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SUMMER 2020

Although a different and challenging year for all, there has been an element of comradery amongst the team as well as a number of learnings. Many of the changes have become a part of the norm for us, and many others, and as we wrap up the calendar year, it is really a time to think about the silver linings of 2020.

Examinations, interviews, meetings and smaller teaching programs were hosted in COVID safe environments. We were able to implement smaller training programs and use the quieter months to spend time on those tasks that often get put on the backburner due to busy schedules.

We learnt about ZOOM, TEAMS, PEXIP and the many other video conferencing applications that have allowed us to develop online education programs and make our regular meetings easier for clinicians to attend.

As we head into the festive season, not quite as we know it, we would like to thank all those who have worked tirelessly throughout 2020 to keep our community safe. We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy festive season and look forward to seeing you all in 2021.

IN MEMORIUM

DR NICK HENDEL

We are deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Dr Nick Hendel.

A world renowned and well respected Cardiothoracic surgeon, Dr Hendel passed away suddenly on Monday 23 November.

Dr Hendel completed his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) in 1973 at the University of Sydney before becoming a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in 1980.

He worked at RPA within the Cardiothoracic



department, specialising in adult cardiothoracic surgery, aortic root surgery, general thoracic surgery and lung volume reduction surgery.

Even in his retirement, Dr Hendel continued to pass on his expert knowledge, providing Medico-Legal advice and reporting services.

Our thoughts are with Dr Hendel's family, friends and colleagues.

CONGRATULATIONS

PROFESSOR JONATHAN CLARK & ASSOC. PROFESSOR JOANTHAN HONG

On Friday 29 November, RACS NSW held an intimate event as part of Surgeons' Month. The evening was held at Dolton House with special guest speaker, Secretary of NSW Health, Elizabeth Koff.

Professor Jonathan Clark (Head and Neck Surgeon) gave the Graham Coupland Lecture on the topic of 'The Face of Head and Neck Cancer'.

Assoc. Professor Jonathan Hong (Colorectal Surgeon) was awarded the NSW Merit award for his commitment to surgical education.

The night was one of the last events held for RACS NSW's 'Surgeons' Month', which "seeks to bring together NSW Fellows, Trainees, Specialist International Medical Graduates, prevocational doctors, medical students, and College stakeholders to collaborate about surgical education, research, and best practice".



Assoc. Professor Jonathan Clark (left) and Assoc. Professor Jonathan Hong (right) with RACS NSW Chair and ENT Surgeon, Assoc. Professor Payal Mukherjee

ASSOC. PROFESSOR SANJAY WARRIER

Breast surgeon and academic, Assoc. Professor Sanjay Warriar was shortlisted for the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital David Church Award 2020 for excellence in Clinical Teaching.

The award is given by Stage 3 medical students who are asked to nominate a senior medical staff member who has made a notable contribution to their practical learning.

Assoc. Professor Warriar has been a key driver behind building the Masters of Surgery program at University of Sydney and is incredibly passionate about teaching the next generation of clinicians. He was very honored to receive this nomination.



ASSOC. PROFESSOR CHERRY KOH

Colorectal surgeon and Associate Professor of Surgical Outcomes, Cherry Koh has completed her PhD with the University of Sydney.

Supervised by Professor Michael Solomon and Professor Jane Young, Assoc. Professor Koh's thesis looked at decision making in patients with locally or recurrent rectal cancer.

This is a great achievement, congratulations again Assoc. Professor Koh.

DR GARY SHARP AND DR VIKTOR SOKOLVSKI

Congratulations to Dr Gary Sharp and Dr Viktor Sokolovski who were awarded Acknowledging Colleague' Excellence (ACE) awards by the RPA Emergency Department.

This award recognises the excellent service being provided to our patients and exceptional communication and comradery with colleagues.

FAREWELL

PROFESSOR JANE YOUNG

We wish Professor Jane Young all the best with her new full time appointment with the University of Sydney.

Professor Young has been the Executive Director of Surgical Research with us at the IAS since 2015.

We hope to continue to work alongside Professor Young whilst she is still on the RPA/University of Sydney campus.



EVENTS

SURGEONS MONTH

As mentioned, RACS NSW held their annual Surgeons' Month which included the evening event, as well as a Women in Surgery luncheon to encourage the promotion of surgery and surgery as a career for women.

Assoc. Professor Jonathan Hong and Assoc. Professor David Storey presented at the Annual Academic Surgery Conference. They both spoke in the "Training Surgeons - are we future ready?" session which was very well received.

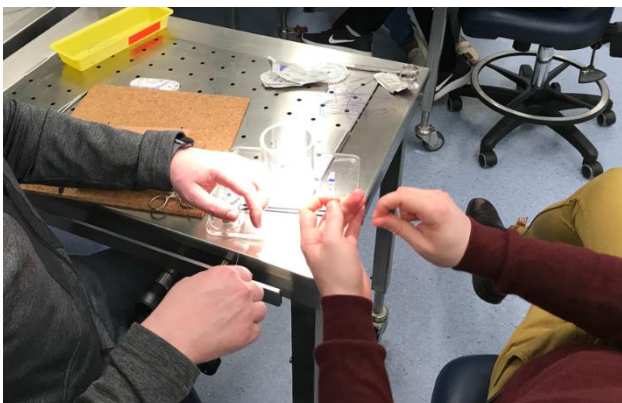
SURGICAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

EDUCATION UPDATE

Basic Skin Suturing Techniques for Theatre Nurses (Round 1 & Round 2) - 26 Theatre nursing staff attended between September and November. This workshop covered instrumental basics such as suture types and selection, proper loading of the needle, sharps safety and wound management.

Intermediate Suturing Techniques for Theatre Nurses – 12 theatre nursing staff attended in November. This workshop covered knot tying and subcuticular suturing techniques.

Both suturing workshops are supported by SRMOs and will be held again in 2021.



SURGICAL BOOT CAMP

The annual Surgical Skills Boot Camp was held across Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 December with 32 participants attending over the two days.

Developed by Assoc. Professor David Storey, Dr Nipu Jayatilleke and Dr Sarah Whereat, the program was a great success with participants adapting their knowledge across multiple skills and two simulations scenarios.

Saturday's morning session included energy devices (Diathermy, Bipolar, Ultrasonic, Ligasure (advanced bipolar), suturing, knot tying & tying at depth, bowel anastomosis as well as a crisis simulation, held in the simulation theatre.

The participants then spent the afternoon working on laparoscopic skills trainers refining their skills, including abdominal closures, vascular anastomoses and finishing with a consent simulation.

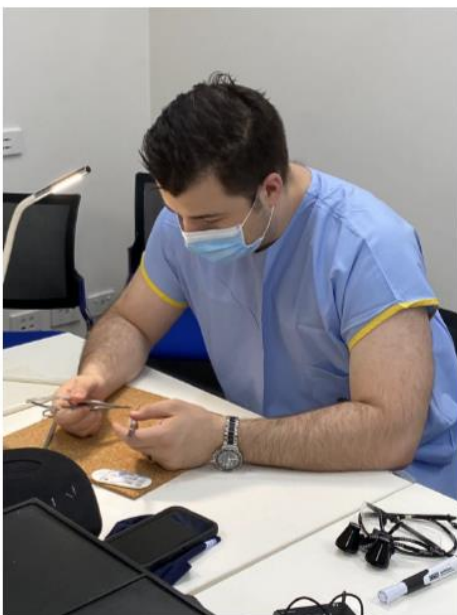
Sunday's program including upper GI endoscopy, colonoscopy, ureteric anastomosis, cystoscopy, loupe assisted small vessel anastomosis and flap repairs. All of which were taught on skills models made by Assoc. Professor Storey and team.

Feedback from participants indicated that the sessions were excellent and that they found the boot camp a worth while and beneficial exercise.

COVID-19 restrictions required changes to our normal format with smaller groups and more tutors in line with the normal COVID requirements.

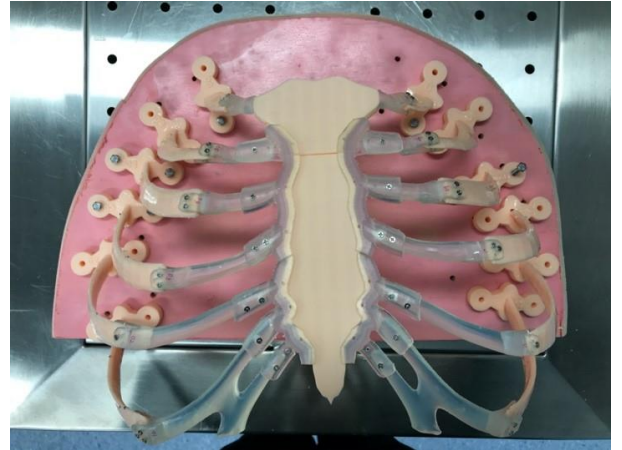
This was achieved with support from Dr Scott Leslie, Assoc. Professor Jerome Laurence, Dr Rob Hackett and Dr Tim Brake, the Head and Neck team of Dr Krishnan Parthasarathi, Dr Nina Irawati and Dr Semra Uyulmaz, as well as Dr Nari Ahmadi, Dr Ricardo Hamilton, Assoc. Professor Jon Hong, Dr Titus Kwok, Dr Jean Wong and IAS facility coordinator Rosa Fung. Without this highly skilled team of clinicians we could not have run a successful couple of days.

We would also like to recognise the support provided by the representatives from Johnson & Johnson, Medtronic and Storz.



STERNOTOMY & CHEST DRAIN INSERTION TRAINING

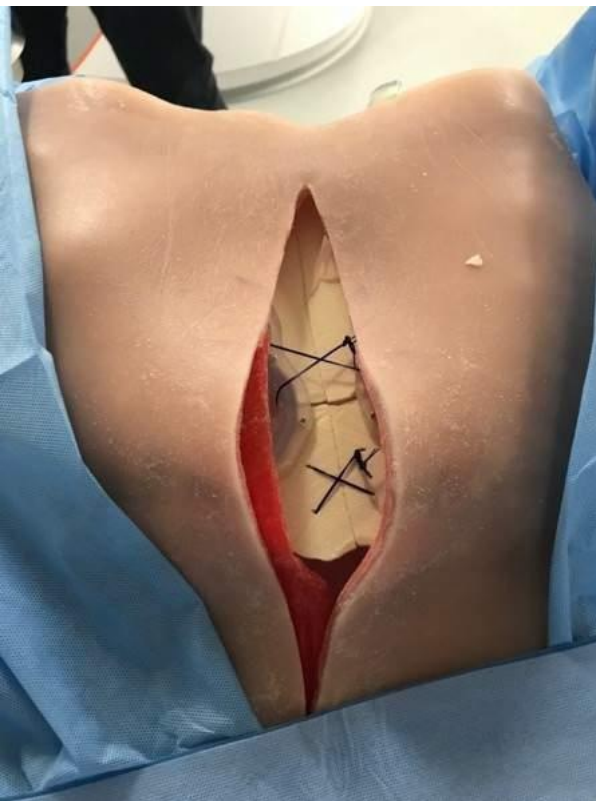
The RPA Cardiothoracic department ran a teaching session on sternotomy and chest drain insertion training. Professor Paul Bannon and Dr Brian Plunkett gave presentations and guided trainees to complete the training using a 3D-printed rib cage and solid foam “sternum” to provide a 'hands-on' training for how to perform a sternotomy.



IAS facility coordinator, Rosa Fung and Surgical Innovations Research Officer, Kai Cheng have been working on printing and making the ribs to be able to support the program.

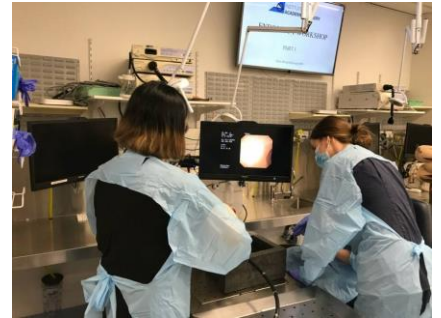
The image to the right is a 3D printed ribcage with a sternum cut from the solid form down the middle. This ribcage is then covered with silicon 'muscle' (red) and silicon 'skin' which provided the trainees with a very realistic inanimate model.

Image below show the silicon skin and muscle covering the 3D printed rib cage.



Endoscopy Nursing Skills Workshop

On 2 December twelve endoscopy unit and JL theatre nursing staff attended a workshop on endoscopy nursing skills. The workshop provided a great opportunity for nurses to improve their knowledge on endoscopic procedures by using the colonoscope and gastroscope on the silicone models at IAS, with the teaching led by Assoc. Professor David Storey.



IAS WEBINAR SERIES

The IAS webinar series has wrapped up for 2020 but will be back in 2021 with more great programs from a variety of surgical specialties being held.

We would like to thank all those who were part of the program from our presenters to those who attended.

For more information about our webinars visit our website.

[IAS WEBINAR SERIES](#)

MICROSURGERY COURSE

The last microsurgery course in the IAS/Transplant Institute microsurgery laboratory was held in August this year. The course will soon be moving to its new home in the University of Sydney Charles Perkins Centre Hybrid Theatre for 2021. Since its inception at IAS the course has taught more than 35 participants with overwhelming positive feedback, and we are looking forward to what the future holds.

[CONTACT EDUCATION TEAM](#)

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

RPA COLORECTAL DEPARTMENT

Recently retired RPA colorectal surgeon, Assoc. Professor Caroline Wright was generous to share her experiences and career advice for those looking to pursue a career in surgery. Dr Wright spent 12 months as a Clinical Fellow before dedicating 18 years as a colorectal consultant as well as much of her time teaching and training medical students and assisting with fellows development and learning.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

Located on 7E2 at RPA, the colorectal department is renowned across Australia and internationally for undertaking the most complex surgical procedures in their specialty and for achieving outstanding patient outcomes. The team of eight surgeons have expertise across both maximally and minimally invasive surgery and a strong passion for integrating research and education into all of their work.

Tell us a little about your training and journey to becoming a surgeon:

I completed my medical training at St Mary's Hospital, London in 1986 and, after enjoying a year working in Australia 1988/89, made a permanent move back to Australia in 1990.

After finally being granted permanent resident status, I was admitted onto the general surgical training program at The Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane, and gained my FRACS in 1996. Following two years of lab-based research and clinical work attached to the Royal Brisbane Hospital, being the inaugural CSSA Research Fellow, I completed my CSSANZ Post-Fellowship training at RPAH in 2000.

After 16 months as a Colorectal VMO in Canberra, I took up a Senior Lecturer post at RPAH in 2002, and have been there ever since, although transitioned to a VMO position in 2017.

As Senior Lecturer I was joint coordinator of the Stage 3 Central Clinical School Surgical program until 2017, but continued to be a surgical tutor for the Stage 3 students until my recent retirement. I also enjoyed being the Colorectal Unit Intern supervisor for many years.

Although my initial practice was broad-based and covered most aspects of colorectal surgery, with sub-specialisation of roles within the Unit, I increasingly concentrated on management of pelvic floor disorders.

Why did you study to become a surgeon and why did you choose to specialise in colorectal surgery?

I always enjoyed my surgical terms at medical school more than any others, particularly the practical hands-on aspect of a surgical career and honestly really didn't ever consider any other specialties to be right for me.

I always found abdominal surgical procedures the most interesting and the "plumbing" aspect of colorectal surgery appealing.

Funnily enough, I initially wanted to be a general surgeon with a specialist interest in colorectal surgery working in a regional centre, which shows you can never predict how your career will turn out, as I ended up working in a very subspecialised field in a major teaching hospital in a big city.

What was your area of interest?

Pelvic floor disorders – managing complex defaecatory disorders.

What was the best part about being a surgeon?

The patients I have met over the years and the many wonderful people I have worked with.

A memorable career highlight?

There has been a few but passing my Primary in Edinburgh after a “few” previous failed attempts resulted in a big celebration. Without it there wouldn’t have been a surgical career.

Best advice from your mentor?

Times have changed – not sure I ever had a formal mentor, but I was lucky enough to work with some great role models over the years, whose care of patients, professionalism and work ethic guided my career, more by “osmosis” rather than a process of formal mentoring.

Best advice for someone wanting to study surgery/medicine?

As I was told when I was applying – don’t and rethink. There are many ups and downs in medicine and, although for the most part, I have loved what I did and the opportunities it gave me, my advice would be make absolutely sure it’s what you want to do. However, if it is what you want, go for it as it is a great career.

If you didn’t become a surgeon what job do you think you would have done?

Worked in the business sector

Favourite thing to do in your spare time?

Plan holidays and travel. Below is a photo of me trekking in Sapa, Vietnam last year.



Assoc. Professor Caroline Wright in Sapa, Vietnam 2019

RESEARCHER SPOTLIGHT

DR SIA KIM - MPHIL STUDENT

Dr Sia Kim is a General Surgery trainee working within the Sydney Local Health District (SLHD). Dr Kim spent the second half of 2019 working in Darwin as a surgical trainee before deciding to change tack in 2020 and enrolled to undertake a Masters of Philosophy at the University of Sydney.

Dr Kim has been studying and working with Assoc. Professor Ruban Thanigasalam, Dr Lewis Chan and Dr Scott Leslie. Her research focuses around early continence outcomes for robotic proctectomy patients, with her main interest in robotic surgery.

Dr Kim has an interest in robotic surgery and sees robotics only becoming more imbedded in surgery as the technology advances.

We asked Dr Kim about her research year, what advice she would have for others and what she learnt from this year off a full time clinical workload.

"At first, I really wasn't sure what an MPhil entailed", she said. She advised anyone thinking about taking a year to do research that it can be a valuable year, to learn and spend the time understanding about all the layers that are part of the research process in depth.

She said that "research can be a slow process but you need to be persistent, self-driven and ensure that you have great supervisors and mentors around you".

Dr Kim said she's really valued this year and has made some great contacts and mentors in studying full time.

Dr Kim will be commencing her second year of general surgery training next year, based at Canterbury and Auburn Hospitals and will be submitting her Masters of Philosophy in 2021.

We wish her all the best with the submission of her research and remaining years of training, it was great having her based here for most of the year and around as part of the IAS team.



SURGICAL RESEARCH

PUBLISHED ARTICLES & CHAPTERS

Recently published articles from RPA Surgeons and Departments

Excellent Outcomes After Extended Radical Pelvic Resection for Locally Advanced and Recurrent Inflammatory Bowel Disease-Associated Anorectal Cancer

Chang, Kah Hoong MB BCh BAO (Hon), MD, FRCS, Brown, Kilian G.M. BBiomed, MB BS, M.Phil, Lau, Yee Chen MB ChB, MMedSci, FRACS, Solomon, Michael J. MB BCh BAO, MSc, DMedSc, DMed, LRCPI, FRACS, FRCSI
Diseases of the Colon & Rectum
December 2020

Managing the Primary Tumour in Patients with Incurable Metastatic Rectal Cancer

Killian Brown, Michael Solomon
Diseases of the Colon & Rectum Volume 64:1 (2021)
The American Society of Colon & Rectal Surgeons

Clinical outcomes following surgical treatment of lentigo maligna of the head and neck

Gareth Crouch, Shiba Sinha, Serigne Lo, Robyn Saw, Kenneth Lee, Joanthan Stretch, Kerinw Shannon, Pascale Guitera, Richard A Scolyer, John F Thompson, Sydney Ch'ng
European Journal of Surgical Oncology
September 2020

Novel Radiologic Approaches for Cholesteatoma Detection: Implications for Endoscopic Ear Surgery

Alexander J Saxby, Nicholas Jufas, Jonathan Kong, Allison Newey, Alexander Pitman, Nirmal P. Patel
Otolaryngologic Clinics of North America
Volume 54, Issue 1, February 2021 Pages 89-109

Tumor Burden Dictates Prognosis Among Patients Undergoing Resection of Intrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma: A Tool to Guide Post-Resection Adjuvant Chemotherapy?

Tsilimigras DI, Hyer JM, Paredes AZ, Moris D, Sahara K, Guglielmi A, Aldrighetti L, Weiss M, Bauer TW, Alexandrescu S, Poultsides GA, Maithel SK, Marques HP, Martel G, Pulitano C, Shen F, Soubrane O, Koerkamp BG, Endo I, Sasaki K, Aucejo F, Zhang XF, Pawlik TM.
Ann Surg Oncol. 2020 Dec 1. doi: 10.1245/s10434-020-09393-7. Online ahead of print.

Consensus Conference Statement on the General Use of Near-Infrared Fluorescence Imaging and Indocyanine Green Guided Surgery: Results of a Modified Delphi Study.

Dip F, Boni L, Bouvet M, Carus T, Diana M, Falco J, Gurtner GC, Ishizawa T, Kokudo N, Lo Menzo E, Low PS, Masia J, Muehrcke D, Papay FA, Pulitano C, Schneider-Koraith S, Sherwinter D, Spinoglio G, Stassen L, Urano Y, Vahrmeijer A, Vibert E, Warram J, Wexner SD, White K, Rosenthal RJ.
Ann Surg. 2020 Nov 17.

Differential Impact of Extended Criteria Donors After Brain Death or Circulatory Death in Adult Liver Transplantation.

Pandya K, Sastry V, Panlilio MT, Yip TCF, Salimi S, West C, Virtue S, Wells M, Crawford M, Pulitano C, Strasser SI, McCaughan GW, Majumdar A, Liu K.
Liver Transpl. 2020 Dec;26(12):1603-1617

Very Early Recurrence After Liver Resection for Intrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma: Considering Alternative Treatment Approaches.

Tsilimigras DI, Sahara K, Wu L, Moris D, Bagante F, Guglielmi A, Aldrighetti L, Weiss M, Bauer TW, Alexandrescu S, Poultsides GA, Maithel SK, Marques HP, Martel G, Pulitano C, Shen F, Soubrane O, Koerkamp BG, Moro A, Sasaki K, Aucejo F, Zhang XF, Matsuyama R, Endo I, Pawlik TM.
JAMA Surg. 2020 Sep 1;155(9):823-831.

A Novel Classification of Intrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma Phenotypes Using Machine Learning Techniques: An International Multi-Institutional Analysis.

Tsilimigras DI, Hyer JM, Paredes AZ, Diaz A, Moris D, Guglielmi A, Aldrighetti L, Weiss M, Bauer TW, Alexandrescu S, Poultsides GA, Maithel SK, Marques HP, Martel G, Pulitano C, Shen F, Soubrane O, Koerkamp BG, Endo I, Pawlik TM.

Ann Surg Oncol. 2020 Dec;27(13):5224-5232

Assessing Textbook Outcomes Following Liver Surgery for Primary Liver Cancer Over a 12-Year Time Period at Major Hepatobiliary Centers.

Tsilimigras DI, Sahara K, Moris D, Mehta R, Paredes AZ, Ratti F, Marques HP, Soubrane O, Lam V, Poultsides GA, Popescu I, Alexandrescu S, Martel G, Workneh A, Guglielmi A, Hugh T, Aldrighetti L, Weiss M, Bauer TW, Maithel SK, Pulitano C, Shen F, Koerkamp BG, Endo I, Pawlik TM.

Ann Surg Oncol. 2020 Sep;27(9):3318-3327.

The systemic immune-inflammation index predicts prognosis in intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma: an international multi-institutional analysis.

Tsilimigras DI, Moris D, Mehta R, Paredes AZ, Sahara K, Guglielmi A, Aldrighetti L, Weiss M, Bauer TW, Alexandrescu S, Poultsides GA, Maithel SK, Marques HP, Martel G, Pulitano C, Shen F, Soubrane O, Koerkamp BG, Endo I, Pawlik TM.

HPB (Oxford). 2020 Dec;22(12):1667-1674.

The Impact of Preoperative CA19-9 and CEA on Outcomes of Patients with Intrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma.

Moro A, Mehta R, Sahara K, Tsilimigras DI, Paredes AZ, Farooq A, Hyer JM, Endo I, Shen F, Guglielmi A, Aldrighetti L, Weiss M, Bauer TW, Alexandrescu S, Poultsides GA, Maithel SK, Marques HP, Martel G, Pulitano C, Soubrane O, Koerkamp BG, Sasaki K, Pawlik TM.

Ann Surg Oncol. 2020 Aug;27(8):2888-2901

Impact of Having a Planned Additional Operation at Time of Liver Transplant on Graft and Patient Outcomes.

Salimi S, Pandya K, Sastry V, West C, Virtue S, Wells M, Crawford M, Pulitano C, McCaughan GW, Majumdar A, Strasser SI, Liu K.

J Clin Med. 2020 Feb 24;9(2):608

The American Joint Committee on Cancer Staging for Metastatic Head and Neck Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma: A Multi-Institutional Study of Within-Stage Heterogeneity and Impact on Prognostic Performance

[Ardalan Ebrahimi](#), [Peter P. Luk](#), [Hubert Low](#), [Lachlan McDowell](#), [Matthew J. R. Magarey](#), [Paul N. Smith](#), [Diana M. Perriman](#), [Bruce Shadbolt](#), [Michael Veness](#), [Ruta Gupta](#), [Jonathan R. Clark](#)

Journal of the Sciences and specialties of the Head and Neck
August 2020

Number of nodal metastases and the American Joint Committee on cancerstaging of head and neck cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma: A multicenterstudy

Ardalan Ebrahimi, Ruta Gupta, Peter Luk, Tsu-Hui (Hubert) Low, Lachlan McDowell, Matthew J.R. Magarey, Paul N. Smith, Diana M. Perriman, Klaus-Martin Schulte, Michael Veness, Sandro V. Porceddu, Jonathan R. Clark,

Oral Oncology Volume 111

December 2020

The Sydney Modified - Alberta Reconstruction Technique (SM-ART) for dental rehabilitation following mandibulectomy or maxillectomy

M. Johal, D. Leinkram, C. Wallace, J.R. Clark,
International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery,
September 2020

Focused tumour dissection: an alternative conservative parotidectomy approach

G.A. Petrides, J.R. Clark,
British Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery,
August 2020

Three-dimensional scanners for soft-tissue facial assessment in clinical practice

George Petrides, JonathAn R. Clark, Hubert Low, Nigel Lovell, Timothy J Eviston
Journal of Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery,
August 2020

Mismatch Repair Protein Loss in Cutaneous Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma

Vasan, K, Anand, S, Satgunaseelan, L, et al.
Journal Surgical Oncology
September 2020

Soft Tissue Metastases in Head and Neck Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma

Mooney, C.P., Gao, K., Clark, J.R., Gupta, R., Shannon, K., Palme, C.E., Ebrahimi, A., Ch'ng, S. and Low, T.-H.
The Laryngoscope
September 2020

Early Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallow in transoral robotic surgery (TORS): A description of swallow function and recovery in the acute post-operative period for oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma

Emma K. Charters BAppSc, Hans Bogaardt PhD, Amy L. Freeman-Sanderson PhD, Kirrie J. Ballard PhD, Sarah Davies NP, RN, BN, MN (NP), Justine Oates NP, RN, BN, MN (NP) and Jonathan Clark PhD
Journal of the Sciences nd specialties of the *Head & Neck*. 2021; 43: 116– 127
September 2020

Prognostic value of the 8th edition American Joint Commission Cancer (AJCC) nodal staging system for patients with head and neck cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma: a multi-institutional study

Peter P. Luk MBBS, PhD, FRCPA, Ardalan Ebrahimi MBBS (Hons), MPH, FRACS, Michael J. Veness MMed, MD, FRANZCR, Lachlan McDowell MBBS, FRANZCR, Matthew Magarey MBBS, FRACS, Kan Gao BEng, Carsten E. Palme FRACS, Jonathan R. Clark MBBS, FRACS, MBIostat, Ruta Gupta MBBS, MD, FRCPA
Journal of the Sciences nd specialties of the *Head & Neck*. 2020; 1– 10
October 2020

A Prospective Study of Intraoperative Assessment of Mucosal Squamous Cell Carcinoma Margins in the Head and Neck

Fiona A. E. Smithers FRACS, Georg Haymerle PhD, Carsten E. Palme FRACS, Tsu-Hui (Hubert) Low FRACS, Catriona Froggatt B Nurse PNSA, Ruta Gupta FRCPA, Jonathan R. Clark FRACS
Journal of the Sciences nd specialties of the *Head & Neck* 2020; 1– 11.
October 2020

Deliberate practice model effectively directs student learning in the critical care rotation: The impact of assessment on medical student learning

Sarah Whereat, Anthony Mclean, Louise Cole, Tim Suharto, Graham Hendry, Stuart Lane
MedEdPublish
August 2020

RPA Institute of Academic Surgery is part of the Sydney Local Health District and works in partnership with the University of Sydney.

