



ANZGOSA

Australia & New Zealand
Gastric & Oesophageal
Surgery Association

NEWSLETTER

Issue 20

April 2014

President's Report

One of the most important roles of ANZGOSA is the facilitation of training in Upper GI Surgery. We are able to offer our Fellows a 2 year structured rotation through approved centres in Australia and New Zealand and the opportunity for at least one trainee per year to work at a top centre in the United Kingdom. In this Newsletter there is a letter from Mr Philip Le Page who has recently completed a year working at the famous Edinburgh Unit headed by Mr Simon Paterson-Brown (who will be a speaker at the Queenstown meeting in October). Philip gives a very nice description of the huge benefits of such an experience and it is a reminder of the important role all surgeons play in training and mentoring. We are also very fortunate to have access to a yearly Fellowship position at Newcastle Hospital in the UK where the Upper GI unit is headed by Professor Michael Griffin (who will also be a guest speaker at the Queenstown meeting). This is the busiest cancer centre in all of Europe with over 200 resections per year and the experience our ANZGOSA trainees gain there is enormous. The Training Committee chaired by Gary Crosthwaite is presently in the process of selecting the ANZGOSA fellows for 2015 and it is very pleasing to see the level of interest as judged by application numbers. In August this year the trainee weekend will be hosted by ANZHPBA supported by ANZGOSA faculty at Mt Lofty House in Adelaide and this event is always greatly enjoyed by trainees and faculty.

The ANZGOSA board has decided to create a new sub-committee entitled the Membership Liaison Committee chaired by Wendy Brown (who is also the President of OSSANZ). This recognises the importance of communication between the executive and all ANZGOSA members and also reflects our desire to include surgeons and associate members (eg Nurse Specialists) who have not participated in ANZGOSA events previously. Please encourage those who you feel would benefit from ANZGOSA membership from joining – there are many advantages.

The Audit and Research committees have been amalgamated into one committee headed by Sarah Thompson as chair. These areas overlap and this will be a more effective structure for the future. I would like to thank the whole executive and members of the ANZGOSA committees for the tremendous work done in all these areas. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated team promoting progress in Upper GI Surgery.

Preparations for the Queenstown meeting in October this year, the March 2015 IsDEAS and 5th Asia Pacific Gastro-oesophageal Cancer Congress meetings in Brisbane and the October 2015 combined OSSANZ and ANZGOSA conference on Hamilton Island are well under way so ensure these dates are diarised now. Details are available on the ANZGOSA website and registration for the Queenstown meeting is now open.

Ross Roberts

President

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 President's Report
- 2 Future Dates
- 3 Membership; Financial Report; Website
- 4-9 News
- 10 Industry Partners

Future Dates

2014

October 2 and 3
Combined meeting with ANZHPBA
Millennium Hotel, Queenstown
2 day meeting

2015

IsDEAS meeting
Rydges South Bank, Brisbane
15th March 2015

5th Asia Pacific Gastro-esophageal Cancer Congress (APGCC)
Brisbane Convention Centre
16 to 18 March 2015

IsDEAS Meeting
15 March 2015
Rydges South Bank, Brisbane
1030 - 1630

8 and 9 October 2015
Combined meeting with OSSANZ
Hamilton Island, Queenstown
3 days



ANZGOSA Blog

We now have the facility on our website for the ANZGOSA Blog. One of the important functions of ANZGOSA is the sharing of knowledge and ideas between members. It is designed to be a forum where topics of interest or problem areas can be discussed. The site has been designed as a blog page with oversight of the content. This is for use by all ANZGOSA members and we welcome your contribution to this blog regarding interesting issues and cases.

In the members area there is button to Register. Members can register by updating their information in the form.

Link:

http://www.anzgosa.org/members_area.html

ANZGOSA Members

We welcome all our new members

Financial Report

A full financial report and Treasurers' report will be provided, and emailed, to all members after the AGM on October 2nd, for the year ended 30th June 2014.

ANZGOSA continues to be in a good position. Three industry partners are secured in three year contracts and membership numbers continue to grow steadily. Industry partnerships have been renegotiated for 2014 and beyond.

We have now received deductible gift recipient "DGR" status through the Australian Taxation Office. ***The Association can now accept donations.***



Facebook

Check out ANZGOSA on facebook. See pictures, latest news and announcements. Together with our website www.anzgosa.org we are keeping you up to date with the latest regarding our Association.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Anzgosa/304387776331914>.



Membership

Membership numbers are steadily growing with a membership now around 174.

Full membership is available for Medical practitioners with an interest in Upper Gastrointestinal, Gastric and/or Oesophageal surgery practice who hold FRACS or equivalent. Full members are entitled to full voting rights, and may stand for office. Associate membership is available to trainees or retired Upper Gastrointestinal surgeons, and other health professionals working in the area of Upper Gastrointestinal, Gastric and/or Oesophageal practice. Associate members do not have voting rights, and are unable to stand for office. A discount on membership fees is available to members who are also members of ANZHPBA. Please contact the Secretariat for an application for membership.



Website

www.anzgosa.org

We do have the "Find a Surgeon" section on the website. The aim of this is to have most of our ANZGOSA members listed.

If you would like to be included could you please email me the following information -

SURNAME
FIRST NAME (and title)
LOCATION
PHONE
WEBSITE.



We are happy to hear of any suggested improvements to the website or any errors you may see. We do endeavour to keep it as up to date as possible.

NEWS

ANZGOSA Hospital Unit Accreditation

We invite you to apply for ANZGOSA board recognition as a training centre.

The ANZGOSA Post Fellowship Training manual can be found on the ANZGOSA website. This document outlines the requirement to become an Upper GI training centre. .

Applications for potential 2015 Fellows are now closed. Ultimately accepting a Fellow will be at the discretion of the training unit. Hospital Unit site inspections will occur once you receive a Fellow. Fellow offers occur from late June each year.

Please note that if a training unit requires accreditation for both HPB and Upper GI then separate applications will need to be made to both ANZHPBA and ANZGOSA.

Could each unit applying please submit a letter addressing each Hospital Unit criteria (available on website) and nominate a future programme director (with contact details). All future communications will be to that director.

Applications should be either emailed or posted to:

Leanne Rogers
Executive Officer ANZGOSA
P.O. Box 374
Belair SA 5052
anzgosa@gmail.com

Post Fellowship Trainees Weekend

The 2014 Post Fellowship Trainees' Weekend will be hosted by ANZHPBA and is being held in Adelaide (SA) at Mt Lofty House, 29th to 31st August. 2014 ANZHPBA and ANZGOSA Fellows will attend. As part of the two year Fellowship they are required to attend the Post Fellowship Trainees Weekend. The weekend will have significant local faculty and each Fellow will have one presentation topic focused on their specialty, HPB or GI.

The 2015 Post Fellowship Trainees' Weekend will be hosted by ANZGOSA and is being held in Manly, Sydney, at Q Station, 3rd and 4th October.

Graduated Fellows

We congratulate our recently graduated ANZGOSA Fellows –

John Ozmen
Damien Loh
David Links
Chek Heng Tog

All graduated fellows will be presented with their certificate of training at the Queenstown conference dinner in October.

Post Fellowship Training in Upper GI Surgery

Applications have now closed for the 2015 Post Fellowship training in Upper GI Surgery. Interviews will be held 31 May in Melbourne, and hospital placements made in June.

ANZGOSA Audit

As a practising member of the Association, we would like to invite and encourage you to participate in the ANZGOSA Audit, officially launched on August 31 2010, a bi-national audit of surgical cancer treatment.

Participating in the audit demonstrates both an appreciation of the importance of quality surgical care in this area and a commitment to achieving such quality. Participants will receive an annual participation certificate.

Through the reporting feature of the data entry portal surgeons have access to instant reporting on key areas against aggregated peer results and be able extract their own data for personal analyses. Audit staff will also be able to provide customised analyses if requested.

Collated bi-national data will provide the ANZGOSA opportunities for research into surgical treatment in the two countries. Participants can also make an official data request to gain de-identified information from the database for their own research.

The audit is being conducted on behalf of the ANZGOSA by the Research, Audit and Academic Surgery Division of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. **College Ethics Committee approval was granted in June 2010** and an application has been made to recognise the audit as an approved activity so that participants can use this to claim points in the College Continuing Professional Development program.

For further information or to become part of this initiative and gain access to the online portal, please contact the College managers of the audit:

Ph: +61 8 8363 7513

Audit helpdesk: anzgosa.audit@surgeons.org

New to the Audit –

- **Institutional downloads available**
- **Export to Excel function is now available**

Annual Meeting 2014

**** REGISTRATION NOW OPEN ****

2 – 3 October, 2014

http://www.queenstown2014.com/anzhpba_and_anzgosa_2014/registration/index

The “2014 Conjoint ANZ Upper GI and HPB Meeting” is a two day program and is the ANZHPBA and ANZGOSA annual meeting for next year. Day one will run separate sessions for ANZHPBA and ANZGOSA, and, Day two is combined sessions. The scientific committee is currently putting together a comprehensive and balanced academic programme. The meeting is focused towards a national audience and will be of interest to HPB surgeons, Upper GI surgeons, bariatric surgeons, general surgeons, surgical trainees, gastroenterologists, and oncologists. For those that attended the highly successful 2010 meeting, the venue is again The Millennium Hotel, Queenstown, New Zealand.

We have a fantastic international faculty attending the meeting –

Simon Paterson-Brown

Simon Paterson-Brown qualified from St Mary's Hospital Medical School, London, in 1982 before training in surgery around London, the Home Counties, Hong Kong and Edinburgh. He has been Consultant General and Upper Gastrointestinal Surgeon and Honorary Senior Lecturer in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh since 1994. His main clinical interests are benign and malignant oesophago-gastric surgery and emergency surgery. He has published widely both in textbooks and journals on emergency surgery, laparoscopic surgery, upper gastro-intestinal surgery, surgical training and assessment. His other interests include patient safety initiatives in surgery, surgical assessment and training. At the present time he is Chairman of the Patient Safety Board of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and is part of the development team for both NOTSS (Non-technical Skills for Surgeons) and SOS (Safer Operative Surgery) courses, designed to improve intra-operative performance for both surgeons and the whole team. He was previously Clinical Director for Surgery in Lothian University Hospitals and is past-President of the Association of Upper Gastro-intestinal Surgeons of GB and Ireland (AUGIS). He is currently on the council of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

PROFESSOR J. JAN B. VAN LANSCHOT

J.J.B. (Jan) van Lanschot (1953) is currently Professor of Surgery at the Erasmus Medical Centre and Erasmus University, Rotterdam, the Netherlands. He qualified from the University of Utrecht (1980) and trained at the University Hospital Rotterdam-Dijkzigt (1982-1988), where he wrote his academic thesis on "Metabolic gas exchange in critically ill surgical patients". He spent one year as a basic research fellow with Professor Douglas Wilmore at the Brigham and Women's Hospital (Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA). From 1989 to 1992 he was assistant professor at the University Hospital Rotterdam-Dijkzigt, where he had a postgraduate training in upper GI surgery and in colorectal surgery. In 1993 he became associate professor of surgery in the Academic Medical Centre at the University of Amsterdam where he was appointed Professor of Surgical Oncology in 1999. In 2007 he returned to Rotterdam where he became chairman of the Department of Surgery (2007-2012).

He has held / holds a variety of managerial and executive appointments both locally and (inter-)nationally including programme director for Surgical Training at the AMC in Amsterdam, chairman of the Dutch Society of GI Surgery, board member of the Dutch Society of Surgery, chairman of European Digestive Surgery, chairman of the European Society for Diseases of the Esophagus, and treasurer of the European Surgical Association. He is editorial board member of several scientific journals, including British Journal of Surgery, Digestive Surgery, Diseases of the Esophagus and World Journal of Surgery. He is honorary member of the Dutch Society of GI Surgery, the Polish Society of Surgical Oncology, the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and the German Society of General and Visceral Surgery. He received (named) honorary medals of the University of Lublin (Poland), the Dutch Society of Gastroenterology and the Swedish Society of Medicine and Surgery. His research interests currently lie mainly in the field of oesophago-gastric surgery and particularly upper GI cancers. He has published more than 300 peer reviewed articles and more than 50 books / book chapters.

Professor S Michael Griffin

Professor Griffin was born in Newcastle upon Tyne and was educated in Edinburgh at Fettes College. He qualified at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne in 1978 and trained in surgery in the Northern Region. He spent a year at the Chinese University of Hong Kong studying oesophago-gastric cancer surgery and interventional endoscopy. He was appointed as Consultant Surgeon with an Upper GI interest at the Newcastle General Hospital in 1990 and developed the Northern Oesophago-Gastric Cancer Unit at the Newcastle General, setting up the first multi-disciplinary meeting for oesophago-gastric cancer in the United Kingdom in 1991. The unit moved to the Royal Victoria Infirmary, which has now expanded to include five dedicated oesophago-gastric cancer surgeons. The unit is now the largest in Europe and North America. He is a full-time NHS consultant but was awarded a personal Chair in Surgery at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne in 1999. He has championed the cause of specialization and has been instrumental in the Improving Outcomes programme for oesophageal and stomach cancer by encouraging the centralization of services in the United Kingdom. He continues to provide both general surgical and specialty on call and his major commitment is cancer surgery and therapeutic endoscopy. He has served on the SAC in General Surgery and was President of AUGIS from 2004-2006 and President of the European Society of Diseases of the Esophagus from 2011 to 2013. He is Chairman of the Intercollegiate Specialty Board and has been an expert adviser to NICE, NCEPOD, NHS R&D and the Department of Health. He has been responsible for a number of external reviews of cancer services throughout the UK and abroad and has published widely in the field of oesophago-gastric surgery holding visiting professorships in Europe, the United States and Asia. He is committed to improving surgical standards and education to provide more focused training to allow career development. His real love is rugby, having represented Scotland at international

levels. He loves all sport but in particular cricket and football and his support for Sunderland Football Club is well known. He was awarded an OBE for services to cancer healthcare in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours list.

Jürgen Weitz

After graduation of Medical School, University of Heidelberg and completion of his theses at the German Cancer Research Center, Jürgen Weitz received his surgical education at the Department of Surgery, University of Heidelberg and at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York. Currently, he is Chairman of the Department of Visceral, Thoracic and Vascular Surgery, University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus, Technical University, Dresden, Germany.

The main focus of his clinical work is the surgical management of patient with complex surgical oncological and Hepato-pancreatico-biliary conditions. He also has a broad background as liver, kidney and pancreas transplant surgeon. Regarding clinical research he has conducted several randomized controlled trials especially in HPB surgery. His translational research interests include detection and characterization of minimal residual disease in malignancies. He has published over 200 peer reviewed papers in the fields of hepato-biliary and pancreatic surgery, transplantation and surgical oncology

Paul D. Greig

Dr. Greig is Professor of Surgery at the University of Toronto where his academic and clinical focus is in Transplantation and HepatoPancreato-Biliary (HPB) Surgery. He is a Past President of the Canadian Society of Transplantation, former Chair of the Canadian Organ Replacement Register, and former Director of the Multiple Organ & Retrieval Programme of Toronto. He served as the Chair of the Perfusable Organs Subcommittee on the Canadian Standards for Cells Tissues and Organs for Transplantation Committee.

Dr. Greig is the Program Director of the Abdominal Organ Transplant Fellowship (accredited by the American Society of Transplant Surgeons). and the HPB Surgical Oncology Fellowship (accredited by The Fellowship Council). He has served the AHPBA as the Chair of the Education & Training Committee and is the representative to the Board of the Fellowship Council. He has served the ASTS as a member of the Curriculum Committee.

Dr. Greig's research interests are in liver transplantation, in particular disease-specific outcomes and living-donor transplantation, and in HPB Surgical Oncology, in particular outcomes of the multidisciplinary management of hepatocellular carcinoma.

Abstracts now open <http://www.queenstown2014.com/anzhpba> and [anzgosa 2014/call for abstracts](http://www.queenstown2014.com/anzgosa)

An overseas placement experience of an ANZGOSA fellow

Mr. Philip Le Page (ANZGOSA Fellow 2011-2013)

My family and I arrived in Edinburgh in the depth of winter in January 2013. The trip over was 30 hours and I had my flailing 2 year old son on my lap the whole way. After arriving sleepless at our unit around 3pm we all got ready to head out for a real meal as darkness was approaching. It took an hour for us to rug up and leave the unit.....only to turn straight back inside again, after 3 steps, as the hail and freezing wind battered us all - along with the effort of packing up our lives in Sydney and the bureaucratic hassles of the UK registration system, we wondered what we had got ourselves into. That was only a momentary thought however. My family and I relished the year overseas.

I had always wanted to work briefly overseas. Virtually all my mentors had done so, and I knew the different experiences would be enjoyable and beneficial. ANZGOSA was newly offering two overseas Fellow training posts in the UK, courtesy of the efforts of ANZGOSA committee members, so I saw this as an ideal opportunity. I was fortunate to be selected into the famous Edinburgh Unit headed by Simon Paterson-Brown. The training system there is very well organized and the consultants and registrars were very supportive and had planned how all trainees' experience could be optimised. On my first day it was straight into theatre for an Ivor Lewis Oesophagectomy. Over the year I would be involved with 40 gastro-oesophageal oncology resections (and the necessary aftercare) and it was great to hone standard Ivor Lewis procedures with 3 of the surgeons but still have the opportunity to develop laparoscopic and thoracoscopic resectional skills with 2 others. Other case mix particular to the unit included common bile duct

exploration (often involving lap choledochotomy) and benign OG work (lap. intrathoracic stomach/fundoplication; Heller's; Bariatrics including lap. gastric bypass). The consultant level supervision, involvement and teaching during the major cases allowed me to get the most out of them.

Given I was rotated through the acute surgical unit (and the night shifts) there was plenty of interesting laparotomies (fancy a samurai sword through the liver and IVC?) and thoracotomies (difficult acute Upper GIT referrals in the region such as Boerrhave's were sent there). The standard was acute cholecystectomy so I performed many of these and supervised others when staffing would allow. It is one of the busiest biliary units in the UK. Uniquely, the colorectal unit is based at a separate hospital in Edinburgh which meant we were undertaking general acute work – kept the general and emergency skills up and made me really think about if and when to refer for subspecialist treatment. It was important for me to be proactive and seek out opportunities, such as attending non-rostered theatre too for emergencies, like oesophageal perforations, and elective cases such as complex incisional hernias and abdominal wall reconstruction.

Experiencing a different health system both at the national NHS system level and locally was invaluable. Surgery has many of its roots in Edinburgh, as can be appreciated at the Surgeons Museum, where everyday tourists visit. It is also a very academic University affiliated hospital translating into significant involvement in clinical research and dedicated audit processes. Simon has been integral in understanding service delivery and educating non-technical skills for surgeons, and collaborated on this with Surgeons in Australia. I also travelled and presented to local scientific meetings, and had opportunities to present at USA and European meetings, further broadening my horizons. The professional collegiality, friendships and contacts I have made with some Scots and English is both rewarding and invaluable to me. I am maintaining these links and will be applying the acquired skills back home in Australia. I encourage others to consider the overseas Fellowships if the desire is there (contact me if you have any questions) and I thank ANZGOSA for the opportunity.

Naturally we had some time to travel around Scotland and a little of Europe. The history, the Highlands and the close proximity to fascinating towns and places were a real highlight, although travelling with the kids was challenge! Often it was best just to stay local and enjoy the local treats, like the Edinburgh Festival, Haggis and the diverse tastes of Scotch whisky (out of hours!). Which seems appropriate given in the 17th century, the Guild of Surgeon Barbers in Edinburgh was given the first and monopoly license to whisky production!

Secretariat

Please feel free to contact our Executive Officer, Leanne Rogers, should you have any queries.

Contact details are: 08 8278 1249 (phone), 08 8278 1249 (fax), or, anzgosa@gmail.com.

Postal address:

P.O. Box 374, Belair S.A. 5052

ANZGOSA Board and committees

The current Board is:

President	Ross Roberts (New Zealand)
Past President	Mark Smithers (QLD)
Secretary	
Treasurer	Tim Bright (SA)
Board members	David Martin (NSW)
	Gary Crosthwaite (Vic)
	Rob Bohmer (Tas)
	Sarah Thompson (SA)
	Wendy Brown (VIC)
	Krishna Epari (WA)
	Andrew MacCormick (NZ)
	Neil Merrett (NSW)
	Ahmad Aly (VIC)

Training Committee

Gary Crosthwaite (Chairman)
Ross Roberts (ANZGOSA President)
Tim Bright
David Martin
Gary Crosthwaite
Neil Merrett
Simon Bann
Emma Johnston
Richard Cade

Audit and Research Committee

Sarah Thompson (Chairman)
Ahmad Aly
George Kiroff
Andrew Barbour
Peter Cosman
Krishna Epari
Ross Roberts (ANZGOSA President)

Membership Liaison Committee

Wendy Brown (chairman)
Ross Roberts (ANZGOSA President)
Rob Bohmer
Andrew MacCormick
Non exec member 1
Non exec member 2
Non exec member 3
Fellow representative



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