



ANZGOSA

Australia & New Zealand  
Gastric & Oesophageal  
Surgery Association

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 19

February 2014

## **President's Report**

I feel very fortunate to be the President of ANZGOSA at such an exciting time for the Association. This is to a large degree thanks to the contribution Mark Smithers made while President and once again I would like to thank him for his efforts. We have recently enjoyed an outstanding Federation of Gastroenterology Societies meeting in Melbourne which was very well run by Ahmad Aly from our side. Our invited speaker Karl Fuchs from Frankfurt gave us a great perspective on new procedures such as POEM (Per-Oral Endoscopy Myotomy) for achalasia and we all enjoyed his good natured approach.

The ANZGOSA/ANZHPBA Fellows training weekend was once again highly successful and credit goes to Gary Crosthwaite as the convenor for creating the programme. Leanne Rogers (as always) ensured the event ran without a hitch – no small achievement with so many to organise!

We have a lot to look forward to – in October (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>) we will be joining the ANZHPBA for our 4 yearly combined meeting in Queenstown with all the attractions of a top class venue and an interesting programme. The inaugural meeting in 2010 was highly enjoyable and this year we have a stellar line up of international and local speakers confirmed. The ANZGOSA International guests include 2 past presidents of the Association of Upper Gastrointestinal

Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland - Mr Simon Brown from Edinburgh and Professor Michael Griffin of Newcastle upon Tyne. Both are well known to ANZGOSA members and we look forward to their further contribution. Our third ANZGOSA international speaker is J.J.B. van Lanschot, who is the Professor of Surgery at Erasmus University in Rotterdam. Jan is an expert in oesophageal cancer and he will be talking on the role of surgery in squamous cell carcinoma and the clinical implications of the landmark CROSS study (of which he is a co-author). Further information regarding these speakers and the ANZHPBA guests is available on page 6 of this newsletter. Our AGM will be held during this meeting and all are welcome.

ANZGOSA is due to host two outstanding meetings in 2015 which are both new to our events calendar. Mark Smithers will be convening the 5<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Gastro-esophageal Cancer Congress (APGCC) on the 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> March next year in Brisbane. This will be preceded by the IsDEAS meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> March and it will be the first time that the APGCC has been hosted in Australasia. *Do not miss this meeting.* We have now also confirmed a combined ANZGOSA and OSSANZ meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> October 2015 which will be convened by Neil Merrett from the ANZGOSA side. The venue will be Hamilton Island and this promises to be a fantastic meeting with a focus on benign Upper GI conditions.

ANZGOSA is making good progress in all core areas including training, quality initiatives such as audit and assistance with international experience. We have an enlarging membership which is pleasing.

Definitely an exciting time to be a member.

Ross Roberts

President

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## **Future Dates**

### 2014

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

### 2015

5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.anzgosa.org/members_area.html)

## **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](mailto:anzgosa@gmail.com).

Postal address:

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

## **ANZGOSA Members**

We welcome all our new members

## **Financial Report**

A full financial report and Treasurers' report was provided, and emailed, to all members after the AGM on October 7th, for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

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.anzgos.org](http://www.anzgos.org) we are keeping you up to date with the latest regarding our Association.

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



## **Membership**

Membership numbers are steadily growing with a membership now around 170.

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.anzgos.org](http://www.anzgos.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 2014 Fellows are now closed. Advertisements for 2015 will be placed in the 2014 February Surgical News and the ANZGOSA website. Ultimately accepting a Fellow will be at the discretion of the training unit. Hospital Unit site inspections will occur once you receive a Fellow and Fellow offers occur from late June 2014.

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](mailto: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, 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

## **Post Fellowship Training in Upper GI Surgery**

Applications are invited from eligible Post Fellowship Trainees for training in Upper GI Surgery. ANZGOSA's Post Fellowship Training Program is for Upper GI surgeons. The program consists of two years education and training following completion of a general surgery fellowship. A portion of the program will include clinical research. A successful Fellowship in Upper GI surgery will involve satisfactory completion of the curriculum requirements, completion of research requirements, minimum of twenty four months clinical training, successful case load achievement, and assessment. Successful applicants will be assigned to an accredited hospital unit.

For further information please contact the Executive Officer at [anzgosa@gmail.com](mailto:anzgosa@gmail.com)

To be eligible to apply, applicants should have FRACS or sitting FRACS exam in May 2014. Any exam fails will not be offered an interview.

Applicants should submit a CV, an outline of career plans and nominate four references, one must be Head of Unit, (with email addresses and mobile phone numbers), to Leanne Rogers, Executive Officer ANZGOSA, P.O. Box 374, Belair S.A. 5052, or email [anzgosa@gmail.com](mailto:anzgosa@gmail.com).

Applicants will need to be able to attend interviews which will be held late May 2014 in Melbourne.

Applications close 5pm, Friday March 28<sup>th</sup> 2014.

## Post Fellowship Training in Upper GI Surgery 2014

We welcome our 2014 year 1 and 2 ANZGOSA Fellows and wish them all a successful year as they start their hospital unit placements –

Richard Chen to Concord Hospital  
Jacob Vanyai to John Hunter Hospital  
Alexandra Gordon to Christchurch Hospital NZ  
Niruben Rajasagaram to The Alfred Hospital  
Mary Ann Johnson to Box Hill Hospital  
Nicholas Evennett to North Shore Hospital NZ  
Michael Tan to Austin Hospital  
Michael Devadas to Royal North Shore Hospital  
Kontoku Shimokawa to Flinders Medical Centre  
Matthew Henderson to Fremantle Hospital  
David Links to Newcastle (UK) 3<sup>rd</sup> Year  
Damien Loh to Bankstown/Liverpool Hospital 3<sup>rd</sup> Year

## 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](mailto:anzgosa.audit@surgeons.org)

## **New to the Audit –**

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

## Annual Meeting 2014

### **\*\* DIARY DATE \*\***

2 – 3 October, 2014

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.

***Please keep reviewing the meeting website for regular updates and programme information. Abstracts will open in February. Registration will open in May.***

[http://www.queenstown2014.com/anzhpba\\_and\\_anzgosa\\_2014](http://www.queenstown2014.com/anzhpba_and_anzgosa_2014)

## ANZGOSA Board and committees

The current Board is:

<b>President</b>	Ross Roberts (New Zealand))
<b>Past President</b>	Mark Smithers (QLD)
<b>Secretary</b>	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tim Bright (SA)
<b>Board members</b>	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 Committee

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

### Research Committee

Mark Smithers (Chairman)  
Wendy Brown  
Tim Bright  
Andrew Barbour

## New Board Member

We welcome new Board Member David Martin (NSW). We look forward to David's contribution to ANZGOSA over the next twelve months.



## Industry Partner Pages

### Major Industry Partners



**COVIDIEN**

**Applied**  
Medical



*A New Generation Medical Device Company*

### Industry Supporter

**Johnson & Johnson**  
MEDICAL