

NEWSLETTER



AUGUST 2023



PRESIDENTS REPORT

ELIZABETH MURPHY

Welcome to mid-year 2023 CSSANZ newsletter.

I hope that you are all well. This newsletter aims to update you on what the CSSANZ Council has been doing on behalf of Society Members. We look forward to hearing any feedback and will do our very best to represent your interests and those of the patients we look after.

CSSANZ Council has been hard at work in a variety of areas, with the assistance of Leticia and the team in the office. Hopefully you have all had an opportunity to explore the new website. Leticia, Marita, and Chris Gillespie have spent a lot of time preparing for the launch of the website and I am sure you will all agree that it is an excellent user-friendly interface, with the member management system providing many benefits beyond the previous version of the website.

The transition from BCCA to BCOR is progressing with the new BCOR board now operational. Board members are:

- Professor Sandy Heriot,
- Dr Elizabeth Murphy, representing CSSANZ,
- Professor Frank Frizelle with his wealth of experience on the prostate cancer outcomes registry,
- Dr Nik Zeps, Director of Research for Northern Health in Victoria and Director of Operations for the Prostate Cancer Outcomes registry,
- Mr Gavin Fox-Smith from Bowel Cancer Australia,
- Professor Cheri Ostroff from the University of South Australia,
- Ms Margaret Fitzherbert, CEO of the McKinnon Institute for Political Leadership.

There is a wealth of diverse experience on the Board, and we should look forward to some exciting developments as the Board helps to support and grow BCOR.

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PRESIDENTS REPORT ELIZABETH MURPHY

The Council has been active supporting Members and patients interests in many areas. The proposed revisions to the prosthesis list in Australia have been deferred beyond June 30th which was the original planned date for the changes. As you are all likely aware, the proposed changes with "bundling" of care has significant negative implications for many of our patients requiring stapling devices. Council Members have been involved in multiple meetings with industry, the AMA and other gastrointestinal surgery society representatives, and provided several submissions to government. We will continue to advocate strongly in this area.

I personally am also involved along with radiologists in a proposal to extend MRI reimbursement for restaging MRIs post neoadjuvant treatment for rectal cancer which has had a favourable preliminary response from government. I am also soon to meet with representatives from the AASTN regarding work on acquiring an MBS item number for stomal therapy. We will keep you informed.

I had the privilege recently of being involved in the interviews for the Training Board recently, which involved a day and a half of interviews and meetings on Zoom with considerable work beforehand in shortlisting of candidates. The calibre of the candidates interviewed was extremely high and it is a testament to the ANZTBCRS' efforts and the excellent training that members of CSSANZ provide for fellows that make the program so sought after. The ANZTBCRS Fellows' weekend is approaching in late August in Adelaide, and I am sure the papers and presentations will continue to be of a very high standard.

I have had the opportunity to attend several meetings, to date in 2023 including the RACS ASC in Adelaide, the ASCRS meeting in Seattle, and the recent Sydney Colorectal meeting. All three meetings had scientific programs which were of a very high standard, and it was wonderful to catch up with old friends and colleagues and to make some new acquaintances. The Spring Meeting is in the Gold Coast in November this year, with Mark Doudle and team curating an excellent program. Invited guests include Sharon Stein from Cleveland in the USA, Jurriaan Tuynman from Amsterdam in the Netherlands and Tarik Sammour from Adelaide. I look forward to catching up with these guests and many of you there.

In closing, thanks for all your hard work, and please do not hesitate to contact myself, other CSSANZ Councillors or office staff, if there is anything that we can assist with. I look forward to continuing working on your behalf in 2023 and into 2024.



Liz Murphy





EGM REPORT

LETICIA DELMENICO

Many changes at the CSSANZ Office.

In May we farewelled Vicki Burnett, Vicki has been an integral part of the CSSANZ team over the last 2.5 years, during a considerable period of change for the organisation. Personally, I have been incredibly grateful for Vicki's support. In such an active organisation, Vicki's attention to detail and being on top of the multiple schedules have been invaluable. Her kind and gentle nature, with that beautiful smile, have always been welcomed. She will be missed!

We welcome Yuli Gouw to the CSSANZ Team.



L-R CW Marita, Eva, Leticia, Yuli, Vicki and Hayat (missing Marie)

The CSSANZ office space has had some exciting (and much needed) workspace and amenities upgrades!

All CSSANZ Staff now have their own desk space, no more sharing, which was reducing productivity and workplace flexibility. Desk partitions have been installed to reduce office noise and create a more modernised and tranquil environment.

Air flow was a great issue, which has been solve by installation of a commercial air purifier.

Staff have contributed to improving the amenities by suppling a coffee maker and sandwich press, keeping everyone happy!



NEW

Website ***cssanz.org***

Members - log in and take control:

- Update your contact information
- Access membership invoices
- Make payments
- **Find a Surgeon** – Members can have multiple practice locations listed
- **Jobs Board** – Members can advertise job vacancies free of charge
- **Resource Library** – featuring Fellows' Training Weekend Papers, Journal Club articles and so much more.
- Dedicated Fellows hub
- Dedicated Accredited Hospital Training Units (AHTU) hub

Watch out for more features in our weekly Members' Update emails.





Members of Mention

Where are they now?

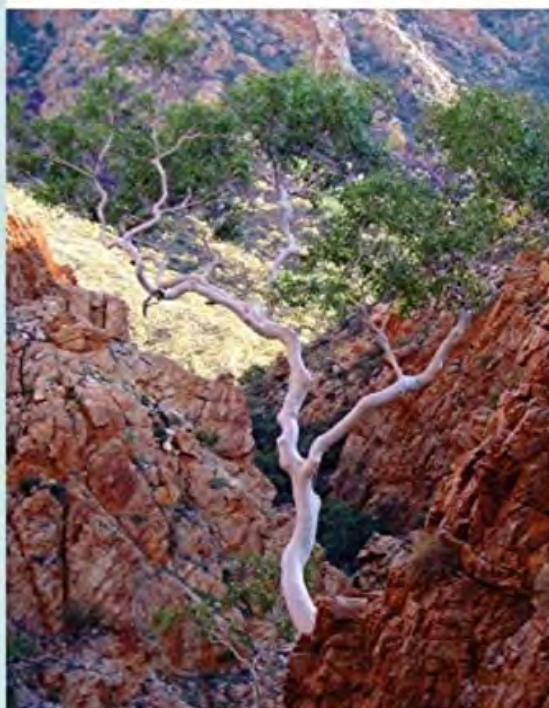
DAVID WATTCHOW

My retirement from surgery several years ago was coincident with the Covid outbreak. This limited travel both in Australia and overseas. I remain connected with Flinders university and my colleagues in Human physiology. I was able to continue, albeit virtually, to supervise students to complete their higher degrees. Thus I have continued an arm of the research/teaching/clinical practice mantra. I also advise the medical school on student teaching and try to keep the student agenda 'free'.

I also used this time to record my journey through medicine, starting with the inaugural class at Flinders university in 1974. This was published – it proved to be a big task.

AS THE TWIG IS BENT, SO GROWS THE TREE

A personal history of medicine at Flinders



DAVID WATTCHOW



It is available at:

<https://booko.com.au/9781922890269/As-The-Twig-Is-Bent-So-Grows-The-Tree>

This allegorical account contains messages for students, trainees, and colleagues. I have kept busy with various projects, in and out of medicine. I have written several reviews in my field of human gut physiology. I have also read and assessed several theses.

My wife, Margaret, and I have embarked on home renovations. These proved bigger than any of the above tasks. Our children are adults, now pursuing their own careers.

I try to keep healthy with exercises. I keep in contact with retired surgical colleagues for lunch regularly, as well as old classmates from medical school days. We are planning a celebration of 50 years since enrolling in medicine next year.

General distilled advice. You will be well paid no matter your appointment. Invest wisely and don't do anything rash and you will be well provided for- and don't worry. Be competent but above all be kind. Thus you will be endeared to patients and staff.

David and Margaret



Members of Mention

Retired Members

JOHN LUMLEY

One of the Societies luminaries and pioneers of laparoscopic colorectal surgery has just recently retired from clinical practice. John is a graduate of the University of Queensland and trained in General Surgery through the Royal Brisbane Hospital. John was an early adopter of laparoscopic surgery having been fortunate to be at the Royal Brisbane Hospital when pioneers in hepatobiliary and upper GI surgery, Les Nathanson and George Fielding returned to Brisbane. He was involved in the first laparoscopic colectomy in the southern hemisphere with Russell Stitz in 1991 after which he completed the Australasian post-fellowship colorectal surgical program from 1993-1994.

John completed fellowship years at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and the Royal Brisbane Hospital before joining with Russell Stitz at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital as a Visiting Medical Officer and commenced private practice at the Wesley Hospital. Russell and John made the Royal Brisbane Hospital the pre-eminent centre in Australia and New Zealand, indeed internationally, for minimally invasive colorectal surgery during the 1990's and 2000's. This was assisted by the recruitment of Andrew Stevenson in 1998. He was integral to the training of many Australian and New Zealand Surgeons in both surgical technique and wine appreciation. Through the Royal Brisbane's International Fellow Program, he has helped train over 20 international surgeons from throughout the UK, Ireland, the Netherlands, USA, Singapore and Saudi Arabia. He was integrally involved in research in minimally invasive surgery through the ALCCaS and ALaCaRT trial.



Although John left the Royal Brisbane Hospital in 2003 to dedicate himself to private practice, he continued to have an integral part of over 200 workshops for surgeons and fellows.

John's other interests include horse racing and wine. He was always partial to provide advice about his latest great hope on the track. His interest in wine led to many a diversion during the ASC or Spring meeting to the local vineyards to sample the simpler pleasures in life.

John recently retired from private practice In March 2023 to spend more time with his wife, Carmel, and to more fully devote himself to the form guide.

By: Damien Peterson, Andrew Stevenson and David Clark

**Share
with
us!**

If you have any news or images that you feel would be worth sharing, we gladly accept members' contributions that may be published in our newsletters or on our website. Please send your contributions to:
cssanz@cssanz.org



Members of Mention

Retired Members

ANDREW HUNTER

As a trainer and educator, Andrew has left a lasting impact on medical students, junior doctors, registrars and fellows from Australia, New Zealand and overseas.

This is also highlighted by his years volunteering as an examiner in General Surgery which demonstrated his commitment to maintaining excellence in training surgeons of the future.

Andrew's work in initiating the Bi-National Colorectal Cancer Audit and subsequently acting as Chair of the Steering Committee was instrumental in establishing and growing this important institution, which will be a lasting legacy to his work.

By: Elizabeth Murphy



JAMES MOORE



Last day at the Royal Adelaide Hospital

James Moore started work at the Royal Adelaide Hospital 1985, and has been an instrumental figure at the colorectal unit there, with leadership roles as head of unit of colorectal surgery, and as director of surgery. He has had a significant impact on training, research, and development of the colorectal unit since that time. James' last day at the RAH, before extended long service leave, was celebrated by his fellow consultants at an event at The Lane Vineyard in Hahndorf. Thank you James for your significant contributions to public service in colorectal surgery, and to the CSSANZ as ex-president and as current chair of the CSSANZ foundation.

By Tarik Sammour



Members of Mention

Honours and Accolades

PROF GRAHAM NEWSTEAD

Retired, Life and Founding Member of
CSSANZ

Congratulations to Prof Graham Newstead
who has been made an Honorary Fellow of
the American College of Surgeons:

<https://www.jwire.com.au/major-u-s-medical-award-for-sydney-surgeon/>



DR RODNEY JAMES WOODS, OAM

Ordinary Member CSSANZ



Rodney was awarded Medal of the Order of
Australia for service to medicine as a
surgeon, and to water polo.

DR MICHAEL DAVID LEVITT, AM

Ordinary Member CSSANZ

Michael was awarded Member of the Order
of Australia for significant service to
medical administration, and to professional
associations.



CSSANZ LIFE MEMBERSHIP

CSSANZ Life Membership awards are
discretionary awards given to those who
hold Ordinary or Foundation Membership
and have been deemed by the CSSANZ
Council to have made a particularly
meritorious contribution to the Company
and/or the practice of colorectal surgery
in Australia or New Zealand.

The CSSANZ Council is asking members
for nominations for a limited number of
Life Memberships to be awarded at this
year's CR-23 Spring Meeting. Please send
your nominations with a brief explanation
of why you believe your nomination
should be considered to:

cssanz@cssanz.org



Conferences

RACS ASC | ADELAIDE - MAY 2023

We were privileged to be awarded the CSSANZ / Medtronic Visiting Colorectal Surgeon Grant for 2023. This was used to help fund a special guest to attend the RACS ASC in Adelaide in May. Dr. Songphol Malakorn visited us from Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand and spent 5 days in Adelaide attending the ASC and touring the North Terrace Adelaide Biomedical Precinct during his stay. He was also an invited guest at both Colorectal Section and Congress Dinners.

Dr Malakorn presented two invited talks at the ASC. The first was focussed on minimally invasive complex pelvic exenteration with novel flap reconstruction (specifically colonic flaps for vaginal reconstruction). This talk was quite eye opening for many attendees, even those of use with some exenteration experience as it informed us of yet another option for pelvic reconstruction which many of us had not yet been familiar with.

he second talk was an update on the LIFT procedure (Ligation of Intersphincteric Fistula Tract). Dr Malakorn has beenT

involved in the LIFT procedure for peri-anal fistula since its inception as an operation (it was invented at his local hospital). We heard interesting insights into further developments in this field, particularly for more complex fistulas where many of us may not have considered LIFT as a viable option.

Overall, this was a highly successful visit and we are grateful to have had this time with Dr Malakorn both educationally and socially (see photo attached). He has also expressed a specific interest in furthering the connection with ANZ colleagues and establishing clinical and academic links between Thailand and Australia. I have it on good authority that he went home adorned with a fresh pair of RM Williams boots, having commented during the meeting that they seemed to be a favourite of the locals!

By Tarik Sammour – Medtronic Visiting Surgeon recipient.





Conferences

RACS ASC | ADELAIDE - MAY 2023

CSSANZ COUNCIL, FOUNDATION & ANZTBCRS MEMBERS WITH FELLOWS



Small Job - Big Impact

We need a Colorectal Surgeon volunteer to assist in assigning keywords to the Fellows' Training Weekend papers and Journal Club articles in the CSSANZ Resource Library.

If you are available please email!

cssanz@cssanz.org





Conferences

ASCRS| SEATTLE - 3-6 JUNE 2023



As a Colorectal Research Fellow at Concord Hospital, I am grateful to have been selected by the CSSANZ and Medtronic for the Travel Fellowship Grant. This remarkable opportunity allowed me to present my research titled "Splenic flexure cancer survival: a 25-year experience and implications for complete mesocolic excision (CME) and central vascular ligation (CVL)" at the renowned American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (ASCRS) Annual Scientific Meeting in Seattle, USA. Beyond the honor of showcasing my findings to an esteemed international

audience, the impact of this grant extended much further. The COVID-19 pandemic had created significant challenges, particularly in terms of limited travel and reduced opportunities for face-to-face interactions. Therefore, this in-person gathering at the ASCRS meeting felt like a breath of fresh air—a chance to engage, mingle, and collaborate with leading minds in the field of colorectal research. The experience of networking, exchanging ideas, and collaborating with like-minded professionals proved to be truly revitalizing. The relationships formed and the knowledge gained from this experience will undoubtedly have a lasting impact on my career as a colorectal surgeon.

Moreover, this trip to Seattle offered me more than just an intellectual experience. It provided me with the wonderful opportunity to experience the beauty and vibrancy of a city I had never explored until now. Exploring the local culture, landmarks, and cuisine further enriched my journey and made the whole experience even more rewarding.

I extend my sincerest gratitude to the CSSANZ and Medtronic for this all-rounded opportunity.

By Krishanth Naidu – Medtronic Travelling Fellowship recipient.

With thanks

CSSANZ would like to thank Medtronic for their continued support and contribution to education

Medtronic
Further, Together



Conferences

ASCRS| SEATTLE - 3-6 JUNE 2023

I was fortunate to attend the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (ASCRS) Annual Scientific Meeting earlier this year with the generous support of the CSSANZ and Medtronic via a Travel Fellowship Grant. The meeting was held in June in Seattle, Washington – and thankfully the only week of the year without rain in the Pacific North West! I was grateful for the opportunity to deliver an oral presentation of our work titled "Pelvic exenteration for anal squamous cell carcinoma: oncological, morbidity and quality of life outcomes". Our authorship team, from Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, were delighted to be recognised with The Canadian Society of Colon & Rectal Surgeons Surgical Resident Podium Presentation award (pictured). The meeting program was excellent, with cutting edge updates from world experts on the management of benign and malignant colorectal diseases, including total neoadjuvant treatment for rectal cancer,

anastomotic techniques for Crohn's disease, and a great overview of beyond TME pelvic anatomy from CSSANZ president Dr Elizabeth Murphy.

The meeting was a wonderful opportunity to meet face to face with colorectal surgeons from US centres with whom I have established academic collaborations as part of my my current Notaras research fellowship year. Other highlights of the meeting included the excellent presentations from fellow CSSANZ trainees and registrars from Australia and New Zealand, in particular 2022 Mark Killingback award winner Dr Kasmira Wilson's talk on immune profile of rectal tumours. I am incredibly grateful for the support of CSSANZ and Medtronic which enabled me to attend ASCRS.

By Kilian Brown – Medtronic Travelling Fellowship recipient.





Conferences

ACPGBI | MANCHESTER - 3-5 JULY 2023

As a budding exenterative surgeon I opted to use my ACPGBI travelling fellowship to visit the leading UK centres for beyond TME surgery. After presenting at the meeting in Manchester I headed to Leeds to St James Hospital, where I was hosted by Mr Jim Tiernan. In two days I saw two total pelvic exenterations and an additional pelvic sidewall dissection.

Partaking in the famous "Pork Pie Friday" while hearing Professor Peter Sagar's charismatic tales of a lifelong friendship formed with one of my mentors when they were my stage of training was a memorable experience.

From there I travelled to London, to Royal Marsden Hospital. It was during a quiet period for clinical activity for the Colorectal unit but it was great to see how an Oncology-led MDM ran and spending time in theatre.

The last stop on my tour was St Mark's hospital where Ms Elaine Burns and Mr Ian Jenkins had a fantastic programme in store; day one had a total pelvic exenteration.

The next day I learnt about their prehabilitation/anaesthesia program and spent the afternoon in the complex cancer MDM which was very comprehensive (and they made sure I was an active participant offering an antipodean opinion rather than just a fly on the wall!).

Overall, I had a fantastic trip, learning so much both operatively and outside of theatre. I would like to once again extend my thanks to my hosts for their superb hospitality, and the ACPGBI for this incredibly valuable experience.

By Greg Turner the ANZTBCRS Fellow who won ACPGBI Travelling Fellowship.





ANZTBCRS

QUICK VIEW

ANZTBCRS Fellows in 2023

- 34 in total
- 4 Research Year
- 2 part time Fellows at Royal Melbourne Hospital – one first year, one second year.
- 11 full time First Year Clinical.
- 16 full time Second Year Clinical.
- 1 Fellow deferred for 2023.

Exit Fellows

- 5 have completed their Presentation and Publication requirements and been signed off by the Training Board
- 15 remaining Exit Fellows who have not achieved either publication and / or presentation.

Applications to 2024 Program

- 59 Applicants to 2024 program
- 27 Applicants short listed for interview
- 17 applicants were accepted into the program

Including:

- 10 for clinical positions in Australia and New Zealand
- 2 for clinical positions in the United Kingdom
- one clinical in the USA
- 4 research positions.

ANZTBCRS FELLOWS REPRESENTATIVE CAMERON LAW

I'm a second-year clinical fellow on the ANZTBCRS program and proud to serve as the Fellow's Representative.

An intrepid explorer, I was born in South Africa and later emigrated to the UK, obtaining my medical degree from The University of Nottingham. In 2013 I travelled to Australia with the intent of experiencing the Australian medical system for "just a year", and now in 2023 I'm an Australian citizen, have my FRACS in General Surgery, and am a CSSANZ trainee, with ambitions of building my long-term surgical career Down Under. The beautiful weather, the pristine coastline and the wonderful people make this country hard to leave!

My first year of CSSANZ post-fellowship training was spent at Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney, where I gained experience in a variety of open and minimally invasive surgery. Now in my second year, I'm at The Tweed and John Flynn Hospitals on the border of NSW/QLD, where I've gained significant exposure to robotic surgery and anorectal physiology assessment for complex pelvic floor disorders. I'm particularly interested in robotic pelvic surgery, and I have plans to pursue further training in London next year.

As the fellow's representative, I've had the pleasure of engaging with the BCCA operations committee, the training board and the CSSANZ council members, working to enhance trainee experiences. I believe that by understanding collective experiences, you can shape future learning and improve upon training delivery.

In my personal time, I'm a keen open water swimmer and avid runner, and I recently completed the Gold Coast marathon. A challenging yet rewarding goal to achieve during a very busy final year of training!





CSSANZ Foundation Grants

The Foundation Board has now finalised the projects which will be funded for 2024. There was AUD \$40,000 available this year, 16 applications were received, reviewed, and ranked by the Foundation Research Committee (FRC). On behalf of that committee,

Stephen Smith (Chair of the FRC), recommended that the projects below be funded, and this recommendation was endorsed by the Board.

The successful projects are:

Applicant	Short Title	Grant Amount
Prof Tim Eglinton	Using AI to predict lymph node metastases in colorectal cancer	AUD\$20,000
Dr Kheng-Seong Ng	RCT of home-based biofeedback therapy in patients with faecal incontinence	AUD\$10,000
Prof Alexander Heriot Dr Anshini Jain	Can cancer outcomes post-surgery and chemotherapy for colorectal abdominal metastases be improved by using chemotherapy drugs that are individualised to a patient's specific tumour sensitivity?	AUD\$10,000

DONATE NOW

Support research into colorectal disease in Australia and New Zealand

A donation to the CSSANZ Foundation can be made using the following link:

 cssanz.org

 admin@cssanz.org





BCCA/BCOR

IN MEMORY OF NICOLE COOPER, OAM 1984 - 2023

Nicole Cooper, beloved Wife of Tim, devoted Mother of Josh, BCCA/BCOR patient representative, BCOR founding Board Member and passionate and dedicated cancer patient advocate, passed away in January 2023 at the age of 38.

Nicole was diagnosed with metastatic colorectal cancer age 32 and devoted a phenomenal amount of time to advocacy and charitable work following that diagnosis. She placed her successful career in management consulting on hold to help drive improvements in cancer care in a myriad of ways. Nicole became one of the most well-known and respected cancer patient advocates in Australia.

Nicole's advocacy and charitable contributions were numerous and impacted many lives. She served as an ambassador for Bowel Cancer Australia, and was a member of the Exercise and Cancer Advisory Committee of the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services.

She was a consumer advocate for the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre, the face of the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia's statement on Exercise and Cancer, and a director of the not-for-profit cancer and exercise charity, Ex-Med Cancer.

But it is with BCCA/BCOR that her capacity to effect change was demonstrated. The evolution of BCCA from a surgically focussed audit to a fully fledged disease based cancer outcomes registry (BCOR) would not have been possible if not for her efforts. The loss of her drive and expertise will be felt by all involved in BCOR. Nicole will be deeply missed by her husband, Tim, and son, Josh, as well as by the countless lives she touched through her advocacy and charitable efforts. May she rest in peace and continue to inspire future generations of clinicians, patients and healthcare providers to make a difference to bowel cancer outcomes through BCOR.

Nicole was awarded a posthumous Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia for her numerous contributions in health advocacy.





BCCA/BCOR

BCOR BOARD

BCOR are please to announce the appointment of seven members to the newly established BCOR entity. Along with the name change, designed to better reflect the purpose of the registry and align with other outcomes registry partners, Board members bring broad expertise to the task of expanding the scope of the registry and growing the reporting capability.

The appointed Board Members are:

Ms Margaret Fitzherbert
Mr Gavin Fox-Smith
Prof Frank Frizelle
Prof Sandy Heriot (Chair)
Dr Liz Murphy
Prof Cheri Ostroff
Mr Nik Zeps

FUTURE PLANS

The two immediate interrelated tasks for BCOR are to obtain sustainable funding and to update the current database, which is badly out of date.

Slow progress has been made on both fronts.

BCOR is currently funded by CSSANZ members and needs to develop independent funding streams, ideally because the activity of the registry provides value to clinicians, health providers, patients and the broader community.

With the principle that clinical quality registries need clinician guidance to ensure the registry maintains utility and focus, and avoid politicisation, it should also be noted that both internationally and nationally, registries of this nature are not generally funded by the clinicians themselves as is currently the case with BCOR.

Now that BCOR is a registered charity the task of funding is easier, and BCOR is actively pursuing opportunities across a range of research, government, industry and direct community fronts.

On the database development side underlying work in updating data fields and aligning them with international partners is largely complete, though implementation will require additional funding.

The BCOR team look forward to moving on these objectives.

Visit: <https://bowelcanceraudit.com/>



COLLABORATION

ICORC

BCOR is a founding member of the International Colorectal Cancer Outcomes Registry Collaboration. This project current has ten member countries and is working on aligning data fields as well as develop cross border research projects.

ICORC is looking to expand member countries. If you have a contact in a cancer registry overseas please let us know.



Research Support Committee

RSC CHAIR REPORT STEVE SMITH

One of the various committees that make up the fabric of the CSSANZ is the Research Support Committee. This committee both assists with approval and guidance for the ANZTBCRS fellow research projects and reviews and approves the research surveys that are sent out regularly to members.

Comprised of:

- Sze-Lin Peng - Auckland,
- Tim Eglinton - Christchurch,
- Peter Lee - Sydney
- Steve Smith - Newcastle

The Research Support Committee is guided by the wonderful Marita Beard in the CSSANZ office. While we meet informally, as most of the discussions regarding this form of research happen on an ad-hoc basis needing fairly rapid reviews, there is a moderate amount of work required reviewing various projects. This provides good stimulus and also keeps us at the forefront of research knowledge.

The CSSANZ has a vibrant history of research, particularly with respect to surveys. Our members have always been willing to participate in these surveys where possible and that has resulted in a number of publications and higher degree projects over the years. On the next pages is a list of such projects coming out of the recent surveys that many of you will be familiar with.

The Research Support Committee review all surveys prior to their release to ensure they are: of adequate quality, have appropriate ethics approvals, are applicable to the membership, are thought provoking and most of all will lead to assisting and guiding patient management and education.

The Research Support Committee review all surveys prior to their release to ensure they are: of adequate quality, have appropriate ethics approvals, are applicable to the membership, are thought provoking and most of all will lead to assisting and guiding patient management and education. While we have no role in the conduct and authorship of the surveys, there is a certain amount of pride we glean from the finished project.

Only six surveys per year are approved and sent out. This is designed to specifically limit the survey burden and maintain quality. What we would ask of members is that you make every effort to take the time to perform these surveys. The response rate of late is dropping. It is appreciated that everyone is becoming more time poor, but it is a truism that the opinions of the busiest surgeons, while hard to obtain, are probably the most important ones needed for surveys.

Please take the 5-10 minutes every couple of months to assist your colleagues and perform these surveys. They result in higher degrees, publications, assist with commencement of clinical trials and most importantly help improve our patient management.



2022 CSSANZ Survey Outcomes

Month	Investigators (Member as PI)	Survey Topic	Response rate	Survey Outcomes
Feb-22	Jean WONG, Alexander HERIOT	Sarcopenia and colorectal cancer in Australia and New Zealand: Identifying current practice	16% total response of 336 Members emailed	Wong J, Khan A, Kong J, Warriar S, Heriot A. Sarcopenia: the 'hidden' marker of surgical outcome. ANZJS 2022; 92(12), 3128–3129. https://doi.org/10.1111/ans.17867
Apr-22	David CLARK, Ruben RAJAN , Aleks EDMUNDSON	Preferred anastomotic configuration after ileocolic resection for Crohn's disease	39.5% total response of 342 Members emailed	The survey founded the ANZ perspective piece and the protocol for the Modified Kono S RCT. The protocol for the RCT is published on the ANZ Clinical Trials Registry: Trial Registration: ACTRN12622000809730 Presentations have been delivered at the RBWH Grand Rounds and the Oxford JR, Colorectal Symposium, UK “New paradigms in IBD surgery” 16th December 2022. A further invited presentation on the study is planned for the Spring Meeting in November 2023.
Jun-22	Matthew NG, David PROUD	Watch and Wait in Colorectal Cancer - the pattern of uptake amongst colorectal surgeons	27.97% total response of 336 Members emailed	The survey has been presented at the following: - Ng M, Yahya Z, Maung H, Proud D. Watch and Wait in Rectal Cancer – Variations in practice across Australia. RACS ASC 2023, May 2023, Adelaide, Australia. - Ng M, Yahya Z, Maung H, Proud D. Watch and Wait in Rectal Cancer – Uptake and protocols across Australia and New Zealand. RACS ASC 2023, May 2023, Adelaide, Australia. - Ng M, Yahya Z, Maung H, Proud D. Can a Watch and Wait approach to rectal cancer management be reasonably delivered in a regional setting? RACS ASC 2023, May 2023, Adelaide, Australia.
Jul-22	Mitchell GOOCH, Jonathon HONG	Colorectal Surgeons perspective of Patient Reported Outcome Measures in Inflammatory Bowel Disease	20.42% total response of 333 Members emailed	Dr Gooch has completed his Masters project and has also presented the findings as a poster presentation at the RACS ASC.
Sep-22	Kirsten LARKINS and Sandy HERIOT	Training and Education in Robotic Colorectal Surgery	23.5% total response of 331 Members emailed	This survey was presented as a poster in the Colorectal section of the RACS ACS this year
Oct-22	Andrew ZAMMIT and David CLARK	Assessing risk of residual disease or lymph node metastases posed by colorectal malignant polyps	26.66% total response of 330 Members emailed	The data from the survey resulted in a poster presentation at the RACS ASC in Adelaide in May: Zammit A, Clark D, Brown I, Hooper J, Riddell A. Estimation of risk posed by malignant polyps amongst colorectal surgeons in Australia and New Zealand. Poster: Presented at: RACS Annual Scientific Congress 2023