



## PRESIDENTS REPORT ELIZABETH MURPHY

Welcome to the December edition of our bi-annual members' newsletter. As we approach the end of 2023, it is a great time to reflect on the achievements of the society and its members in 2023 and look forward to 2024. It's been a year filled with growth and progress, especially as we continue to recover after the pandemic. I would like to thank all members, fellows and of course our secretariat for all the wonderful work that you do.

I have now been in the role of President for just over 12 months. It is a great privilege to lead the society together with the other Councillors. We will continue to promote and advocate for the highest standards of colorectal surgery and will keep moving forwards with new initiatives and plans to adapt to the ever-changing world, including making the most of all opportunities that we encounter. This should put us in good stead for many years to come.

The Journal Club operations will see big changes for 2024. The Council have endorsed the review undertaken by Peter Lee and Leticia Delmenico which provides more support to the Convenors so they are not unfairly carrying some of the event management costs. I'd like to acknowledge Eva Smales who has looked after the JC for over 10 years and our committed Convenors.

On the financial front, the society's finances are being ably managed by our treasurer Chris Gillespie, Marie LoGiudice and Leticia Delmenico, and we remain fiscally steady despite the challenges around us including those experienced by RACS. We are exploring some innovative funding streams and remain cautious with spending.

The new website and the Membership Management System have been excellent developments and we have, to thank Marita and Leticia for continuing to guide us through these changes. These innovations will keep us strong and flexible for the future.

We've had to increase fees a small amount, but this has been kept as small as possible given inflation and cost pressures.

The change from BCCA to BCOR is progressing with the BCOR board appointed and having regular meetings. We should see considerable progress with BCOR in 2024. Thanks to Hayat Dagher as Project Manager who is assisting with the transition.

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## PRESIDENTS REPORT ELIZABETH MURPHY

The society is getting more involved in policy conversations, which is important because it means we can really make a difference for our members and the wider community, particularly our patients.

The 2023 Spring Meeting was a great success, with the highest number of registrations ever for a standalone CSSANZ meeting. This was all possible due to the hard work of the organising committee so expertly led by Mark Doudle, and a wonderful scientific and social program.

The sponsorship environment is changing, and the CSSANZ has had to adapt, looking for new ways to keep those partnerships strong and meaningful. We thank Medtronic and Johnson and Johnson for their unwavering support.

Looking ahead, we're planning a Future Planning Summit in May 2024. This is in order, to make sure that CSSANZ stays relevant, productive and effective for our members.

Our wonderful office team, ably led our EGM, Leticia Delmenico, is working hard in a number of areas moving into 2024. They are improving our governance, and ensuring our operations continue to adapt and improve, being relevant now and into the future.



In closing , I hope you all have a fantastic holiday season, filled with joy, laughter, and some well-deserved rest. Let's all stay safe and come back recharged for an even greater 2024!



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

WE'LL BE FA-LA-LA-LA-FAR  
AWAY FROM OUR DESKS

THE CSSANZ OFFICE WILL BE  
CLOSED FROM **WEDNESDAY, 20 DECEMBER 2023**  
RETURNING ON **TUESDAY, 9 JANUARY 2024**





## EGM REPORT LETICIA DELMENICO

### CSSANZ's Exciting 2023 Highlights!

This year has been quite an adventure for CSSANZ and our dedicated Secretariat team.

We've made significant strides in modernising our new website, a project that has been both a challenge and a delight. Tackling various computer coding languages, we've not only enhanced our skills but also managed to infuse some fun into our daily operations.

During our testing phases, we had some amusing moments with our fictional test member, A/Prof Bingo Beard. He's been 'busy' in our system, contributing in roles from the Training Board to being a Council Member. These tests are more than just fun; they're crucial for testing and ensuring real-time updates across our website.

Now every member has a comprehensive record of their involvement, from board positions to Journal Club and CPD records. This is a big step forward from the old days of incomplete or non-existent spreadsheets, especially for important historical records and documents like Triennial Reports.

We understand this transition has been significant for our members, but we're confident that these improvements will bring lasting benefits. Here's to a year of growth and innovation at CSSANZ!"

I'm truly grateful to be part of such a fantastic team. Working alongside Eva, Hayat, Marie, and Marita has been a great experience. Their skills and dedication have made a significant difference, and I'm thankful for the opportunity to collaborate with them.

#### Training Board Members and Contact Details



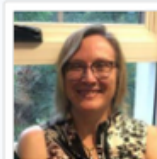
**Prof Tim Eglinton,**  
FCSSANZ  
Chair



**Prof Alexander Heriot**  
Past Chair ANZTBCRS



**Dr Andrew Luck, OAM,**  
FCSSANZ  
Board Member



**Dr Jodie Ellis-Clark**  
Board Member



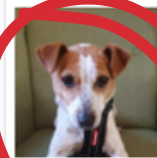
**Prof David A. Clark,**  
FCSSANZ  
Board Member



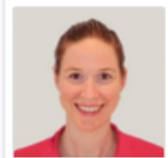
**Dr Nabila Ansari**  
Board Member



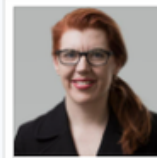
**A/Prof Satish Warrior**  
Board Member



**A/Prof Bingo Beard**  
Board Member



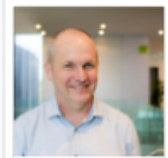
**Dr Rebecca Shine**  
Board Member



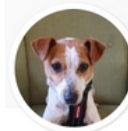
**Dr Elizabeth Murphy**  
Co-opted Chair - CSSANZ  
President



**Dr Ian Faragher,**  
FCSSANZ  
Co-opted Chair - RACS Section



**Prof Stephen Smith**  
Co-opted Chair - Research  
Support Committee



### A/Prof Bingo Beard

Member since 29/11/2023 Type CSSANZ Ordinary AU Paid through 31/12/2023

About Me **My Participation** Account Settings Find a Surgeon ANZTBCRS

My Jobs Transactions

#### Committees

[ANZTBCRS Board - Board Member](#)  
[CSSANZ Council - Inactive](#)

#### Chapters and sections

[Journal Club - North Queensland - Member](#)

#### CSSANZ Council

Role	Title	Begin	End
Compliance Officer		1/01/2022	31/12/2022



## FCSSANZ ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA CHANGES

The FCSSANZ eligibility criteria has now been modernised to ensure recognition of Members' professional work and/or achievements in colorectal surgery and to reflect the diversity in our profession.

There are 3 pathways:

1. FCSSANZ Professional Excellence
2. FCSSANZ Honorary
3. FCSSANZ Recertification

All pathways must meet the general eligibility criteria, plus the specific pathway eligibility criteria. Full details of the pathway eligibility criteria can be found on the CSSANZ website.

## MEMBERS WHO HAVE ACHIEVED FELLOWSHIP OF THE CSSANZ

Dr Andrew Bui  
Prof David A. Clark  
Prof Tim Eglinton  
Dr Justin Evans  
Dr Ian Faragher  
Dr John Frye  
Dr Kelvin Kwok  
Dr Andrew Luck, OAM  
A/Prof Craig Lynch  
Dr Michael Mar Fan  
Dr Sze-Lin Peng  
Dr Devinder Raju  
Dr Michael Von Papen  
Mr Christopher John Wakeman  
Dr Raymond Yap

## FCSSANZ GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

All pathways must meet the general eligibility criteria, plus the specific pathway eligibility criteria.

To be eligible to become an FCSSANZ, the member must meet all of the following requirements:

1. Be a current financial CSSANZ Member and have maintained continuous membership for a minimum of ten years; and
2. Must be a current Fellow of RACS, full financial and compliant with CPD; and
3. Must not have had their membership of CSSANZ or their Fellowship of RACS suspended or terminated; and
4. Should not have restrictions or conditions placed on their practice by the Medical Board of Australia or the New Zealand Medical Council or any other regulatory authority; and
5. Scope of practice has not been limited or credentialing restricted as a sanction or disciplinary action by any hospital where they practise or have practised within the last five years; and
6. Be of good ethical and professional standing – as defined by AHPRA Good medical practice: a code of conduct for doctors in Australia, and MCNZ: Good Medical Practice in New Zealand.

Specific pathway eligibility criteria can be found on the CSSANZ 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.

## ANZTBCRS Website Updates:

- **Contact lists** for the Training Board, Program Directors and ANZTBCRS Fellows are available through the AHTU Hub and the Fellows Hub.
- Fellows can now access training program **progress trackers** through their profiles.

ANZTBCRS   CY1 Progress Tracker			
Research Protocol	Approved	Research Protocol   Approval Confirmation	<a href="#">Download file</a>
Progress Interview	Completed	Progress Interview   Date	27/04/2023
Evaluation Report   Mid-year	Approved	Evaluation Report   EOY	
Research Update   Mid-year	Approved	Research Update   EOY	
Logbook   30 April	Approved	Logbook   30 June	Approved
Logbook   30 September	Under Review by Training Board	Logbook   EOY	
FTW   Paper	Completed	FTW   Slides	Completed
FTW   Checklist	Completed	FTW   Attendance Certificate	<a href="#">Download file</a>



## WANT TO BE LISTED ON 'FIND A SURGEON'?

A friendly reminder...

If you are an Ordinary Member you need to activate your account and update your 'Find a Surgeon' details before you can be seen.



# Members of Mention

## Vale Russell Stitz

Dr Stitz was a giant of the colorectal world and will be remembered fondly by the many aspirant surgeons he inspired. His influence on the Royal Brisbane and indeed Australian colorectal surgery cannot be overstated. His strong work and service ethic set the standard and his willingness to learn and evolve placed Brisbane squarely at the centre of the laparoscopic colorectal surgery revolution.

An alumnus of Ipswich Grammar in the class of 1960, Dr Stitz graduated from medicine in 1966 and in addition to his academic achievements, distinguished himself on the field in Rugby. Dr Stitz completed his training at the Royal Brisbane Hospital and then extended his experience in the developing sub-speciality of colorectal surgery in the United Kingdom and made lifelong friendships with his mentors at St Mark's in London.

Having completed the first Australian laparoscopic colectomy in 1991, the scene was set for the wider application and uptake of this technique throughout Australia and New Zealand. The first laparoscopic colorectal surgery courses commenced in 2001 and continue to this day.

His executive leadership was extraordinary and evidenced by the great number of positions he held, from President of the Colorectal Surgical Society of Australasia (now the CSSANZ), President of the Qld branch of the AMA, President of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons to Commissioner of the HQCC. Indeed, he was a founding member of the CSSA and would be very happy with how the society has grown and developed over the years.



In parallel, he enjoyed a career in the army reserve, attaining a rank of Colonel. He felt that his army career synergised with clinical leadership and further equipped him with the skills that exemplified the performance of his executive roles.

His fellows will attest that he spent many hours at the Wesley Hospital but always managed to give his patients and colleagues as much time as they needed. He generously gave advice freely to the many surgeons who sought his help and experience. The Wesley Hospital recognised his many years of service by naming the new operating theatre wing after him.

His passion for education was realised when he was appointed as the professor of Surgery at the University of Queensland. This was a challenge he pursued with his trademark enthusiasm and his collaborative spirit brought his colleagues together to invigorate the surgical teaching program.

Even following his retirement, he continued the theme of community service and philanthropy and headed the Buderim Foundation. He enjoyed attending BBQs in Brisbane to meet his old colleagues and the new generation of colorectal fellows.



# Members of Mention

## Vale Russell Stitz

Russell was a great statesman, and his legacy is writ large, but moreover, he was compassionate, he listened to people and advised them with his wealth of experience. His humanity set him apart. He was inspirational, he was a leader, he was, importantly, a friend.

Russell will be dearly missed by all those whose lives he touched and particularly by his wife, Anne, his daughters, Claire and Kate, and his son William.

*By David Clark*

Dr Stitz' career will be recognised through a memorial academic session at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital Education Centre on February the 13th 2024 and a dinner the night beforehand.

### **Dr Stitz' Memorial Dinner**

When: Monday 13 February 2024

Where: To be advised.

### **Dr Stitz' Memorial Academic Session**

When: 8 to 11am Tuesday 13 February 2024

Where: Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital Education Centre

**[For Early EOI Register here.](#)**



*Russell Stitz speaking at the unveiling of his Presidential Portrait at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons with his wife Anne, daughters Claire and Kate, son William and son-in-law Troy Fidler in October 2007.*



# Members of Mention

## Life Member - Michael Solomon

Professor Michael Solomon was awarded Life Membership of the CSSANZ at the 2023 AGM. He has made substantial contributions to both the Society and the field of colorectal surgery in Australia and New Zealand throughout his distinguished career. Currently serving as a consultant surgeon and academic head of department at RPA Hospital, Professor Solomon holds the esteemed position of Professor of Surgical Research at the University of Sydney. His extensive involvement with CSSANZ includes past roles as President and Chairman of the TBCRS, reflecting his leadership and commitment to advancing colorectal surgery.

Michael's impact on CSSANZ is noteworthy. His journey with the organization began in 1996 when he was elected to the CSSANZ Council. As the inaugural member of the CSSANZ research committee, he assumed the role of chairman until 2004. Notably, Michael played a pivotal role in the establishment of the TBCRS in 1996, dedicating 12 years to its evolution, including a six-year term as Chairman (2002 – 2007). His executive roles on the CSSANZ Council, culminating in the presidency from 2002 to 2004, reflect his dedication and influence within the organization.

Michael's key achievement during his presidency was facilitating the first Memorandum of Understanding between CSSANZ and RACS, solidifying CSSANZ's representation of colorectal surgery in Australia and New Zealand.

In addition to his organizational contributions, Michael has a prolific academic record. With over 400 peer-reviewed papers, multiple book chapters, and 15 international named lectures, he has made a significant impact on surgical clinical research.



Having supervised over 50 higher degree students, he holds the highest research doctorate degrees from the National University of Ireland (DMed) and the University of Sydney (DMedSc). Currently, as Chairman of the Institute of Academic Surgery at RPA and head of the Surgical Outcomes Research Centre at the University of Sydney, he focuses on evidence-based surgical research, clinical trials, and mentoring young academic surgeons.

Michael's outstanding achievements have garnered numerous prestigious awards, including the Ruthven Blackburn Medal for Clinical Research in 2022, the RPA Research Foundation Medal and Prize for Excellence and Outstanding Achievements in Medical Research in 2014, and the Abraham Colles Medal from the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland in 2013, among others. Internationally recognized for his significant contributions to the evolution of Pelvic Exenteration surgery.

Locally, he serves as the Program Director of Advanced Gastrointestinal Surgery at RPA Hospital. In this capacity, he oversees national and statewide referral services, contributing to the establishment of advanced malignancy surgical services in colorectal units across Australia and New Zealand.

*Nominated by Nabila Ansari*





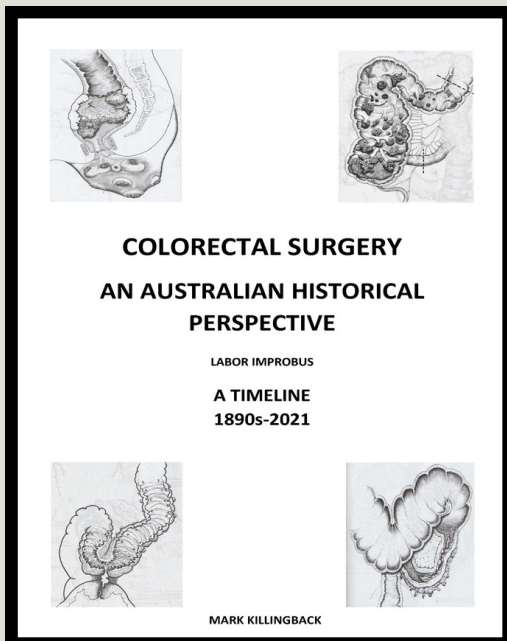
# Members of Mention

## Colorectal Surgery - An Australian Historical Perspective

### MARK KILLINGBACK

Dr Mark Killingback is a distinguished retired colorectal surgeon whose significant contributions played a pivotal role in the establishment of our society. Widely recognized for his generosity, Mark is also a notable supporter of the Mark Killingback Prize.

Mark has devoted considerable time to meticulously compile a comprehensive history of colorectal surgery in Australia.



The document, titled "Colorectal Surgery | An Australian Historical Perspective, a Timeline history 1890s-2023," provides a valuable resource for understanding the evolution of colorectal surgery in the region. I encourage you to peruse this meticulously researched document at your convenience.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Dr. Killingback for his outstanding contribution to preserving and documenting the rich history of colorectal surgery in Australia.

*By: Elizabeth Murphy*

It outlines:

- The early years of colorectal surgery and the pioneers responsible for change
- Selected presentations from colorectal meetings (RACS ASC, RACS CME, Tripartite, Sydney CR Society etc which indicate the progress of CR surgery
- International presentations and named lectures, highlighting the extraordinary activity of ESR Hughes in the 1960s
- The Section of Colon and Rectal Surgery May 1963
- The introduction of colorectal surgical units in hospital practice 1970
- The introduction and organization of specific training in CR surgery 1988
- The Colorectal Surgical Society of Australia!(1988) and New Zealand (2006)
- Research by senior clinical surgeons and the introduction of research into the training program.
- The impact of academic medicine on Australian Colorectal surgery.

The full document can be access on the CSSANZ website home page for everyone to view.



It is a fascinating and incredibly important document and I am so glad you have the energy, determination and intellect to put it on the record.

- Prof Ian Jones -





# Members of Mention

## Welcome to our New Members

We extend a warm welcome to the newest members of the CSSANZ.

Your decision to join our community of dedicated professionals is a testament to your commitment to excellence in the field of colorectal surgery. As you embark on this journey with us, we look forward to fostering collaboration, sharing knowledge, and collectively advancing the standards of surgical practice.

Together, we strive to create a dynamic and supportive environment where your expertise will contribute to the ongoing success of our association. Welcome aboard, and we are excited to witness the valuable contributions you will undoubtedly bring to our community.

### ORDINARY MEMBERS

- Thomas Arthur
- Jon Barnard
- Ian Bloomfield
- Vladimir Bolshinsky
- Edward Cooper
- James Haddow
- Ricardo Hamilton
- Xavier Harvey
- Karolina Juszczak
- Allan Kwok
- David Lam
- Arun Naik
- Toan Pham
- Suat Chin Ng
- Shin Sakata
- Dilshan Udayasiri

### NEW PROVISIONAL MEMBERS

- Amit Reddy
- Andrew Riddell
- Boris Ruggerio

### NEW ANZTBCRS FELLOWS FOR 2024

- Kay Tai Choy
- Geoffrey Collins
- Ben Finlay
- Anshini Jain
- Ayman Khan
- Sireesha Koneru
- Krish Kulendran
- Alexandra Limmer
- Milton Mui
- Bushra Othman
- Bree-Anne Rebolledo
- Mina Sarofim
- Gary Sharp
- Talia Shepherd
- Christopher Steen
- Matthew Trinder





# Conferences

## CR-23 | GOLD COAST - NOVEMBER 2023 MARK DOUDLE | CR23 MEETING CONVENOR

The CR23 Meeting has been described as the "best ever"!

This was held at the JW Marriott on the Gold Coast between Nov 17/18th. There were 325 registered attendees arguably a near record.

The meeting was headed by 2 international and one local visitor. Dr Sharon Stein from Cleveland USA, was entertaining and insightful in her keynote Medtronic lecture dealing with leadership and diversity in surgery.

Professor Jurriaan Tuynman from the Netherlands asked us to consider focusing internally on quality assessment, training and standardization in our management of right colon cancer in his ESR Hughes Oration.

Professor Tarik Sammour from Adelaide gave the CSSANZ Oration which discussed the management of rectal cancer, past, present and the future.

Other speakers included a mix of local non-surgeons helping us to broaden our knowledge of cancer, IBD and the gynecological management of problems that cross the specialist divide. The standout speaker was Jon Barnard from New Zealand who in his presentation regarding the risks and benefits of loop ileostomy linked the theme with AI generated grand master painters and the concept of squeezing the juice of an orange! Truly entertaining but also engaging. This was almost matched with the concept of "chickens and cowboys" for taking risks with anastomotic leaks.

These themes were then emulated by subsequent later speakers, adjusting their presentations to carry these messages in a stunningly witty way to continue to engage the audience. Sessions were well attended with even the last session discussing a mixture of proctology issues being well received.

The trade supported the meeting enthusiastically with our Principle Partner Medtronic leading the way. Our meeting dinner was to be held by the pool but the weather necessitated the venue to change to indoors however some still dressed appropriately in the "coastal chic" theme. Despite this change, this was a great opportunity to mix with colleagues and socialize in an informal way.

Overall, the meeting was a great success with current colorectal surgical issues ably discussed in a great setting with support from industry. The presentations were all of excellent quality which were all enthusiastically embraced by those who attended.





# Conferences





# Conferences

## NURSES AWARD WINNER - CR-23 | GOLD COAST TRISH DOHERTY

I would like to express my gratitude to CSSANZ for providing me with the opportunity to attend this year's Spring Conference. The nurse award, which I learned about through the Australian Association for Stomal Therapy Nurses, presented an excellent opportunity to complete the research. Commencing the project four years ago, my goal for this year was to finalize the article. A deadline, and a nudge from a mentor, was what I needed to complete the paper and submit the application.

Receiving notification of winning the award was particularly rewarding, especially when told that there were a record number of submissions.

It is so good to hear that so many nurses are sharing their work with the Colorectal society.

The conference featured a diverse variety of talks with fantastic presenters. As a stomal therapy nurse, sessions pertaining to stomas captured my interest, as did the presentation on LARS. Many presentations answered the 'why' and 'what' for me. Why our surgeons select certain procedures for our patients, and what is to come for our patients with future developments.

I am delighted to learn about the potential inclusion of a nursing stream at future CR Spring Meetings. This would prove immensely valuable to both nurses and surgeons.



*Trish Doherty - CSSANZ Nurses Award Winner 2023  
with CSSANZ Councilor Mary Theophilus*

click  
here!

**Read the Article** | Doherty, Trish, Carolyn Pieri, and Vicki Patton. "An Audit of Time to Healing in Patients with Surgical Perineal Wounds with and without Negative Pressure Wound Therapy." *Journal of Stomal Therapy Australia* 43, no. 3 (2023): 14-16.



# Conferences

## MEDTRONIC VISITING SURGEON - CR-23| GOLD COAST ANDREW STEVENSON | VISITING SURGEON HOST

Thanks to the generous support of the Medtronic Visiting Surgeon Grant, the Brisbane Colorectal Surgical community were honoured and delighted to have Assoc. Professor Jurriaan Tuynman stopover and visit en route from Amsterdam to the Gold Coast as one of the keynote speakers for the 2023 Spring conference.

A dinner meeting and presentations was held on the Wednesday evening, with a focus on robotic surgery.

Prof Tuynman attended in theatre at St Vincent's Private Northside Hospital, Brisbane, for live robotic colorectal surgery and discussions of variations in techniques between the 2 countries, including robotic surgery systems in his hospital.

Prof Tuynman then continued on to the Gold Coast to deliver several outstanding presentations, including the ESR Hughes Lecture.

# With thanks

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

# Medtronic

Further, Together



*CSSANZ Member Andrew Stevenson and Professor Jurriaan Tuynman*



# Conferences

## 19TH CONGRESS OF THE ASIA PACIFIC FEDERATION OF COLOPROCTOLOGY | SINGAPORE - OCTOBER 2023 FRANK FRIZELLE | CO-VICE PRESIDENT, CSSANZ

I recently attended the combined meeting of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Coloproctology combined, Asian Society of Stoma Rehabilitation and Asia and South Pacific Ostomy Association in Singapore. The meeting theme was when East meets West- furthering Colorectal's best. I was fortunate to be one of the more than 50 invited speakers from around the world invited to take part in the meeting. Notable speakers included Connor Delany from the Cleveland Clinic USA, Ismail Gogenur from Denmark, Charles Maxwell-Armstrong from the UK, Christianne Buskens from the Netherlands, and April Roslani from Malaysia to name just a few.

The meeting started with a day's workshop then two days of lectures and discussions that addressed the usual issues around the management of colorectal cancer, inflammatory bowel disease and proctology.

The meeting contrasted the approach taken by the western surgeons with that of the Asian surgeons. The varied cultural, societal and economic factors impacted on the management of patients was highlighted in some presentations, as was the success and fantastic outcomes achieved from the low income Asian countries. An aspect of the meeting I enjoyed was the small group workshops where younger surgeons could discuss topics of their choosing with older surgeons.

The APFCP meeting was excellent and worth attending, both from the educational and cultural diversity.

The next meeting is in Sabah Malaysia in the 13-16th February 2025.

<https://www.streams.co.jp/apfcp/>

## CSSANZ BID TO HOST THE 21ST APFCP + 15TH ASSR 2027 CONGRESS

At the 19th APFCP + 13th ASSR Governing Council meeting CSSANZ Co Vice President Frank Frizelle presented our bid to host the APFCP Congress in 2027.

Members of the Asia Pacific Federation of Coloproctology and Asian Society of Stoma Rehabilitation were invited to vote on who would host.

Three countries including CSSANZ submitted bids to host the Congress.

In competition to our bid was:

### India

President: Nisar Chowdri  
Society: The Association of colon and rectal surgeons of India

### Taiwan

President: Chien-Kuo Liu  
Society: Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, Taiwan



# Conferences

## ESCP | VILNIUS, LITHUANIA - 3-6 SEPTEMBER 2023 EDWARD COOPER | MEDTRONIC TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIP

Earlier this year I attended the 18th Scientific Conference of the European Society of Coloproctology in Vilnius, Lithuania with the generous support provided by CSSANZ and Medtronic via the Travel Fellowship Grant.

The grant provided me the opportunity to attend and deliver a presentation on research which I carried out during my time with the colorectal unit at the Oxford University Hospitals. The presentation focused on the use of national hospital episode statistics (HES) data to determine the incidence and demographics of rectal prolapse in patients with inherited connective tissue disorders.

The remainder of the scientific program was fantastic and included excellent presentations from Phil Tozer (St Mark's Hospital, UK) on the management of complex perianal Crohn's, Roel Hompes (Amsterdam UMC, Netherlands) on the management of chronic perineal sinus and Antonino Spinelli (Humanitas Hospital, Italy) on lateral pelvic lymph node dissection, to name just a few.

Attending the ESCP conference provided me with an amazing opportunity to meet colorectal surgeons from across Europe (and further abroad) who are challenging preconceived ideas and continuing to push our speciality forward.

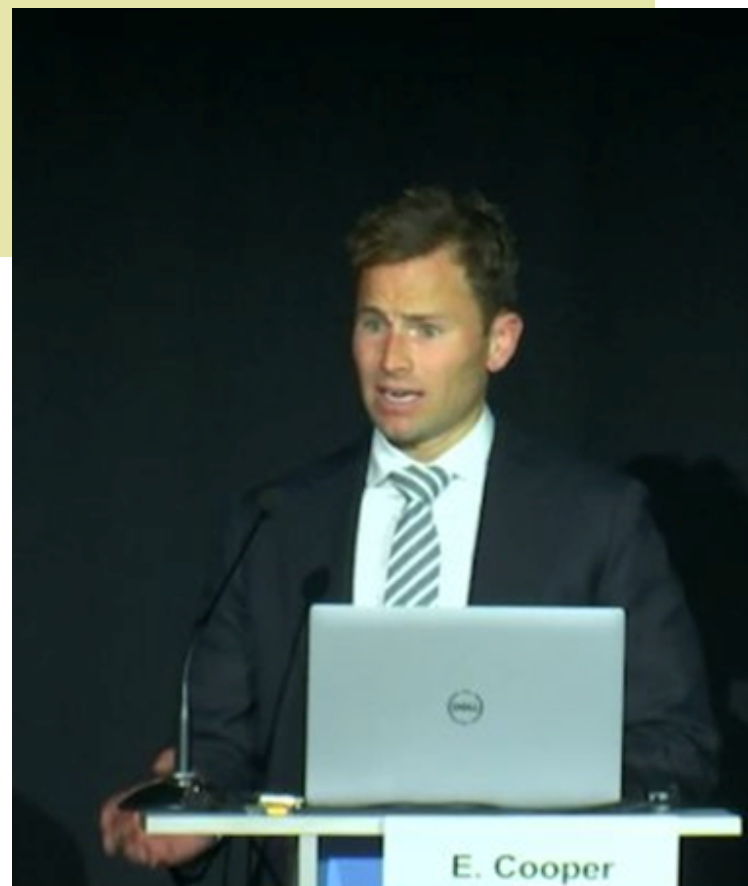
The conference also allowed me to visit and experience a part of the world that I previously had not had the chance to see. Vilnius is a beautiful old medieval city and I would encourage anyone to visit should you have the chance.

Ultimately, I extend my sincerest gratitude to CSSANZ and Medtronic in providing me the chance to attend the ESCP conference.

# *With thanks*

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

**Medtronic**  
Further, Together







# Conferences

ESCP | VILNIUS, LITHUANIA - 3-6 SEPTEMBER 2023  
PETER POCKNEY



It is a meeting where it is easy to meet new colleagues, get new ideas, hear new evidence, learn about and be taught to do new techniques, and to see and contribute to new evidence being generated.

And it's always in interesting places, Greece 2024....

*Peter Pockney is the Conjoint Associate Professor, Gastrointestinal Research Group School of Biomedical Sciences and Pharmacy College of Health, Medicine & Wellbeing The University of Newcastle*

I attended the European Society of Coloproctology meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania, in late September. The weather was glorious, the city beautiful and interesting, and the hosts delightful.

As always with the ESCP, the meeting is high quality, low fuss, heavily evidence oriented and has minimal "I do it this way, so that is the best" content.

The ESCP sponsors and directs a wide variety of research, often using collaborative methods to widen participation and improve the generalisability of the output. That program is now mature, so there are multiple sessions aimed at reporting studies that have recently completed, reporting progress on studies underway, launching developed and funded trials and cohort studies, and more where new ideas are presented, critiqued and refined.

It is almost exclusively presented in English, despite probably fewer than 10% of the attendees being native English speakers. The range of countries involved, presenters invited, and the diversity of those presenters keeps growing.



*The first day at #ESCP23 saw Past President Eloy Espin present his presidential address. He mentioned that ESCP's global reach is extending to Latin America, Asia and other places around the world.*

*Image via ESCP Twitter/X @escp\_tweets*



# ANZTBCRS

## CHAIR REPORT TIM EGLINTON

Just a quick update on what's been happening with ANZTBCRS over the last six months. There's been some interesting changes!

Firstly, we've adjusted the Board terms – now they'll be for 8 years instead of 12. The Chair's term has changed from 2 years to 1 year.

We're happy to welcome Rebecca Shine to our Training Board. She's a well-known and respected New Zealand member, and a past ANZTBCRS Fellow. It's fantastic to have her perspective in our team.

On the topic of diversity, this year has seen continued improvements in our gender balance. With Liz Murphy as the new CSSANZ President, and Rebecca joining us as well. In our programs, we're seeing more females participate, which is fantastic. The latest intake had the highest female representation yet at 44.5%.

The website has had phenomenal changes. We've introduced a Fellows' and AHTU (Accredited Hospital Training Units) web portals. Plus, the Fellows now have a personalised progress tracker. All these boosts are more efficient and user-friendly, with real-time information. Big thanks to the creative virtuosos, Leticia Delmenico and Marita Beard and their hard work making this happen.

The Fellows' Weekend in August this year was really productive. Andrew Luck, as the FTW Convenor, refreshed the format with a mix of online presentations and in-person activities. And a special thanks to Johnson & Johnson for their continuous support. With thanks to Andrew as the Convenor, Leticia Delmenico and the CSSANZ Team for all their work to make the FTW a success.

The Pre-Fellows Workshop, as a warm-up to the CR23 on the Gold Coast, was a wonderful chance to meet our new Fellows starting the ANZTBCRS Program in 2024. Big thanks to Prof David Clark for organising a great program with a mix of didactic and hands-on sessions. We were honoured to have international speaker Prof Sharon Stein from Cleveland University Hospitals, presenting on making the transition from Trainee to Consultant. With thanks to our ANZTBCRS crew, David Clark, Satish Warriar, Rebecca Shine and Amy Cao for your presentations and the Training Board members who assisted with the hands-on sessions. Special mention to Applied Medical for organising the day and the industry collab with Arthrex, Johnson and Johnson Medical, and Medtronic.

Take a moment to really appreciate our Training Board. These folks have been incredible, putting in so much time and effort to support our upcoming Colorectal Surgeons. They're definitely a group of dedicated individuals! Also, a big thanks to our secretariat team. They've been crucial in supporting all the ANZTBCRS activities. Their hard work doesn't go unnoticed!

That pretty much wraps up 2023 for ANZTBCRS! Lots of positive changes, all thanks to the ANZTBCRS team's collaboration.

*Training Board meeting | Adelaide, August 2023*





# ANZTBCRS

## FELLOWS' TRAINING WEEKEND 2023

ANDREW LUCK | CONVENOR

The 2023 ANZTBCRS Fellows' Training Weekend (FTW) was held in Adelaide from August 25th to 27th. The first year Fellows and the Research Fellows had presented their research papers in a webinar setting earlier in the week.

The quality of the presentations by the next generation of colorectal surgeons was exceptional. The presenters were well researched, the talks were well planned and engaging and the responses to challenging questions from the floor were thoughtful and appropriate – our profession is in very safe hands!

Highlights of the academic program were talks from three training board members, Liz Murphy, Matt Rickard and Sandy Heriot, about their journey from sitting in the audience as a Fellow to the senior positions that they now occupy, demonstrating the myriad ways a career in colorectal surgery can be forged.

The social side of the weekend was also fabulous with dinners on the Friday and Saturday nights and an enjoyable walk through the Adelaide Botanical Gardens on the Saturday afternoon.

The Training Weekend prizes were hard fought, with the winners as follows:

### **Philip Douglas Education Prize**

2023 Recipient | Henry Drysdale  
Presentation title | Management of the Malignant Colorectal Polyp

### **CSSANZ Foundation Award for 'Most Promising First Year ANZTBCRS Fellow's Research Project'**

2023 Recipient | Amanda Nikolic  
Presentation Title | Synoptic Operation Reports

### **CSSANZ Foundation Award for 'Most Publishable 2nd Year ANZTBCRS Fellow's Research Project'**

2023 Recipient | Richard Gartrell  
Presentation Title | Can sarcopenia predict survival in locally advanced rectal cancer patients?

### **CSSANZ Foundation Award for 'Research from a Higher Degree'**

2023 Recipient | Kilian Brown  
Presentation Title | Addressing Variation in Treatment Decision-Making and Outcomes in Patients with Locally Advanced and Recurrent Rectal Cancer

Congratulations to these young surgeons as well as to all who contributed to a high-quality academic program. Special thanks to Leticia and the team at CSSANZ for their help in the organisation of the meeting.

Thank you

Our gratitude to Johnson & Johnson for sponsoring the FTW and their continuing education partnership with CSSANZ / ANZTBCRS

**Johnson & Johnson** MEDTECH



# ANZTBCRS

## PRE FELLOW'S WORKSHOP 2023 DAVID CLARK | CONVENOR

The Pre Fellow's Workshop was held on the 16th November at the Gold Coast Marriott.

A didactic session covered the practical applications of minimally invasive platforms and included a talk on 'Transitioning from trainee to surgeon', delivered by the visiting speaker, Professor Sharon Stein. She provided a nice segue for the development of so many aspirant colorectal surgeons.

As it turns out, the minimally invasive models were quite humbling but provided a great opportunity for the 2024 fellows to meet the training board and their future colleagues.

The workshop would not have been possible without industry support and Angus Flett, from Applied Medical, deserves a special mention for his tireless work in this regard. Thanks also to Medtronic, Ethicon, and Arthrex for making the day such a success.

It was a good day and set the scene for a sensational Spring Colorectal meeting.





# ANZTBCRS

## ANZTBCRS FELLOWS REPRESENTATIVE 2023 CAMERON LAW

Reflecting on 2023, I recognise what a privileged and pivotal point I have reached in my surgical career, as I now approach the conclusion of my two-year clinical fellowship, mark the passing of my exams, and commence the handover of my role as the Fellow's Representative to Lauren Cohen for 2024.

I am grateful for the unique opportunities this role afforded me, especially at this crucial time in my professional life. Key aspects of my role included fostering communication among fellows and addressing pertinent issues in council meetings, which ultimately lead to invaluable connections with peers and senior surgeons alike.

The engagement I have had with the ANZTBCRS, the CSSANZ council, and the BCCA Operations Committee has enhanced my understanding of the dynamics within the society. It has underscored the level of commitment required to deliver high-quality and effective services to its members, and a sustained and meaningful impact on the community, which has been inspiring to see.

It has been a busy and rewarding year for me and so I would like to express my gratitude to everyone for their continued support, and I wish Lauren all the best in her new role for a successful 2024.



*ANZTBCRS Fellows Training Weekend 2023  
L-R Charlotte Kwik, Hugh Giddings, Cameron Law  
and Sarit Badiani*

## ANZTBCRS FELLOWS REPRESENTATIVE 2024 LAUREN COHEN

### **Pre Fellows Workshop**

I think all who attended would agree that the Pre Fellows workshop was a highly enjoyable precursor to colorectal training for the commencing ANZTBCRS Fellows.

Held on the day prior to the Spring Meeting, the Pre Fellows were treated to some inspiring lectures on what to aspire to through training. A particular highlight was from the indomitable Sharon Stein, who set the tone for her Spring Meeting visit with her highly inspiring talk about her career lessons as a surgeon, researcher and mother.

Then thanks to industry sponsors a highly interactive afternoon session allowed the trainees access to models to practice sacral nerve stimulation, TAMIS, complex operative laparoscopy and suturing in a relaxed and fun setting.

The day was capped off by social drinks to allow everyone to relax, meet each other and the Training Board and Fellow Representatives (myself for 2024). It has set the tone for an exciting year ahead.



*ANZTBCRS Fellows Representatives Lauren Cohen  
and Cameron Law speaking at the Pre-Fellows  
Workshop 2023*



# ANZTBCRS | Fellows' Stories

## ANZTBCRS RESEARCH FELLOW THUY-MY NGUYEN

During my ANZTBCRS Research year, I had the privilege of collaborating with the Royal Adelaide Hospital's (RAH) Colorectal Research Group, working alongside Dr. Michelle Thomas and A/Prof. Tarik Sammour. With my interest in pelvic floor pathology, I conducted patient questionnaires aimed at developing a nurse-led remote management algorithm for Low Anterior Resection Syndrome. Furthermore, as the RAH was an early adopter of total neoadjuvant therapy for the management of rectal cancer, I had the distinct opportunity to compare the quality of life among post-TNT watch-and-wait patients to those treated conventionally with or without chemoradiotherapy.

Simultaneously, I dedicated this period to completing the final leg of my Masters of Surgical Education. My thesis delved into curricular aspects of robotic colorectal surgery, enriching my capacity as a discerning learner and, hopefully, a more effective educator.

Adding to this significant year, I embarked on a personal milestone—motherhood. The attached photo captures my 9-month-old son, Khoi, and I at the Unko (Poo) Museum in Odaiba, Tokyo.

I would like to thank my supervisors and research team at the RAH for making this past year immensely fulfilling. In addition, I am grateful for the support provided by the ANZTBCRS Medtronic Research Fellowship and the RACS Pickard Robotic Training Grant.





# ANZTBCRS | Fellows' Stories

## SURGERY IN SUVA ASIRI ARACHCHI

It was a pleasure to visit Colonial War Memorial (CWM) Hospital in Suva Fiji this year. In 2022, I first visited CWM hospital with two New Zealand Surgeons while I was working as a fellow at North Shore Hospital in Auckland. This year we made a separate visit with our team at Austin Health in Melbourne, and a colleague from Tauranga hospital in New Zealand. The aim of the trip this year was to promote Colorectal Surgery in Fiji, with an emphasis on teaching and education of surgical registrars, surgeons and nurses as well as assisting the local surgeons with complex colorectal cases.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the inauguration of CWM hospital. CWM hospital is the largest of two public hospitals on the main island of Fiji that serve a country of almost one million people. Dr Illiatu Delasau and Dr Tim Qereqeretabua are the two general surgeons at the general surgical department and perform all general surgical operations including bowel resections, pancreatectomy, abdominal aortic aneurysm repairs and amputations. It is truly remarkable to see the sheer work these surgeons perform to serve a community in need.

Although the hospital serves such a high needs population, the resources at the CWM hospital are extremely scarce. Ranging from a lack of simple wound dressings, stoma bags, sterile gowns and surgical count boards to surgical equipment, gastrointestinal staplers and vascular grafts. The hospital rely heavily on equipment that is donated by overseas visiting teams. We observed that the hospital only had two St Marks retractors both of which were donated by Nelson Hospital in New Zealand. This year we donated upwards of \$20,000 worth of equipment to CWM hospital including surgical staplers, vascular grafts, orthopaedic screws, rigid sigmoidoscopy, stoma bags, urinary catheters and LigaSure devices. We are grateful for Austin health and Monash health for their kind donations of surgical equipment which will be a vital resource for the hospital.

Our visit this year we had a big emphasis on education and training. Not only for the surgical registrars but also nursing staff, we held several teaching sessions. This included education about colorectal cancer, marking of stoma bags, bedside teaching and final exam preparation tips. We gave local trainee registrars opportunity to



*No Whiteboard - utilising rubbish bag for count sheet.*



# ANZTBCRS | Fellows' Stories



*Helping establish a stoma service*



participate in several colorectal surgical cases in order to provide feedback and critique on surgical skills and teach new techniques relevant to colorectal surgery. We were also able to establish a collaboration with the Fijian surgical association and bring one of their local surgeons to Ballarat for a thoracic fellowship with the aim to return to Fiji to help train their future surgeons. We hope to strengthen this connection in order to continue this tradition moving forward.

There were several colorectal cases which we assisted the local surgeons with. This included a Hartmann's for an acute large bowel obstruction from sigmoid cancer, ultra-low anterior resection for a low rectal cancer, Hartmann's reversal and revision of a prolapsed colostomy. These cases proved more difficult without the abundance of equipment that is available to us back home. For example, the lack of a TA stapler meant that we had to perform a handsewn double layer pursestring of the rectal stump in an ultra-low anterior resection in a male pelvis. These cases also provided an opportunity to teach surgical registrars and local surgeons.

We would like to thank the chief surgeons at CWM hospital Dr Illiatu Delasau and Dr Tim Qereqeretabua for their exceptional hospitality during our stay in Suva. Despite the challenges that they faced, we were welcomed with open arms and warm smiles creating an environment of camaraderie and shared purpose. Our experience at CWM Hospital has solidified our commitment to strengthening the connection with this esteemed institution. As we reflect on our time in Fiji, we are already eagerly anticipating future visits to Fiji and other Pacific islands, where we can continue to collaborate with communities in need.



*Lack of stoma bags*

*Patients make homemade bags*





# CSSANZ Foundation

## CHAIR REPORT DAMIEN PETERSEN

The COVID-19 pandemic has reshaped philanthropy and corporate sponsorship in significant ways, posing unique challenges for foundations and charitable organizations. Economic uncertainty and reduced budgets have led to increased competition for funds, resulting in donor fatigue. The CSSANZ Foundation, impacted by the changing landscape, is grateful for the continued support from CSSANZ members and RACS, ensuring ongoing research grants.

Despite challenges, the Foundation remains vital for advancing colorectal research in Australia and New Zealand. Adapting to this new reality requires creativity, innovation, and resilience. For 2024, the Treasurer recommended \$80,000 for research grants, approved by the Foundation Board.

Board diversity and inclusion have been focal points for balanced representation and improved decision-making. The addition of new Board Members, Susan Shedda and Tamara Glynn, reflects these efforts. Gratitude is extended to James Moore, Chris Wakeman and Pierre Chapuis for their long service.

Special thanks to Leticia Delmenico and the Secretariat team for their support and guidance.

## Heartfelt thanks to retiring Board Members James Moore, Chris Wakeman and Pierre Chapuis



## 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](https://cssanz.org)

 [admin@cssanz.org](mailto:admin@cssanz.org)





# 2023 Donations to CSSANZ Foundation

## To our valued donors,

We deeply thank each of you for supporting the CSSANZ Foundation. Your generosity propels our mission in colorectal disease research, education, and awareness. With your contributions, we advance understanding and positively impact lives. Your ongoing support is vital for fostering innovation and progress in this field.

We are grateful for your dedication, and together, we can achieve more than imagined. Thank you for being valued partners in our mission.

With deepest gratitude and warmest wishes,

Damien Petersen  
Chair, CSSANZ Foundation

## The following donors contributed over \$12,940 in 2023.

Dr James Moore	Dr Thang Chien Nguyen
Dr Karen Barclay	Dr David Proud
Dr Cori Behrenbruch	Dr Philippa Rabbitt
Dr Raaj Chandra	Prof Stephen Smith
Prof David A. Clark	Dr Malcolm Steel
Dr Rowan Collinson	Dr Hamish Urquhart
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Prof Alexander Heriot	Dr Raphael Varghese
Dr James Oliver Keck	Dr Anna Wilkes
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Dr Matthew Lawrence	
Dr Peter Loder	
Dr Gregory Makin	
Dr Matthew McNamara	



Donate  
Today

[Click here to donate to CSSANZ Foundation](#)



# Research Support Committee

## RSC CHAIR REPORT STEVE SMITH

As 2023 comes to a close I'd like to leave you with some research muses:

“ If we knew what it was we were doing it wouldn't be called research would it? ”

“ Research is just formalised curiosity ”

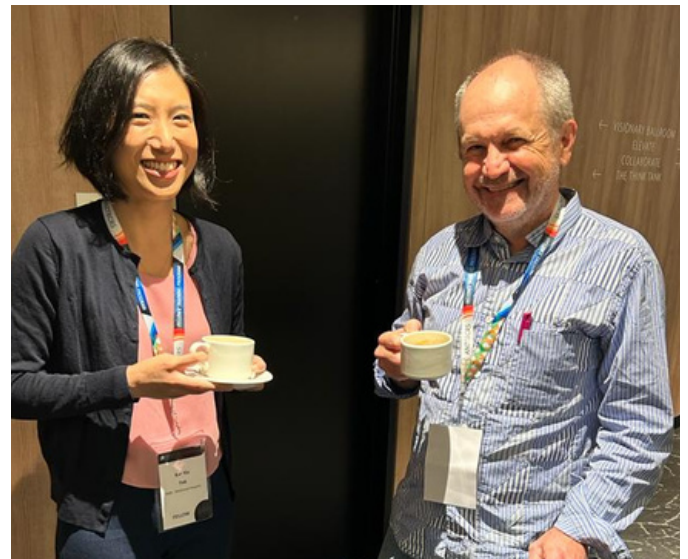
If you know exactly what you're doing professionally all the time and are not curious about how to improve what you're doing then clearly research is not for you!

For the rest of us it is integral to the profession of colorectal surgery. The fact that so many of us profess to similar curiosities synchronously is the rationale for a collaborative approach to surgical research. It is why many of us believe we should look into investigating:

- The best way to form an anastomosis following ileo-colic resection for Crohns
- How to quantify and record the complexity of surgery following TNT chemoradiotherapy
- Whether pre-operative oral antibiotics actually decrease anastomotic leak rates

Additionally the RSC has felt a certain amount of survey 'fatigue' with members. In light of this at the most recent council meeting it was decided to reduce the frequency of surveys by one, down to four surveys annually.

Please do your best to participate in these surveys; they are only as good as the number of participants and provide many avenues for current and future research.



*ANZTBCRS Fellow Kar Yin Fok and RSC Chair Steve Smith at the Fellows' Training Weekend*

We are very excited to be setting up a tab on the CSSANZ website for collaborative research in the new year, to provide a 'go to' mechanism for those looking to participate in research and a repository for established projects, for those wishing to find contact details for enrolling in particular trials or for those with a concept who are looking for others to help or collaborate with. Please watch this space!

**SUMBIT A SURVEY**

**TO LEARN  
MORE GO TO...**



**cssanz.org**



# boredom buster

Oh, My Dots!

<https://www.ohmydots.com>

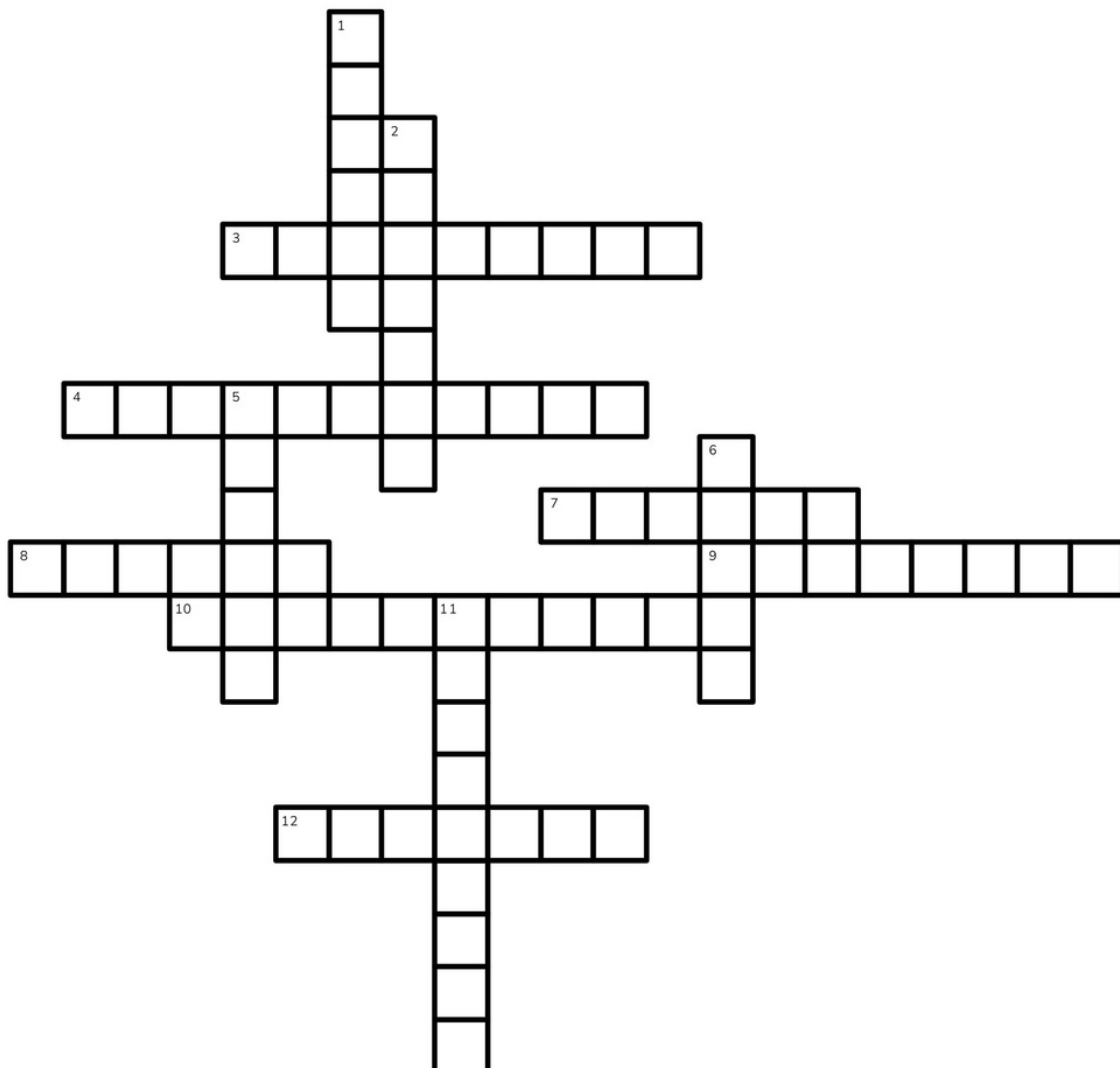
## Colorectal Surgery

### Across

3. Removal of a portion of the organ or tissue
4. Reconnection of two parts that were once connected
7. Opening created on the abdomen to release waste
8. Last part of the large intestine
9. Tying a vessel or structure to block blood flow
10. Surgical removal of the rectum
12. Narrow opening or tear in the mucous membrane

### Down

1. Removal of small sample from the organ for examination
2. Benign tumor of the epithelial tissue
5. Thread used to close wounds
6. Noncancerous growth in the intestine
11. A hollow tube with a camera used for viewing inside the body



SAVE THE DATE



**CR-2024**  
COLORECTAL SPRING MEETING

**10-12 OCTOBER 2024**  
MELBOURNE | AUSTRALIA



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