



Australian Otolaryngology

A newsletter published for the benefit of all members of the Australian Society of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery

From Your President

It's been a busy few months, with our Perth ASM in March, the ongoing Medical Benefits Schedule issue, an inaugural ASM 'Relay Meeting' held in Sydney and attending the recent International Federation of Oto-Rhino-Laryngological Societies (IFOS) meeting held in Korea.



Successful ASOHNS 2013 ASM

The 2013 ASM in Perth was an extremely well attended and highly successful meeting. It got off to a great official start with cocktails on Kings Park with a river and skyline vista on a perfect balmy evening. I visited the excellent pre-meeting satellite courses in the Clinical Training and Evaluation Centre (CTEC) at the University of Western Australia and at the Ear Science Institute Australia (ESIA).

The Scientific Program was comprehensive and needed many concurrent sessions. This variety is a boon but makes choosing what to attend difficult. Convenors continually struggle to balance the number of excellent speakers and papers with the time available to attendees.

On behalf of members, I extend our grateful thanks to Convenor, Philip Grey, and Scientific Convenor, Peter Friedland, as well as those on the organising committee: Marcus Atlas, Francis Chai, Timothy Cooney, Ian Mitchell, Tuan Pham, Shyan Vijayasekaran and Fiona Whelan.

For more information about the 2013 ASM, see the Post-2013 ASM Wrap Up article and photographic montage on pages 9- 16.

ASOHNS' ASMs have gone from strength to strength and we are extremely appreciative of all those members who dedicate so much of their time and acumen in putting together such professional and worthwhile meetings on our behalf.

Many of you had the opportunity to meet with our overseas Official Guests ... President of the Malaysian Society of O-HNS, Dr Primuharsa Putra Bin Sabir Husin Athar; President of the Singapore Society of O-HNS, Dr Chan Kwai Onn and Chairman of the Korean Society of O-HNS, Professor Chung-Hwan Baek. They enjoyed the collegiality of our meeting and were very impressed with the great standard of ENT research and clinical work presented. I expect that more regular and formal connections will develop and we can anticipate a gradual increase in presentations from these areas at our future ASMs.

ASOHNS ASM Relay Meeting

In order to ensure that future meetings continue to achieve a high standard, ASOHNS recently held an ASM "Relay" meeting, the first of such meetings to be held annually. This included convenors and scientific convenors from 2012 and 2013 and those who will be convening the 2014 and 2015 meetings.

The main purpose was for future convenors to benefit from the experience of past convenors – reviewing aspects that worked well and those that did not.

Key points discussed included ideas for improving content and delivery of scientific programs, scheduling the satellite meetings more effectively, maintaining levels of sponsorship in an increasingly tight market and boosting attendance.

Dept Health and Ageing – MBS Reviews

ASOHNS recently had an introductory meeting with the Department of Health and Ageing and other stakeholders, which also include the Australasian Sleep Association, the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the Australian Medical Association.

ASOHNS has full confidence in its representatives, who will be supported by sub-specialty consultative groups.

The next meeting will discuss protocols.

Outcomes are not expected until 2014.

Member Recognition

We warmly congratulated Malcolm Baxter of Victoria on receiving a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to medicine as an ear, nose and throat specialist in the Australia Day honours this year.

We note his long time and continuing commitment to providing ENT outreach among our less well resourced neighbours.

Former member John Rice of South Australia also received an OAM for service to medicine as an ear, nose and throat specialist and promotion of audiological services. He was sent a congratulatory letter from the Society.

We were pleased to present a Society Medal for Distinguished Service to ASOHNS each to Cam Bracks and Stuart Miller of WA and a Society Medal for Distinguished Contribution to the Art and Science of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery each to Marcus Atlas, Harvey Coates and Alastair Mackendrick from WA.

All recipients were presented with their medals at the ASOHNS 2013 ASM Gala Dinner in Perth.

Information about the outstanding services contributed by our medal recipients is on pages 11-13.

New Members & Fellowship Exam Passes

We welcomed seven new members to ASOHNS and congratulated six trainees who successfully passed their Fellowship Exam in May this year. Names are listed below.

NSW Section Levy withdrawn

At its last meeting in March, Council approved a proposal that the NSW Section rent and secretariat fee, previously paid to the ASOHNS Federal Secretariat, be removed.

This means that NSW Section members will no longer be charged an annual levy, which had become irrelevant as technology and the internet has meant that ASOHNS Federal secretariat provides similar support for all state sections.

2013 Trainees Meeting

The successful organisation of the 2012 Robert Guerin Memorial Trainees Meeting by the ASOHNS secretariat will be repeated with the

2013 meeting, which will be held on 29 & 30 July at the Menzies Hotel in Sydney.

The RGMT Meeting website is up and running, with online bookings received. Spaces for trade displays have sold out.

More information about this meeting is on page 20.

ASOHNS ASM 2014 – Brisbane

Plans are well under way for the 2014 ASM in Brisbane.

Convenor Roger Grigg and Scientific Convenor Anders Cervin are leading an enthusiastic committee and we look forward to another successful meeting. More updated information is on page 17.

ASOHNS ASM 2015 – Canberra

NSW was due to host the ASM 2015 but, owing to the renovations of the Sydney Convention Centre, the 2015 ASM will be held in Canberra. However, satellite workshops will likely be located in Sydney.

I am more than half way through my term as President. It has been, and continues to be, a very busy and rewarding role. I am especially grateful for the support and enthusiasm I have experienced from so many of our members, both through advice given and work undertaken on behalf of our Society and the OHNS specialty.

It was a pleasure to catch up with so many of you during the ASM in Perth.

John Curotta
President

Welcome to our New Members

NSW

Julia CRAWFORD
Simon GREENBERG

QLD

Samuel DOWTHWAITE

VIC

Damien PHILLIPS
Adnan SAFDAR
Brent UREN

WA

Paul BUMBAK

Fellowship Exam Passes

Congratulations to the following Trainees who were successful at the May RACS Exams:

NSW

Catherine MELLER

QLD

David MORRISSEY

SA

Andrew FOREMAN
Patricia MacFARLANE

VIC

Harishanker JEYARAJAN

WA

Shane LING

Council Meeting Update

The ASOHNS Council met on March 16 this year and the following summarises key issues that were discussed.

Department of Health and Ageing - MBS Reviews

MBS Reviews and the draft scope of ENT procedures affected by the review were named. ASOHNS would collate responses from members and sub-specialties and communicate them to the Department of Health and Ageing. This issue was deemed a major focus for ASOHNS in the coming months.

Overseas Connections

Presidents from Malaysian, Singapore and Korean OHN societies were attending the 2013 ASM as ASOHNS' guests. The Indonesian OHN society President would attend the 2014 ASM.

Hosting these society presidents to attend ASMs and present on the specialty from their countries' perspectives was considered a way of strengthening relationships with these societies. This initiative is expected to continue over the next two to three years and it is hoped that other members from these countries will attend future ASMs in Australia.

ASOHNS Website Upgrade

Submitted proposals for the planned website redevelopment had been requested from three different website developer companies (including the current host company). Two of the three had been received, with the third expected after the meeting. The submissions would be circulated to all Council Members for decision.

Australian New Zealand Journal of Surgery

A/Professor Robert Black indicated his wish to retire from his position as Specialty Editor in the area of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery for the past 20 years. Following discussion, Dr Richard Gallagher has since been appointed to the role.

CPD Sub-Committee

Chair, Mr Malcolm Baxter, reported that 94 per cent of members were fully compliant for 2011. This figure was in line with other specialties.

It was noted that AHPRA required surgeons to have CPD certification and those whose CPD compliance was not up to date could be struck off.

Board of OHNS

The Board will be undertaking a curriculum and logbook review in 2013, in addition to amendments to selection requirements for trainees being accepted into the specialty training program.

ASMs Update

2013 ASM:

In progress at time of the meeting.

2014 ASM:

29 March - 1 April, 2014 Brisbane.

Convenor: Dr Roger Grigg

The theme of the meeting would be *Modern Approaches to ENT*. Four overseas Keynote Speakers had been confirmed.

2015 ASM:

Sydney had been due to be the host city but it was planned that the meeting would be held in Canberra due to major renovations at the Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre.

Outreach

Council unanimously approved an updated funding proposal submitted by Mr Malcolm Baxter OAM, seeking \$57,310 for specific equipment as listed for use by ENT surgeons visiting the Pacific Islands region.

Australian Supplement to the JLO - Update

The Journal is continuing to attract more original articles and we are delighted to have achieved a supplement composed of 100% Australian content for July 2013.

The Editorial Board, after discussion with the JLO Editor, wishes to advise ASOHNS Members that case reports stand an extremely low chance of being accepted for publication.

Review articles are what increase the readability and impact factor of the Supplement and we wish to encourage the submission of such review articles. I'm happy to suggest appropriate titles for review articles upon request.

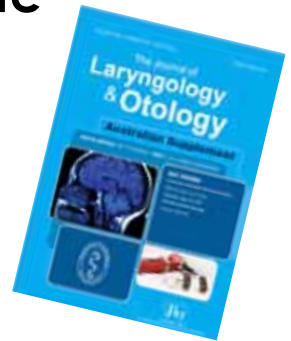
The current statistics are that only 20 per cent of case reports are accepted compared with an overall acceptance rate of 50 per cent for the entire supplement.

I would like to thank the contributors, reviewers and Editorial board Members for their efforts, which have really allowed the Journal to evolve into what we now see in the July 2013 Issue.

The JLO contract is due to be renegotiated shortly and it is my hope that this successful collaboration between ASOHNS and the JLO will continue for many years to come.

New Annual Award for best article by a trainee

ASOHNS is establishing an annual award for the best article by a trainee accepted for publication in the Australian Supplement to the JLO.



The award will be in the form of a special plaque and will be presented to the recipient at each ASOHNS Annual Scientific Meeting. Each year's award recipient will be determined by the Editorial Board.

The inaugural award will be presented at the ASOHNS 2014 ASM in Brisbane and accepted articles submitted by trainees for the January 2014 edition of the Australian Supplement will be the first to be assessed for the prize.

Simon Carney
Editor

Australian Supplement of the Journal of Laryngology and Otolaryngology

Call for Nominations for 2014 Society Awards

ASOHNS is now calling for nominations for 2014 Society awards.

Category 1: Society Medal for Distinguished Services to ASOHNS

Category 2: Society Medal for Distinguished Contribution to the Art and Science of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery

Category 3: Society Certificate of Appreciation for Services to ASOHNS.

The awards are for individuals who have provided outstanding services and / or contribution to the Society and OHNS outside their normal practice activities.

Nominations for each of the categories can be made by financial members of ASOHNS only.

A name and a one-page letter supporting the nominee's eligibility should be sent to the **Executive & Finance Officer** by post, email or fax by **Friday August 30, 2013.**

Nominations will be considered by the Awards Sub-Committee who will submit recommendations to the Council at their next meeting in October.

Those selected will be awarded their medallions at next year's ASM to be held in Brisbane.

For more information on the Awards and previous Award winners, click on the link to the Members section of the ASOHNS website http://www.asohns.org.au/members_section/society-awards

(Note: you will need your login details to access this item)



Send to:

Executive & Finance Officer

ASOHNS Limited

Suite 403, Level 4, 68 Alfred Street, MILSONS POINT NSW 2061

Email: lornawatson@asohns.org.au Fax: +61 2 9957 6863

Regional Practice Feature

Member Profile: Roger Grigg

Otolaryngology in Toowoomba, QLD

The two most common questions I am asked at work are: *why did you choose ENT surgery, and why did you set up practice in Toowoomba, Queensland?*

The answer to the first question is my standard, often repeated line to medical students, that everyone wants to be an ENT surgeon, just not everyone knows it yet.

The answer to the second question requires a bit more explaining but becomes equally obvious once the options for a place to live are compared.

When I had finished my training I was fortunate to have received great guidance at all the major teaching hospitals in Queensland.

On returning from a fellowship at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville in Facial Plastic Surgery and Head and Neck Surgery, I was in a hurry to be able to use my skills. Toowoomba gave me the opportunity to use these skills immediately and work in an incredibly friendly environment.

I had done a variety of locums around South East Queensland and my wife, Charlotte, and I really enjoyed our time in Toowoomba. We were warmly welcomed, especially by Doctors Garrett Fitzgerald, Ross Harrington and John Dickson (who was retiring after a mammoth 40 years service to the Public Hospital).

Dr Dickson sold me all of his instruments for a carton of scotch and brandy (he even told me where to buy them cheaply).

I now share rooms with Doctors Fitzgerald and Harrington and enjoy being able to discuss cases with them almost every day.

Regional ENT has many advantages and my initial concerns about professional isolation have been allayed.

'regional ENT has many advantages'

To do this, though, has required a commitment to being involved in ASOHNS and the regional training scheme. This has allowed me to stay in touch with the leaders in our field in the major centres.

In my time in Toowoomba we have been able to get an accredited training position, establish a Rural Clinical Medical school (part of



University of Queensland) and develop a Multi-Disciplinary Head and Neck Cancer Clinic.

Living in Toowoomba has allowed me to have a fantastic work/life balance with clinical challenges and still only have five-10 minutes of travelling time per day. This means more time with my family or playing sport. I count my blessings in this regard almost every day, especially after spending time in Brisbane and Sydney traffic.

The major problem we have had is that, as the population increases and ages, we all find ourselves getting busier and busier.

'in regional areas you have to be a generalist'

Luckily we have added two valuable overseas trained ENT surgeons to our group and we hope to add two to three more locally trained ENTs in the near future.

We cover the whole of western Queensland and northern New South Wales. Many patients are quite happy to travel eight hours to see us, but not another one and a half hours to go to Brisbane. They get to the top of the range and peer down towards the big smoke and say "No way I am going down there, the parking's too bad" and then they come back and see us in Toowoomba.

In regional areas you have to be a generalist but we all have developed special interests and now that we have five otolaryngologists in our unit we can cover most things from Free Flaps to Cochlear Implants. We are fortunate to be only one and a half hours' drive from Brisbane and we regularly confer with sub-specialists in Brisbane.

Regional Practice Feature

We do sometimes think, however, that the drive from Toowoomba to Brisbane must be half the drive from Brisbane to Toowoomba, as it is very hard to get specialists to move to the regional areas, whereas we seem to pop down all the time for concerts, sporting events and to see friends.

Being part of a community is one of the advantages of regional Otolaryngology practice.

One's friends are more likely to come from a variety of jobs and it has been interesting learning to discuss cotton prices, the difficulties of fly-in fly-out mining jobs and the all-important weather.

'in the future I see a move away from capital cities to regional areas'

Not all regional centres are as liveable as Toowoomba, which has fantastic schools (23 private) as well as three private hospitals and one public hospital.

In the future I see a move away from capital cities to regional areas with good services as the capital cities reach maximum capacity.

When you start to think about working in a regional area it is important to have a good relationship with the other surgeons in that area. I have been fortunate to work with two excellent colleagues who have mentored and supported me through the initial transition to Toowoomba.

I thoroughly recommend a regional Otolaryngology practice and encourage those thinking of it to try a locum – hopefully they will never look back.

I think it is important to get more registrars into regional areas but that does require a commitment on those in the area to support the public hospitals.

Most of the trainees who have passed through our area have loved the diversity and number of cases. We hope some of them will come back and work with us.

In 2014 I am convenor of the ASOHNS meeting in Brisbane and I hope to be able to contribute as so many other members do on a regular basis. We look forward to welcoming you all to Brisbane in March 2014.

Roger Grigg

Outreach - Vanuatu

One of the other areas I have been fortunate to be involved in is the Pacific Island ENT project to Vanuatu.

Under the guidance of Mr Perry Burstin we have been able to establish a model of training that has seen many nurses and doctors from Pacific islands come to our courses in Vanuatu.

These are run in conjunction with outreach clinics we hold there each year. We take a team of three surgeons, one anaesthetist, up to three nurses, an audiologist and speech pathologist each year to Vanuatu.

I have found this to be a very rewarding and eye-opening experience, which I recommend all doctors should consider.

Roger Grigg



Nurses from the island of Tanna attending a training course



Outpatients clinic

Regional Practice Feature

Member Profile: Peter Bryan

Otolaryngology in Orange, NSW

I am a general ENT surgeon, now 55 years of age, and I have have worked in Orange and the Central West of NSW since 1998. I am married, my wife Megan is a psychogeriatrician and we have four children.

I passed my Part II FRACS exam (first go, thankfully) in 1989 and spent a year with David Howard and Valerie Lund at Grays Inn Road in London.

While this is very predominantly a Head and Neck Cancer Unit, and an excellent unit to visit, I have a much greater interest in chronic ear disease, paediatrics and nasal injuries and this has made up the bulk of my operative work over the last 15 years.

However, I initially worked in Southern Sydney on my return from the UK from 1991 until 1998. City medicine didn't really appeal. Possibly it was me!

'my first clinic there was full ... patients said "thankyou"'

Days of no pathology, a feeling of being part of the Sydney shopping experience, a chance message from Terry Vandeleur about a visiting position to Forbes (where?) came up and I took it.

My first clinic there was full, and so many of the patients were sick! Tonsillar disease was very prevalent, nasal trauma, chronically discharging ears, and patients said "thank you".

Six years later our family moved to Orange.

Since then, at various times, I have run clinics and theatre lists at Orange, Bathurst, Mudgee, Lithgow, Forbes, Parkes and Cowra, with a population overall of around 200,000 people.

'it has been a privilege to work in country NSW'

I drive about 40,000kms per year around a beautiful part of NSW.

Work is always busy and the people I see are generally pleasant, friendly and still say "thank you".

My week is made up of two and a half days consulting and two days operating. There is a reasonable amount of private work but I do 12 x half day public lists per month spread



out over the area, several with excellent GP anaesthetists.

In my rooms I see about 3,500 people a year and I carry out about 800 operations. I refer to Sydney any head and neck cancers (common), stapedectomies / acoustics (rare) and cosmetic cases (rare).

It has been a privilege to work in country NSW.

My wife has been a great support and, in her own right, established psychogeriatric services in the area.

My friend and colleague Dr David Houghton and I have an excellent working relationship.

My staff have been supportive and unchanging.

'I would ... recommend becoming a regional ENT surgeon ...'

I have no doubt also that it has been a positive experience for my children, although they eventually have headed back to Sydney.

There have been problems, of course, as in any career choice, but these pale into insignificance compared with the many positive aspects of a career move.

The need for one other medical ENT in regional NSW has grown significantly, leading me to expand my rooms ready for more services, which are needed by all of regional NSW, but particularly the Central West.

There are still several vacancies in our speciality across rural NSW. Other speciality services are also needed. Most country people would much prefer to have their treatment locally, if at all possible.

We have recently extended our practice from one to five consulting rooms.

Regional Practice Feature

We look after other specialties as well by offering administrative and nursing services, which are available on site, for doctors wanting to relocate to our city.

I would certainly recommend becoming a regional ENT surgeon as a career option for any young surgeon.

Peter Bryan

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Dr Peter Bryan

131-135 Summer Street, Orange NSW 2800

Tel: (02) 6363 1688 Fax: (02) 6363 1865

Email: practice@centralwestent.com.au

Society of Country ENTs Conference - August 2013

Members who live and practise in a rural area or are city-based but work in rural areas have an opportunity to meet other like-minded colleagues at the Society of Country ENTs (SCENTS) Conference being held in August this year.

The conference is being held from **23 – 25 August** at the Best Western Plus Hovell Tree Inn in Albury.

Trainees considering working in, or setting up, a rural practice are also welcome to attend.

The scientific program is mostly interactive and the conference is designed to be family-friendly and allow time to enjoy a range of optional social and leisure activities.

Two **Guest Speakers** have been invited; **Associate Professor Cameron Holloway** who will present the topic: *Cardiac stents when you can stop and start antiplatelet agents*, and **Adjunct Professor Paul Coughlin** who will speak on *How to operate on patients that can't cease aspirin or other antiplatelet medication*.

A/Prof. Holloway is a Consultant Cardiologist at St Vincent's, an Australian Heart Foundation Life Sciences Research Fellow, Associate Professor with the University of NSW and is Clinical Faculty at the Victor Chang Research Institute. He recently returned to Sydney after six years working as a Consultant Cardiologist at the University of Oxford NHS trust and had a particular interest in cardiac imaging, including cardiac MRI.

Adjunct Prof. Coughlin, a Ph.D haematologist and pathologist, is the Head of the Serpins Biology Group at the Australian Centre for Blood Diseases at Monash University – with the major research area being the structure and function of fibrinolytic proteins. He is also Principal Investigator at the Eastern Clinical Research Unit based at Box Hill Hospital and Head of Haematology, Haemostasis & Thrombosis Units at Eastern Health.

Other topics include: *Pharmacy update – the new classes – how they work and side effects* to be presented by **Ms Frances Farr**, and *Head and Neck cancer – the new medical oncology options* to be presented by **Dr Craig Underhill**.

Ms Farrer is a pharmacist who has worked in public and private hospitals in metropolitan Melbourne before moving to Wodonga in 2002. She since developed the Albury Wodonga Private Hospital Dispensary with Ramsay Pharmacy Services.

Dr Underhill is a Melbourne and UK-trained medical oncologist who serves as the director of cancer services, both locally in the Albury-Wodonga area and at a regional level. He is a passionate advocate for improving cancer services in regional Australia and has served on scientific committees for national trial groups and co-authored many scientific papers and book chapters.

The remainder of the conference program will comprise case study and audit presentations and attendees are encouraged to bring interesting cases and x-rays for presentation and discussion.

The SCENTS conference has been held each year for more than 20 years. A coordinator, rotated around Victoria's regional ENTs, is set at each preceding year's meeting.

Please contact me for full details and registration form.

Eliza Tweddle
2013 SCENTS Conference Coordinator

Email: etweddle@hotmail.com
Tel: **(02) 6023 1511** Fax: **(02) 6023 1525**

Post Meeting Wrap Up



The 63rd Annual Scientific Meeting of ASOHNS was held in Perth in mid-March this year at the Perth Convention Centre.

More than 380 delegates from Australia and overseas increased their knowledge and expertise while enjoying the warm weather and the relaxed and friendly Perth hospitality.

The ASM attracted more delegates, sponsors and exhibitors than anticipated and both anecdotal feedback and final evaluation data received were very positive about its value and success.

Main Scientific Program (Sunday 17 – Tuesday 19 March)

Our invited Keynote Speakers, including Professors John L Dornhoffer, Ricardo L Carrau, Stephen S Park and Michael J Rutter from the USA, Professor John Yoo from Canada and our own Professor PJ Wormald, gave excellent presentations in the first morning's plenary sessions

John Dornhoffer described his elegantly simple techniques for tympanoplasty. His reasoning for, and description of, these techniques making it possible for all to appreciate.

Ricardo Carrau provided a complete description of what is difficult surgery and beautifully demonstrated this in the dissection laboratory.

Stephen Park eloquently described his rationales for dealing with skin malignancy. He also gave excellent and easy to follow demonstrations of facial plastics in the dissection laboratory.

Michael Rutter dazzled us with his talks on paediatric airway management.

John Yoo provided, amongst other gems, an excellent talk on new approaches to facial reanimation.

PJ Wormald, as usual, enthralled the audience with his techniques for various sinus procedures, including maxillary sinus operations.

Held over two and a half days, the meeting's scientific program also included a large number of local and overseas speakers who delivered presentations on diverse topics that were relevant and practical.

After the first morning's Keynote Speakers' presentations, the program included sub-specialty concurrent sessions, including

interactive panel sessions, and six instructional breakfast sessions.

Satellite Meetings (pre- and post-Meeting)

Four satellite meetings were held in the days preceding the main meeting dates and one post-satellite meeting was held the day after.

In addition, the **Australasian Academy of Facial Plastic Surgery (AAFPS)** 2013 Symposium was held in the days before the ASM and attracted 54 registrants, including a number of ENT surgeons and ASM attendees.

This meeting was promoted by ASOHNS, along with the ASM, as a sub-specialty meeting of interest to a number of our members. As a result we were able to include both **Stephen Park** and **Dr Jonathan M Sykes** (Director of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at UC Davis Medical Center, Sacramento, USA) in the ASM.

The location of University Club and CTEC were very well received and convenient. This also allowed us to share cadaver heads with the sinus and skull base course, a great saving.

The AAFPS have thanked ASOHNS for the opportunity to be part of the ASM and satellite meetings. This should set some precedent for cooperation between, not only these two societies, but potentially other sub-specialty societies at future meetings.

The **Endoscopic Sinus & Skull Base Surgery Dissection Course** was also well attended and provided excellent teaching opportunities.

Ricardo Carrau has already been mentioned.

Special thanks go to **Associate Professors Richard Harvey** and **Raymond Sacks** who tirelessly presented and demonstrated with their usual enthusiasm.

This course was dedicated to dissection, and attendees made the most of this wonderful opportunity.

The **Advanced Ear Surgery Course** was held at the Ear Science Institute Australia, a brand new state-of-the-art facility.

Perth is indeed fortunate to have two world class teaching and dissection facilities.

John Dornhoffer was accompanied by an impressive array of Australian experts, and special thanks go to **Doctors Robert Briggs** and **Phillip Chang**.

The **Indigenous Ear Health Workshop** was a one day meeting aimed at addressing ear disease and its underlying issues in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

The workshop attracted more than 50 attendees, including ENT surgeons and many other workers involved in managing ear health.

This was the second such workshop to be held by ASOHNS (with the first held at the ASOHNS ASM in Adelaide last year).

The **Australasian College of Ear, Nose and Throat Physicians (ACENTP)** held one of their tri-annual meetings the day before the ASM, with the theme **'Medical ENTs – Let's Do it Better.'**

This was the first ACENTP meeting held outside Sydney and was rewarding and informative.

Doctors Brian Williams, Joe Scoppa and **Stan Stylys** deserve credit for organising the workshop, chairing the sessions and providing most of the presentations.

The **3rd Australian Sialendoscopy Skills Course** was held the day after the main meeting.

It began at Fremantle Hospital with anatomy, physiology and pathology, followed by live surgery and interactive discussion demonstrating the possibilities and limitations of sialendoscopy.

The hands-on part of the course was conducted at CTEC using specially prepared fresh pig heads. The feedback was unanimously positive.

Social Program

As important as the scientific program and instructional satellite workshops were to enhance attendees' knowledge and skills, the social events provided opportunities to

make and renew contacts in an informal environment.

Fraser's Kings Park Botanical Café was praised for its simple, relaxed environment and spectacular views as the venue for the **welcome cocktail party**.

The **Gala Dinner** was held in the Perth Convention Centre, with the plenary session ballroom transformed into a festive dining and dancing venue for the evening.

Guests were entertained by MC Grayton Hardeman and his band, the Amplifiers, who played a diverse range of music that kept the dance floor packed with participants of all ages for the final hours of the evening.

We were delighted that there were five WA recipients of Society Awards and we again congratulate Marcus Atlas, Cam Bracks, Harvey Coates, Alastair Mackendrick and Stuart Miller.

The **Golf Afternoon**, held at Royal Fremantle Golf Club, was attended by a small but dedicated band of golfers who were treated to a fine day and a great course. A special note is made that Dr Desmond Wee hit the longest drive.

Honoured Guests

As a first for an ASOHNS ASM, this year's meeting included the opportunity to welcome each of the Presidents of the Malaysian and Singapore Societies of O-HNS and the Chairman of the Korean Society of O-HNS, who attended as guests of ASOHNS.

Dr Primuharsa Putra Bin Sabir Husin Athar from **Malaysia**, **Dr Chan Kwai Onn** from **Singapore** and **Professor Chung-Hwan Baek** from **Korea** expressed their enjoyment of the meeting and the opportunity to meet so many of their Australian peers.

Dr Chan proved his impressive golfing skills by jointly winning the coveted ASOHNS Golf Trophy with ASM delegate **Dr Hemi Patel**.

Trade Exhibition

The trade exhibition also exceeded expectations, with 50 organisations booking out all available space.

As with all ASOHNS ASMs, all morning and afternoon tea and lunch food and beverages were served in the exhibition area and delegates had the opportunity to view the latest advances in medical technology and products that support us in our profession.

Overall, we were delighted with the success of the meeting, which truly represented all the hard work and effort contributed by those involved with its organisation.

Thanks are due to **Peter Friedland**, both for his role as **Scientific Convenor** and for the many other components he organised; members of the **Organising Committee**: **Marcus Atlas, Francis Chai, Timothy Cooney, Ian Mitchell, Tuan V Pham, Shyan Vijayasekaran** and **Fiona Whelan** and **Consec Conference**

Management's Barry Neame, Kellie Singer and Aaron Neame.

Most especially, we thank all the international and Australian presenters, delegates and their partners who attended.

The next ASOHNS ASM will be held in Brisbane from 29 March to 1 April, 2014. I am happy to hand over the torch, so to speak, to Dr Roger Grigg as its Convenor.

Philip Grey
2013 ASM Convenor

2013 Society Medals

for Distinguished Service to ASOHNS (2 x recipients)

Dr Cameron Bracks

Dr Cameron (Cam) Bracks' contribution to ASOHNS has been considerable and spanned many years.



He has held federal executive positions for ASOHNS including: Vice-President, President, Immediate Past President

and, until recently, Advisor to the Executive Committee for the past five years.

He was Scientific Convenor of the 1985 ASOHNS Annual Scientific Meeting held in Perth.

Cam has also made significant achievements in the specialty of otolaryngology head and neck surgery.

He was the first OHN surgeon in WA to perform removal of a neuroma via the middle fossa with help from a neurosurgeon. This was followed by a small series of middle fossa cases in the 1970s and he invited the late Dr Peter Packer OAM to help with these.

In the early 1980s, Cam began practising the translab approach and teamed with Dr Packer and Dr Ian Wallace to perform a series of about 180 cases. The team trained other WA OHN surgeons in neuroma and skull base surgery.

Both he and Dr Packer established a cochlear implant program in 1983, making Perth the third city in Australia to have such a service.

Cam has presented papers on his surgical techniques and was substantially involved with surgical training for a number of years.

Dr Stuart Miller

Dr Stuart Miller has contributed extensively to ASOHNS on both state and national levels.



At a state level, he variously undertook the positions of Chair, Secretary and Continuous Medical Education (CME) Coordinator.

He was Scientific Convenor of the 1995 ASOHNS Annual Scientific Meeting and Convenor of the 2002 Meeting, both held in Perth.

On a national level, Stuart held federal executive positions for ASOHNS including: Vice-President, President and Immediate Past President.

He was in private practice with the late Dr Peter Packer OAM and joined the ENT Department at Royal Perth Hospital, later becoming Head of Department.

Stuart performed complex neuro-otological and skull base surgery, as well as head and neck oncology, including micro-vascular reconstruction. He was the first OHN surgeon to use the radial forearm free flap in Perth.

During his career, Stuart has been Department Head at RPH, Supervisor of Otolaryngological Surgical Training in Western Australia, a member of the National Training Board in OHNS and a member of the Court of Examiners of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

He established the WA Temporal Bone Laboratory in 1996, as well as establishing the WA ENT Research Foundation to support registrar research.

for Distinguished Contribution to the Art and Science of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery (3 x recipients)

Professor Marcus Atlas

Winthrop Professor Marcus Atlas is a surgeon scientist, world renowned as a leader in the field of ear and skull base surgery. He holds the Garnett Passe and Rodney Williams Memorial Foundation Chair in Otolaryngology at The University of Western Australia.



He has received other awards, both for his pioneering work in the field of otolaryngology and significant contribution to enhancing quality of life and advocacy for the deaf and hearing impaired.

Marcus is Head of the Ear Sciences Centre (ESC) at The University of Western Australia and Founding Director of the Ear Science Institute Australia (ESIA). ESIA is now a major internationally renowned research institute attracting scientists, clinicians and students to the area of ear science. He has helped to create four major groups involved with clinical research, molecular and cellular otolaryngology, computer and information science, as well as epidemiology.

Included in the ESIA facility is the recently completed Centre for Ear, Nose and Throat Education and Research (CENTER), a multi-million dollar surgical skills training facility. This is funded by the Commonwealth after Marcus led a successful application in conjunction with St John of God Healthcare and the University of Notre Dame.

The CENTER focuses on delivering world class education and training in assessing, diagnosing and treating otolaryngology, head and neck disorders.

Marcus was editor of the Australian Journal of Otolaryngology for several years and is on

the editorial boards of both Australian and international otolaryngology journals.

He has convened ear surgery courses for 20 years that have attracted many surgeons, both nationally and internationally.

He is a member of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) Court of Examiners and is closely involved with training and mentoring young surgeons through the College's Surgeon Scientist program.

Professor Harvey Coates AO

Professor Harvey Coates AO was largely responsible for establishing the neonatal hearing program in Western Australia.



He has published widely on treating and managing otitis media and was co-founder of the first Paediatric

Otorhinolaryngology (ORL) group in Australia, together with NSW Doctors Victor Bear and the late Ted Beckenham.

Harvey is very active in both the clinical and policy aspects of Indigenous health and has been so for many years. For more than 10 years, until recently, he was Chairman of the Indigenous Sub-Committee of ASOHNS.

He was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2005 for his work and research in paediatric otolaryngology and ear disease in Aboriginal children and has also received other awards for his work and contribution.

Harvey is a Paediatric Otolaryngologist and Clinical Professor at the University of Western Australia, School of Paediatrics and Child Health and University Department of OHNS.

He is Senior ENT Surgeon at Princess Margaret Hospital for Children and also works at other hospitals in Perth.

Harvey's current research interests are the relationship of bacterial biofilms to otitis media, chronic rhinosinusitis and adenoid disease, obstructive sleep disorder and newborn hearing screening and indigenous ear disease.

He initiated the recently well-publicised trial, duplicating Japanese work, that employs human fibroblastic growth factor in treating tympanic membrane perforation.

Harvey has authored numerous book chapters and more than 70 papers. He is a member of learned societies and committees, both in medicine and the arts.

Dr Alastair Mackendrick

Dr Alastair Mackendrick provided a visiting service to outback services in the Kimberley for more than 24 years.



In the vast state of Western Australia, most of the population is located in the South West, with 75 per cent living in Perth.

When Alastair began practice in 1985, all of WA's ENT surgeons lived in Perth. There was a visiting service to Albany, Kalgoorlie, Geraldton and Karratha but no visiting service to most of the Pilbara and none to the Kimberley.

The North West was severely disadvantaged, in particular the Aboriginal community with a high incidence of ear disease. Alastair recognised this need and, from 1987, provided a visiting service to outback communities in the Kimberley.

He convinced the teaching hospital department heads to let their registrars travel to the Kimberley with him – providing them valuable experience in otology.

Alastair has co-authored several Aboriginal ear health manuals. He published a paper in the Australian Journal of Otolaryngology in 1999 on the results of myringoplasties in Aboriginal children over a 10-year period. The results proved the benefit of early surgical intervention and highlighted the, at that time unrecognised, high incidence of choleostoma in these children.

For more information about 2013 and previous Society Awards recipients, go to http://www.asohns.org.au/members_section/society-awards

in the Members Section of the ASOHNs website.
(You will need your login for access)



While visiting Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, late last year as an External Examiner, A/Prof. Vincent Cousins (*far right*) was pleased to present Prof. Siba Prasad Dubey (*2nd far right*) with his 2011 Society Medal for Distinguished Contribution to the Art and Science of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery. Prof. Dubey was unable to travel to Australia to receive his medal at the ASOHNs 2011 ASM Gala Dinner when it was originally awarded.

2013 Jean Littlejohn Prize Winner - Bing Mei Teh

Congratulations to Bing Mei Teh who was awarded the 2013 Jean Littlejohn Prize for the best trainee presentation during the 2013 ASOHNS ASM in Perth.



Bing, (pictured right) holding her award after receiving it from the Prize convenor David Marty, is a SET 1 trainee from Victoria.

Bing's presentation subject was 'Tissue Engineering of the Tympanic Membrane: Using Silk Fibroin and Bioactive Molecules' and following is her abstract:

Background

Tympanic membrane (TM) perforations represent a management dilemma to clinicians and a burden to the communities. The advent of tissue engineering and material science has seen a recent surge in the research related to tissue engineering of the TM. It is hoped that a bio-engineered TM could change clinical practice by allowing the use of these in the outpatient settings, thereby reducing the morbidities associated with surgeries as well as providing cost benefits.

Bioactive molecules (growth factors, cytokines and extracellular matrix proteins) are essential in TM wound healing. We have recently identified that silk fibroin (SF) significantly improved TM wound healing and hearing in rats and guinea pigs. However, the choice of bioactive molecules and silk types most suitable for use has not been determined.

Methods

Human-derived tympanic membrane keratinocytes (hTM) were obtained and cultured. The effects of hyaluronic acid (HA), vitronectin, TGF- α and IL-24 and their combinations on hTM were examined for cell characterisation, proliferation and migration. hTM cultured on Mulberry, Eri and Muga SF was examined for cell morphology, adhesion, migration, proliferation, growth rate, cytotoxicity and viability. The effects of casting solvent of Mulberry SF were also evaluated.

Results

TGF- α , TGF- α /HA and TGF- α /IL-24 improved both migration and proliferation. TGF- α /HA-mediated migration and proliferation require the activation of ErbB1. Mulberry SF supported the highest cell proliferation and adhesion, and least cytotoxicity compared to Muga and Eri, with comparable cell cytocompatibility between water and formic acid-based Mulberry SF.

Conclusions

The use of TGF- α , TGF- α /HA and TGF- α /IL-24 can promote wound healing through cell migration and proliferation. Mulberry SF films, either water or formic acid-based, are the most favourable for cell growth. These agents can potentially be used as bio-scaffolds in the repair of TM perforations.

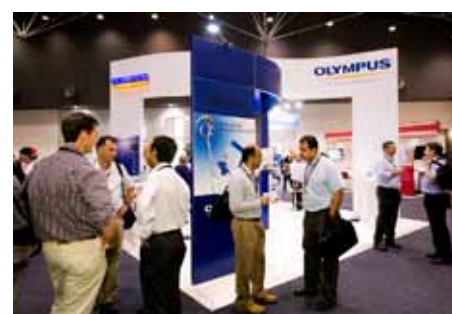
Bing Teh^{1,2,3}, Sharon Redmond^{1,2}, Ben Allardyce⁴, Yi Shen^{1,2}, Marcus Atlas^{1,2,3}, Rangam Rajkhowa⁴, Robert Marano^{1,2}, Rodney Dilley^{1,2}.

1 Ear Sciences Centre, UWA, 2 Ear Science Institute of Australia, 3 Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, 4 Institute for Frontier Materials, Deakin University

More information about the Jean Littlejohn Prize is located in the Trainees section of the ASOHNS website. Go to

http://www.asohns.org.au/trainees_section/jean-littlejohn-prize

(You need your login details to access)





ASM 2014 Update



Dear Colleagues

On behalf of the organising committee, it's my pleasure to invite you and your partner to attend the **ASOHNS 64th Annual Scientific Meeting** to be held in **Brisbane** from **29 March to 1 April 2014**.

The theme of the meeting will be *Modern Approaches to ENT*. We are planning a stimulating scientific program, presented by local and international experts who will provide valuable insights and information on the latest techniques and developments in our specialty.

The ASM will again include pre- and post-satellite meetings – with a **Paediatric Airway** course, **Laryngology** workshop and an **Indigenous Ear Health** workshop (the third such workshop organised by ASOHNS).

The meeting venue will be the world-class purpose-built Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. The Centre, situated in the

unique urban cultural and entertainment precinct, Southbank, is highly accessible to the airport and direct rail links.

Brisbane is a dynamic, sophisticated and cosmopolitan city with a relaxed, friendly alfresco lifestyle and an idyllic climate year-round. Please take the opportunity to unwind and enjoy this beautiful city while you are here.

We encourage you to extend your stay and, perhaps with your families, explore the beautiful Queensland beaches, rainforest areas, theme parks located on the Gold Coast and, of course, the magnificent Great Barrier Reef (only an hour's plane trip north of Brisbane).

I look forward to welcoming you all in Brisbane next year.

Roger Grigg
ASOHNS 2014 ASM Convenor

Organising Committee: Anders Cervin (Scientific Convenor), Craig Bond, Hannah Burns and David McCrystal

International Keynote Speakers

Benjamin E H Hartley MBBS, BSc, FRCS (ORL-HNS)

Consultant Paediatric Otolaryngology and Head of Department at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London, UK. He is Honorary Senior Lecturer at University College, London. He is known for his experience in Cochlear Implants in children and surgery to remove congenital neck lumps, cysts and tumours. He was listed in *The Times* newspaper's "Britain's Top Surgeons" in 2011.



Jean-Pierre Jeannon FRCS

Consultant ENT Head and Neck Surgeon at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Trust, London, UK. He is Clinical Lead of the Head and Neck Multi Disciplinary Team at Guy's Hospital and Chairman of the South London Cancer Network Head and Neck Tumour Working Group. This is now one of the largest head and neck centres in the UK managing more than 450 new cases per year.



Bradley W Kesser MD, FRCS

Associate Professor, Division of Otolaryngology/Neurotology, University of Virginia, USA. His areas of interest are otology, neurotology, congenital ear malformations, hearing loss, gene therapy for ear disorders and simulation in otological surgery.



Michael G Stewart MD, MPH, FRCS

Professor and Chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery at Weill Medical College of Cornell University, New York, USA. He is the current editor of *Laryngoscope*. Prof. Stewart's clinical practice is general otolaryngology and he has a particular interest in nose and sinus disease, sleep breathing disorders, and head and neck trauma.



For more information on the ASOHNS ASM 2014, go to: www.asohns.consec.com.au

OSA health policy debate and ASA sleep surgery SIG

ENT surgeons have made significant progress with links to the Australasian Sleep Association (ASA) in the past two years.

In **2011** we had an invited overseas speaker, **Professor Ed Weaver** from the USA, present the **Sam Robinson Memorial Lecture** in Sydney and we also arranged an "unofficial" sleep cadaver dissection course held at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital Temporal Bone Laboratory.

In **2012** the **Sam Robinson Memorial Lecture** session was continued with an invited speaker, **Dr Hsu Pon Poh**, Chief of Department of Ear Nose and Throat (Otolaryngology) at Changi General Hospital in Singapore, presenting in Darwin.

In **2013**, we have arranged for **Professor Weaver's** return and the **Sam Robinson Memorial Lecture** session will be conducted on **Saturday, October 19, 2013** in **Brisbane** on the final day of the ASA's 25th Annual Scientific Meeting - *River of Dreams Sleep DownUnder 2013*.

The forum for this session will be a discussion/debate on public health policy relating to adult obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA), as well as reviewing current clinical and research status of surgery for adult OSA.

Drs Adam Elshaug, Sidney Sax Public Health Fellow, Harvard Medical School (USA) and University of Adelaide, SA and **Ian Scott**, Director of the Department of Internal Medicine and Clinical Epidemiology at Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane, have committed to attend for discussion/debate.

Dr Craig Hukins, Director of the Sleep Laboratory at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane will attend also.

From a surgical viewpoint, Prof. Weaver and myself, as well as **A/Prof. Nick Antic**, a sleep

physician and current President Elect of the ASA, will debate/discuss the issues with Adam, Ian and Craig.

We encourage all interested ENT surgeons to attend.

Following the debate/discussion, we intend to have a meeting regarding forming a **special interest group in sleep surgery** as a sub-group of the ASA.

Already there are a number of Special Interest Groups or "SIGs", including dental, chronobiology, insomnia and sleep health, neurology, paediatric, respiratory, occupational health and safety, etc.

We would value any input into forming this Special Interest Group, which, hopefully, will be a key link between the ASA and ASOHNS.

On the **17th and 18th of October** this year, a comprehensive **adult obstructive sleep apnoea cadaver dissection and assessment course** will be held in conjunction with the ASA's ASM.

We hope to see you all there for the 17th, 18th and 19th to improve education and training in sleep dissection, assessment of the sleep disordered patient, and to promote support and understanding of the role of surgery and sleep disordered breathing in public health policy.

There is a one-day registration fee for those who wish to attend only the **Saturday symposium on ENT Surgery** for treatment of OSA (which includes the Sam Robinson Memorial Lecture, the debate on public health policy and the inaugural meeting of the Sleep Surgery SIG).

Stuart Mackay

Associate Professor Stuart Mackay

After obtaining his FRACS in 2007, Stuart Mackay completed a Fellowship in Airway Reconstruction Surgery for Snoring and Obstructive Sleep Apnoea with the late Dr Sam Robinson.

He is actively involved in sleep surgery research and has been an invited speaker and chair of Snoring and Sleep Apnoea discussion panels at national and international scientific meetings.

Stuart is a member of the Australian Sleep Association, representing ENT surgeons on both the conference committee and the clinical committee.

He is an Associate Professor and Examiner at the University of Wollongong Medical School, New South Wales and an Adjunct Associate Professor to the University of Adelaide Faculty of Health Sciences, South Australia.

For information about the ASA 25th ASM: *River of Dreams Sleep DownUnder 2013* and/or the Sleep and OSA Cadaver dissection course, click on the following link to the website <http://www.sleep.org.au/>

For queries about the ENT Sleep Surgery Special Interest Group, contact Stuart Mackay on Tel: 02 4226 1055

SET Update



Selection

The College is allowing individual Boards greater latitude to decide on their selection criteria and process. The Board has already agreed that the generic surgical exam will be sat pre-SET and will be a

requirement for those applying for training. This will not come into effect until selection for 2017.

The Board held a successful selection workshop prior to the Perth ASOHNS meeting, which will require further approval before being promulgated in October for next year's selection.

Training

SET training is considered to be competency based. Potentially this allows trainees to sit the Part 2 Exam earlier if deemed appropriate by the relative state training schemes. It has, however, become clear from exam results in the last couple of years that more often than not trainees are sitting the Part 2 Exam too early, leading to an increasing failure rate. In effect, this may mean that some trainees need

to train for an extended period of time beyond our standard five years.

Despite a competency based training program, there will remain a training time period of five years for all trainees with no exceptions.

A further challenge for The Board is to review our in-training assessment. Presently, our only in-training assessment is the EOTA form and the Mini CEX and DOPS in SET 1. I do not believe that we are assessing the College competencies adequately.

It is also noted that there has been an alarming decrease in operative cases that each trainee is performing and The Board has set a minimum number of 100 Type A cases per six-month term. There is room for negotiation with regards to paediatric posts and possibly SET 1 posts.

The increasing number of Fellowship positions being offered is diluting training. The Board has agreed that if a Fellowship position is created at a SET teaching hospital that this will automatically trigger reassessment of the SET positions.

Richard Gallagher
Board Chair
Board OHNS, RACS

Trainee Rep Report



At the time of writing it's starting to cool down as winter approaches, but is hot as Hades for those about to sit the clinicals for their Fellowship exam! We wish them all the very best.

AOHNS 2013 ASM

The ASOHNS Annual Scientific Meeting in Perth was a great meeting, with a very high standard of

valuable talks, as well as a strong satellite program.

Particular mention goes to Professors John Yoo, Stephen Park and Mike Rutter for their excellent talks.

Perth put on a great show, both the weather as well as the food, with peaceful evenings, not encumbered by late night entertainment.

Congratulations to Bing Mei Teh who was awarded the 2013 Jean Littlejohn Prize for the

best trainee presentation during the ASM. Bing is a SET 1 trainee from Victoria. Her presentation subject was *Tissue Engineering of the Tympanic Membrane: using silk fibroin and bioactive molecules*.

Trainees Meeting 2013

We have the Robert Guerin Memorial Trainees Meeting coming up in Sydney next month and, as was decided at the College meetings, this is now mandatory for all SET 1 - 4 trainees as well as SET 5s that have not presented for the Fellowship exam.

The addition of a four-hour Laryngology session and a Cochlear 3D printed temporal bone course for SET 4 and 5 registrars has added an extra dimension to this year's meeting.

Podcasts

Over the past year, a free online podcast series has been developed and is available online at entexpertopinion.com.

The format is interview-based and OHN specialists with valuable expertise are contacted and interviewed on specific topics in order to update the Trainees and Fellows on current assessment and management paradigms for ENT-related conditions.

A number of Australian and international contributors have already contributed to what will, hopefully, become a useful open platform learning tool.

If you are interested in being involved or wish to make suggestions, you can go to the website entexpertopinion.com

Future Developments

Future developments include the revamping of the ASOHNS website; ongoing evaluation of the "remote and rural registrar attachment"; modification of the application criteria for trainees; and the understanding of a "competency-based" training program and a reduced emphasis of a "time-based" training.

Niall Jefferson
Trainee Representative

2013 Trainees Meeting

Arrangements are well advanced for the 23rd Annual Robert Guerin Memorial Trainees Meeting to be held at the Menzies Hotel in Sydney on 29 – 30 July (Monday and Tuesday).

A Practice Examination will be held for SET 4 and SET 5 trainees on Sunday, 28 July at St Vincent's Hospital, Darlinghurst. SET 3 trainees will be able to "Bulldog" the examination.

This year's meeting has a dedicated website (<http://robertguerin.org.au>) which allows trainees and those interested to keep up to date with program changes as they become available.

The site provides all relevant information about the meeting including speakers, trade exhibitors and social events and enables trainees to pay their registration fees online - an almost universal request made after last year's RGMT meeting in Perth.

The meeting Convenor, Sean Flanagan, has put together an engaging and stimulating program that will include:

- The Practice Examination for SET 4s & 5s (Sunday afternoon, 28 July).
- An optional pre-meeting temporal bone course (using a 3D printed bone developed by Johns Hopkins University, Boston USA) at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital held on Saturday, 27 July all day and Sunday, 28 July in the morning.

This is open to SET 4s and 5s only.

- An optional four-hour Laryngology session on the Sunday, 28 July afternoon. This is open to all SET levels.
- Main meeting sessions on the Monday and Tuesday will include:

- Tympanoplasty
- CPA tumours
- Facial Plastics
- Vertigo
- Parotid surgery
- Obstructive Sleep Apnoea
- Panel discussions

Trainees and invited guests will be welcomed at a cocktail function on the Sunday evening and will also enjoy a delicious dinner at L'Aqua, Cockle Bay Wharf at Sydney's Darling Harbour on the Monday evening.

The trade exhibition held in conjunction with the meeting is fully subscribed by 15 companies who will exhibit their products and services.

A 'Passport Competition' will be held this year, which will give trainees the chance to win an Apple iPad Mini 16gb with Wi-Fi.

To be eligible, trainees need to visit each exhibitor's display table and receive a stamp on a 'passport' card.

The 'passports' should be placed in a collection box and the winning entry will be drawn towards the end of the meeting.

For enquiries about the 2013 Robert Guerin Memorial Trainees Meeting, please contact:

Ian Denney
Surgical Education & Training
Program Administrator

Tel: +61 2 9954 5856

Email: landenney@asohns.org.au



Continuing Professional Development Update

CME Compliance 2011

The final compliance figures for 2011 (note we work one year in arrears) was 94 per cent, as it was in 2010.

The overall RACS rate was 92 per cent, which is also fairly constant and doesn't vary much between specialities.

What to do about the repeatedly non-compliant members has still not been resolved, although sanctions can be expected ultimately for the truly recalcitrant.

Australian & New Zealand Audit of Surgical Mortality (ANZASM)

This is the umbrella group for the state surgical mortality group, e.g. VASM, WAASM etc.

It is now part of RACS CPD rules that all Fellows take part in reporting and audit of any surgical deaths, which may have occurred to patients in their care.

Unfortunately, there is no way of assessing compliance until such an incident occurs. Some

surgeons may fail to report a death and some private hospitals may be actively opposed to the process, although this is slowly improving.

Compliance rate for this is about 95 per cent – it should be 100 per cent.

Other Matters Arising from PDSB Meeting 19 February 2013

- **Clinical Indicators (CIs):** The Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) is agitating for these again. The committee is lukewarm about the idea and any CIs must obviously come from the Specialist Societies.

Currently we have one, Reactionary Tonsillar Haemorrhage. We may be asked to consider more.

- **RACS Library:** There have been significant upgrades in all specialties and members are advised to use these facilities.

Malcolm Baxter
Chair, CPD Sub-Committee /
Representative to RACS PDSB

RACS News

RACS Partnering Agreements

The contract between the ASOHNS and the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) governing the Surgical Education and Training Program has been signed.

As was advised in the ASOHNS December 2012 newsletter, the current contract was due to expire in 2012. A "Deed of Extension and Variation" extending the term of the Memorandum of Understanding was signed last year as an interim step while the new agreement was negotiated with the RACS.

RACS President, Professor Michael Hollands, has been active in working with the ASOHNS to resolve any concerns with the agreement. The Board of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery will continue to manage the program in conjunction with the RACS.

No significant changes are expected for trainees or for ASOHNS in the day-to-day operation of the Training Program.

There are some changes in reporting and accountability for trainee funds under the new agreement, which will be facilitated by ASOHNS and the Board Chair in conjunction with the RACS staff.



Advocacy and Involvement with Specialties

Prof. Hollands attended the ASOHNS 2013 ASM in Perth as part of his intention to attend all specialty societies' scientific meetings.

The RACS hosted a booth at the ASOHNS 2013 ASM to inform members about Telehealth and to be available for any general enquiries about the College.

To enhance the relationship with specialty societies, the RACS will also be inviting society Presidents to attend the College's Governance and Advocacy meetings.

Outreach Update

ENT Involvement in the RACS Outreach Programs, PIP and ATLAS

1. Pacific Island Project (PIP)

In my last newsletter article (December 2012) I mentioned that the PIP had finished in its present form and was going to be managed by Fiji School of Medicine under another name, although RACS was still going to supply teams, equipment etc.

Since then a new contract has been negotiated with AusAID and it seems very much that it will be business as before and we are continuing to send teams. No one seems to have much idea of what the new FSM program is doing or capable of and RACS is continuing much as before.

I have received reassurances from PIP secretariat that we, the individual specialty convenors, will be kept better informed of what will be happening.

Request for Funding

At its March meeting the Federal Council generously agreed to support the PIP ENT program by donating \$57,310 towards the project to buy equipment.

This will go a long way towards replacing some of our ageing instruments and provide new capital equipment such as a microscope in one of the major centres.

Micronesia

Thanks to all those who replied to my request for someone to lead a visit to Chuuk and /or Yap this year. Several people expressed interest.

Obviously everyone can't go on this trip but your interest is much appreciated and you have been added to our database for the future. As always, I am very keen to involve our younger members to ultimately keep the projects going.

2. Australian Timor Leste Assistance to Specialist Surgeons (ATLASS)

This continues to do well, although the future is uncertain.

We are meant to finish the project in 2014, which is most unreasonable in terms of getting some sort of self sufficiency, which is what the government wants. There is no way that East Timor will be self sufficient in ENT or any other specialty in the foreseeable future.

I had a meeting with College outreach staff and a representative of Balwyn Rotary recently about the project. We were assured that the project will continue in some form even if AusAID withdraws support. Happily Balwyn Rotary are still interested.



There is now a new project, ATLASII, coming into effect. The role of ENT in this is unclear, although I now feel more confident that we will continue to have a presence there.

The nurse led clinic is still in its infancy. Julie Souness, the Australian nurse who is leading the project, is doing a good job but her contract expires this year.

The most recent team reports that the local ENT nurse in Bacau is coming on well and hopefully we may recruit other interested personnel whom we can train.

It has been suggested that we could run a short topic specific workshop for mixed medical and nursing personnel in the near future.

In my report to the ASOHNS Council, I suggested that ASOHNS might consider whether the time is right to look at running its own program to East Timor, independent of RACS and AusAID, in the manner of Interplast and the orthopods.

This was supported by several members with an interest in the area and it was suggested that this be extended to ultimately service other areas. We need to consider how such a body might function and be funded.

My Timor Heart

I remind you all of this glossy book professionally produced by the College to promote its surgical work in East Timor.

There is an extensive ENT chapter written by a journalist, with my help, and featuring many photos of your current President and other members.

I do commend the book to all members as all funds will go to the East Timor projects. It is \$60 plus pp and is available from the RACS.

Parliamentary Submission

The Foreign Minister, Mr Bob Carr, has asked his department to prepare a report on Timor Leste under several terms of reference, including health.

Interested parties were invited to make submissions. I have made a submission about ENT care there and the RACS made a separate submission, which was general but especially focused on Eye care.

Norbert Hoergel of Micromed International, who supplies and services the TL microscopes, made a separate submission about provision of Biomedical Engineering in the country.

I learnt today that 52 submissions have been made in total and the hearings begin next week. What the outcome will be I don't know at this stage.

3. Other matters

The American *Hearing Journal* editors were interested in our projects and requested articles on our Australian ENT outreach projects

from two Monash audiologists, Sowmya Rao and Tess Bright, and myself.

These were submitted, with photographs and were published in January and December respectively.

4. Other Outreach Activities

Our members remain active in other regions notably Cambodia, PNG and India. I will leave it to those with a more direct knowledge of these projects to comment on them further, except to say that they are all worthy and all deserve support.

Malcolm Baxter
Convenor,
RACS ENT International Programs

Indigenous Ear Health resources

Indigenous Ear Health Workshop (2013) video available

We were delighted with the success of the **Indigenous Ear Health Workshop - Making a Difference**, which was held on Friday, 15 March as a satellite meeting to the ASOHNS 2013 ASM in Perth.

The video of the workshop presentations is available to download and we trust you will find this a helpful resource in our efforts to address the major problem of ear disease and underlying health issues in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

The video is accessible in two versions: low-resolution for easy download or a higher quality version that can be viewed using a free secondary program Silverlight (for PC or Mac). Please click on one of the links below:

Link to Silverlight version:

<http://webcast.gigtv.com.au/Mediasite/Catalog/catalogs/IEH2013>

OR

Link to HTML version:

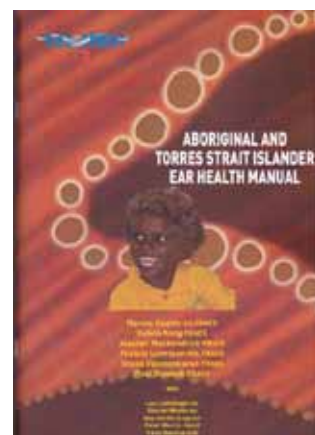
http://webcast.gigtv.com.au/Mediasite/Catalog/catalogs/IEH2013_classic

Francis Lannigan
Convenor, Indigenous Ear Health Workshop
ASOHNS 2013 ASM



2nd edition Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ear Health Manual

Copies of the **2nd edition** of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ear Health Manual* are available from the ASOHNS office, on request.



The first edition of the manual, published in 2009, was prepared in response to the high prevalence of ear infections and hearing problems in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.

The manual is written in plain language and uses simple explanations and clear illustrations and images to concisely and accurately convey the basics and essentials of ear health management.

Contact:
Carole Gridley, Membership Manager, ASOHNS
T: 02 9954 5856
E: carolegridley@asohns.org.au

VALE - Edward (Ted) Beckenham

1939 - 2013

FRCS General Surgery (Edinburgh, Scotland) 1966 | FRACS Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery, 1969

Obituary

Ted obtained the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons (FRCS) in Edinburgh in General Surgery in 1966, and the Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (FRACS) in Otolaryngology in 1969.

Ted was one of only a handful of ENT surgeons around Australia with a purely paediatric ENT practice.

He commenced at Ryde Hospital in 1970 next to where he set up his practice, and in 1971 he started at Sydney Hospital and The Children's Hospital.

At the Children's Hospital Ted held the positions of secretary and then Head of Department, where he navigated the ENT department in its new setting at Westmead.

Ted instigated the Paediatric Otolaryngology Fellowship Position, created the Aboriginal Outreach Clinics and encouraged multidisciplinary approaches for Voice, Cleft Palate and Deafness.

He was a founding member of ASPORL, the Australasian Society of Paediatric ORL, which commenced as a study group in 1985 and became a society in 1996. This group reflected his ethos of collegial, informal, honest sharing of knowledge and ideas for the betterment of patients.

Ted was greatly liked and appreciated by colleagues throughout the hospital, working collaboratively with so many departments, doctors, audiologists, speech therapists and nurses.

As a surgeon, Ted had a beautiful delicate skill, was innovative and always looking at how to do things better.

He was a great otologist and laryngologist and embraced the advent of endoscopic rhinology. His surgical achievements were considerable.

Ted introduced the transnasal FESS approach to paediatric periorbital abscess drainage (avoiding a scar on the face); he used a non-stenting approach for choanal atresia; he searched for perilymphatic fistulas in sudden sensorineural hearing loss and was instrumental in setting up paediatric cochlear implantation at the Children's Hospital.

Ted was always calm in all situations: from a difficult airway case, pulling out foreign bodies

as their oxygen dropped, to tiny children with periorbital abscess threatening blindness.

It was often late at night, the tissues inflamed and bleeding and Ted would carefully identify the landmarks down the telescope in the swollen mess, dissect gently the landmarks, and release the pus from around the eye, saving the child's sight.



Portrait of Ted Beckenham
painted by ASOHNS NSW
member and artist,
Dr Gillian Dunlop FRACS

Ted was a people person. He was interested in others, whether it was the student who popped into theatre for an hour between lectures or his registrars, colleagues or patients. He took great interest in the lives of all his registrars, caring about us and seeing the whole person in each of us.

Ted will be remembered for his gift for teaching. He has trained most of the ENT surgeons in Sydney. He calmly taught and encouraged our skills, never tired in sharing his extensive wealth of Paediatric ENT knowledge and epitomised a role model of humility, kindness, and compassion.

To his patients he was ever their advocate, walking the extra mile, and often became almost part of the family.

I loved how he would call children "little people", which of course they are. Since his retirement in 2005 he has been greatly missed by his patients and their families.

Ted Beckenham was a wonderful mentor, colleague and friend to so many of us.

Many I have spoken with recently echo the same words; Ted was a wonderful doctor, gentle, genuine and he made a difference in this world.

He will be greatly missed.

A/Prof. Catherine Birman FRACS
NSW Member

Courses and workshops organised by ASOHNS members for the remainder of 2013

Australasian College of Ear Nose and Throat Physicians Scientific Meeting

Date: **13 July, 2013**
Venue: **Chatswood, Sydney, NSW**
President: **Dr Brian Williams**

The ACENTP was established to promote excellence in the practice of Medical Otorhinolaryngology and Medico-Legal medicine amongst ENT Specialists.

[Click for more information](#)

4th Sydney Laryngology Course - Injection Laryngoplasty & Phonosurgery Workshop

Dates: **27 & 28 July, 2013**
Venue: **St Vincent's Private Hospital,
Sydney, NSW**

Convenors: **Dr Ian Cole & Dr Daniel Novakovic**

This is a landmark course because Merz are bringing over their new filling agent for injection laryngoplasty (RADIESSE®) and is the first course on transcutaneous injection laryngoplasty techniques.

[Click for more information](#)

Endoscopic Sinus and Skull Base Surgery Course

Dates: **15 - 17 August, 2013**
Venue: **St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, NSW**
Faculty: **Dr Richard Gallagher, A/Prof. Richard Harvey, Dr Larry Kalish, Dr Yuresh Naidoo, A/Prof. Raymond Sacks, Dr Nicholas Stow**

The course is aimed at practising surgeons and registrars. Advanced areas of surgical management will be covered.

[Click for more information](#)

SCENTS - Society of Country ENTs Conference

Dates: **23 - 25 August, 2013**
Venue: **Best Western Plus Hovell Tree Inn,
Albury, NSW**
Convenor: **Dr Eliza Tweddle**

For members who live and work in a rural area, those who are city-based but work in rural areas and trainees considering practising in a rural area.

[Click for more information](#)

Sleep and OSA Surgery Dissection Course

Dates: **17 & 18 October, 2013**
Venue: **University of Queensland, Brisbane, Qld**
Faculty: **A/Prof. Stuart Mackay &
Dr Richard Lewis**
Co-Convenor: **A/Prof. Ben Panizza**

Held in conjunction with the River of Dreams Sleep DownUnder 2013 Silver Anniversary Conference.

[Click for more information](#)

Temporal Bone Dissection Course

Dates: **8 - 10 November, 2013**
Venue: **St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, NSW**
Faculty: **Dr Nigel Biggs, Dr Phillip Chang,
Dr Sean Flannigan, Prof. Paul Fagan**

Aimed at practising surgeons and registrars, the course includes live surgery with audience interaction and 14 hours' supervised dissection.

[Click for more information](#)

5th Adelaide Endoscopic Management of Vascular Injuries Workshop

Date: **27 November, 2013**
Venue: **Blacks Road, Gilles Plains, SA**
Convenor: **Prof. P J Wormald**

An intensive and enriching course. Early Bird Registration closes 30 September 2013.

[Click for more information](#)

16th Advanced Functional Endoscopic Sinus Surgery Course

Dates: **28 - 30 November, 2013**
Venue: **Adelaide, SA**
Convenor: **Prof. P J Wormald**

This course includes a 3-hour session "Masterclass in Frontal Recess Anatomy". Early Bird Registration closes 30th September 2013.

[Click for more information](#)

Contact Us

The Australian Society of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery Ltd
Suite 403 Level 4, 68 Alfred Street MILSONS POINT NSW Australia 2061
T +61 2 9954 5856 | F +61 2 9957 6863 | E members@asohns.org.au | www.asohns.org.au

Editor: Michael Jay | Executive & Finance Officer: Lorna Watson