and allied health professionals on the care of patients with a gastrostomy feeding device. The need for the course was identified as increasingly these patients are cared for outside of the hospital system and more pressure has been placed on outpatient and home care services to provide care.

Traditionally routine gastrostomy device care was provided by nursing staff, however, due to the increased outpatient and at home care allied health teams including dietitians and ambulance services have been required to provide this care.

The program involves three stages of learning. Participants complete an online course then they may elect to register for 2 additional face to face sessions.

The program has had over 1,000 registrants complete the online module and within 3 weeks of the official release of the program the online training package attracted more than 250 registrants from around NSW and interstate.

The program also won the 2019 Quality Award at the Sydney Local Health

District AGM in the category Education and workforce development.

This award was accepted by Associate Professor David Storey on behalf of the training program.



## **RPA Robotics Program**

On Wednesday 13 November at the SLHD Annual General Meeting (AGM) the IAS was awarded the 2019 Quality award winner of the 'Health Research and Innovation' category for '*Research as the gatekeeper: introduction of robotic-assisted surgery into the public sector*'.

The award was accepted by IAS Executive Director, Kate McBride.

Congratulations to the team and all involved.



*IAS Executive Director, Kate McBride accepting the award for Health, Research and Innovation category at SLHD Quality Awards from SLHD Chairman of the Board, The Hon Ron Phillips AO and SLHD Chief Executive, Dr Teresa Anderson.*

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## **Honorary Observership**

Farewell to surgical trainee, Dr Martos from Argentina who spent two months at RPA with Associate Professor Ruban Thanigasalam and Dr Scott Leslie completing a honorary observership in robotic-assisted surgery.

We wish Dr Martos all the best with his further studies in surgery.



*Associate Professor Ruban Thanigasalam (left) and Dr Scott Leslie (right) presenting Dr Ignacio Martos with his certificate.*

# UPDATES

## **Surgical Bootcamp**

The inaugural surgical bootcamp for SRMOs within the Sydney South West Surgical Skills network was held on 9th and 10th November at the IAS.

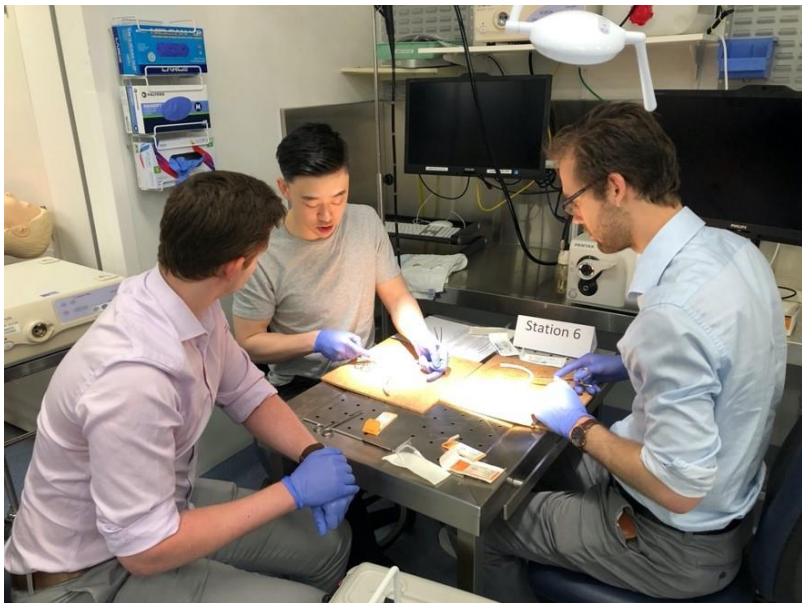
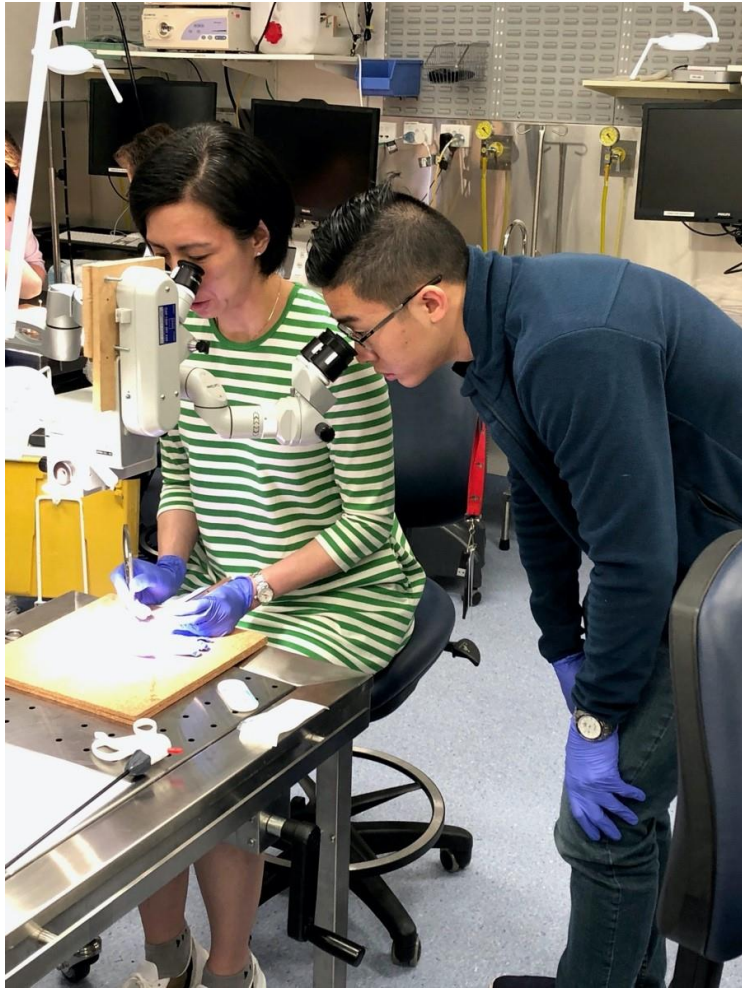
Attended by 18 surgical trainees on Saturday and 13 on the Sunday, the bootcamp was an intensive course developed in the IAS training facilities and facilitated by our own Associate Professor Jonathan Hong, Associate Professor David Storey and Sarah Whereat.

The two day program included pre-orientation sessions and both technical and non technical skills. There were 17 different skill stations spread over three sessions with opportunity for discussion included on both the days.

The four introductory sessions provided an overview of expectations and included;

- Orientation to main sites,
- Overview of rotations and responsibilities,
- Introduction to the concept of 'Competency based progression', including the plans for formative assessments and the Osler system
- Transition from RMO to SRMO and SET trainee

The program was well received by those who attended and we anticipate to make this program an annual event.

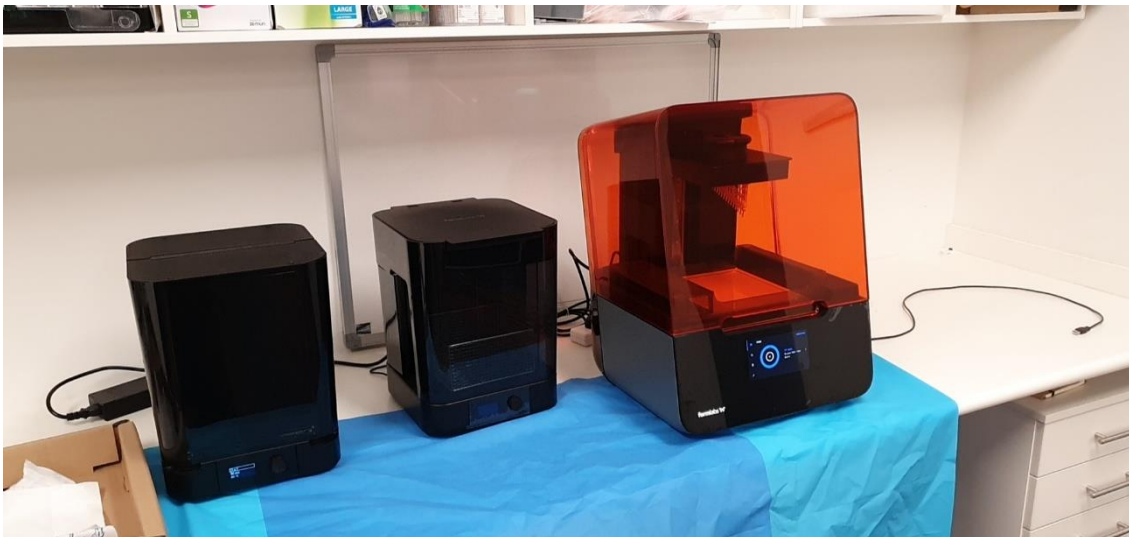


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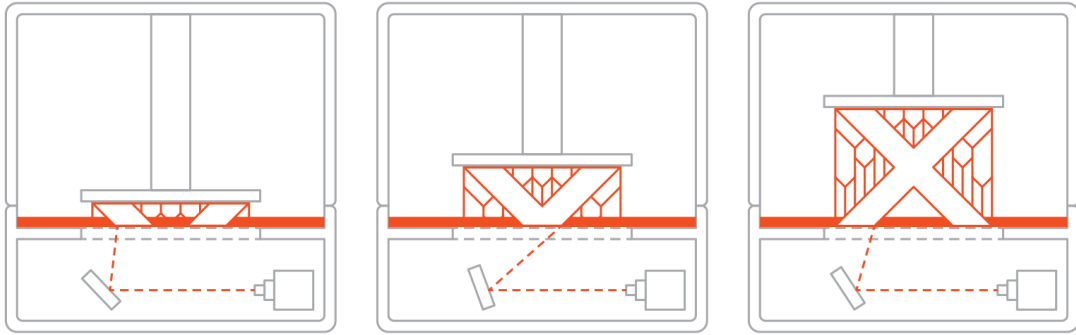
## **\*NEW\* Form3 3D Resin Printer**

A Form3 high resolution resin 3D printer has been installed at the IAS and is currently being used by surgical innovation research officer, Kai Cheng in collaboration with surgeons from the Head and Neck Department to conduct surgical research. The team are currently printing cutting guides for complex maxillofacial surgery.

This printer differs from our existing FDM 3D printer we have been using for the last 3 years to print models. The resin printer allows for more detailed prints in a layer by layer fashion using photochemical processes by which laser light causes chemical monomers to link together to form polymers. Those polymers then make up the body of a three-dimensional solid.



*The 3D printer has three compartments for each of the three steps. The box on the right is the printer, the middle box is the washer that removes excess resin and the box on the left is the third step which is a UV light to set the print.*



*Graphics to show how the resin printer forms the 3D print.*



*Cutting guides printed by the new resin printer*

## **Sydney University Surgical Society (SUSS)**

The IAS has a proud relationship with SUSS who are based within the IAS and are avid users of our surgical facilities. 2019 has been a busy year for SUSS hosting a number of events and courses.

The SUSS annual report can be found below.

[SUSS 2019 Yearly Report](#)

## **COURSES**



### **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.

# PUBLICATIONS

Inferior vena cava resection and reconstruction with bovine pericardium for renal cell carcinoma: complications and outcomes

*Paul Morris, Reulan Furtado, Carlo Pulitano, Micahel Crawford, David Yeo, Arthur Vasilaras, Charbel Sandroussi*

*Journal Of Urology*

*September 2019*

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Suture retraction of the uterus using a percutaneous port closure needle during laparoscopic mesorectal dissection

***Kilian Brown**, Angelina Di Re, Dean Fisher*

*ANZ Journal of Surgery*

*November 2019*

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Perspectives on surgical randomized controlled trials

*Stephen Bell, **Rebecca Venchiarutti**, Satish Warriar, Andrew Stevenson, **Michael Solomon***

*ANZ Journal of Surgery*

*September 2019*

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Pushing the boundaries of pelvic exenteration by maintaining survival at the cost of morbidity

*Rebecca Venchiarutti, Professor Michael Solomon, A/Professor Cherry Koh, Professor Jane Young, Dr Daniel Steffens*

*British Journal of Surgery*  
*July 2019*

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**Cross-Cultural Adaptation And Pilot Testing Of The Cancer Care  
Coordination Questionnaire For Patients (CCCQ-P) In Chinese And Arabic**

**Languages**

*Jane M Young, Rebecca L Venchiarutti, Ivana Durcinoska, Daniel Steffens*  
*Dove Press Journal*  
*June 2019*

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