

FINAL PROGRAM

# Developing a Career and skills in Academic Surgery (DCAS) Course

with Keynote Presenter  
Professor Gordon Wallace

**Monday 1 May 2023**

RACS SA Office, Kent Town  
Adelaide, South Australia



Royal Australasian

**College of Surgeons**

[www.tinyurl.com/DCAS2023](http://www.tinyurl.com/DCAS2023)



## Organising Committee

### DCAS Co-Chairs

Claudia Di Bella  
*RACS Section for Academic Surgery*

James Lee  
*RACS Section for Academic Surgery*

Colin Martin  
*Association for Academic Surgery*

### Committee Members

Jonathan Karpelowsky  
*RACS Section for Academic Surgery*

Marc Gladman  
*Chair, RACS Section for Academic Surgery*

Wendy Babidge  
*General Manager, RACS Research, Audit and Academic Surgery*

---

## General Information

### Intention to Photograph

Please be advised that photographs may be taken during the course and reproduced by the course organiser. These photographs may be used for the following purposes:

- Projection onsite
- Reporting on the course in online and hard copy publications
- Marketing a future course, including online and hard copy publications

If you do not wish to be included in a photograph, please advise the photographer.

# Developing a Career and skills in Academic Surgery (DCAS) Course

---

## Final Program

Monday 1 May 2023

---

### 6:30AM | REGISTRATIONS OPEN

*Light breakfast served on Level 2*

Level 1, Meeting Room 1 & 2 Pre Function Area

---

### 7:15AM | WELCOME

Sally Langley (President, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons)

Level 1, Meeting Room 1 & 2

---

### 7:20AM | INTRODUCTION

James Lee (Victoria) and Colin Martin (Alabama, USA)

Level 1, Meeting Room 1 & 2

---

### 7:30AM | SESSION 1: A CAREER IN ACADEMIC SURGERY

Chairs: Claudia Di Bella (Victoria) and Toby Richards (Western Australia)

Level 1, Meeting Room 1 & 2

- 7:30am The difference between a surgeon and an academic surgeon  
David Watson (South Australia)
  - 7:50am Leadership development through service  
Fabian Johnston (Maryland, USA)
  - 8:10am How to snag a (good) research mentor  
Lola Fayanju (Pennsylvania, USA)
  - 8:30am Academic surgery and work-life balance  
Dawn Coleman (Michigan, USA)
  - 8:50am Panel discussion
- 

### 9:10AM | TEA & COFFEE BREAK WITH THE FACULTY

Level 2, Foyer

---

### 9:30AM | SESSION 2: CHOOSE YOUR OWN RESEARCH ADVENTURE

Chairs: Colin Martin (Alabama, USA) and Michelle Locke (Aotearoa New Zealand)

Level 1, Meeting Room 1 & 2

- 9:30am Opportunities for research in regional centres  
Kerin Fielding (New South Wales)
  - 9:50am Full-time researchers – If you can't beat them, join them  
Payal Mukherjee (New South Wales)
- 

### 10:10AM | HOT TOPIC IN ACADEMIC SURGERY

Chair: James Lee (Victoria)

Level 1, Meeting Room 1 & 2

- 10:10am Introduction  
James Lee (Victoria)
  - 10:15am Intersectionality of a surgeon  
Associate Professor Rhea Liang (Queensland)
- 

### 10:40AM | MORNING TEA BREAK WITH THE FACULTY

Level 2, Foyer

# Final Program

## Cont'd

- 
- 11:00AM | KEYNOTE PRESENTATION**  
 Chair: Claudia Di Bella (Victoria)  
 Level 1, Meeting Room 1 & 2
- 11:00am Introduction  
 Claudia Di Bella (Victoria)
- 11:05am Research, translational and clinical deployment- the sky's not the limit!  
 Professor Gordon Wallace (New South Wales)
- 
- 11:30AM | SESSION 3: TOOLS FOR ACADEMIC OUTPUT**  
 Chairs: Lola Fayanju (Pennsylvania, USA) and Cherry Koh (New South Wales)  
 Level 1, Meeting Room 1 & 2
- 11:30am Writing the abstract – make every word count  
 Susanne Warner (Minnesota, USA)
- 11:45am Presenting your study – make every second count  
 Joseph Phillips (New Hampshire, USA)
- 12:00pm Writing and submitting a manuscript – not all about the word count  
 Colin Martin (Alabama, USA)
- 12:15pm When a journal reviewer swipes right  
 Michelle Locke (Aotearoa New Zealand)
- 12:30pm Panel discussion
- 
- 12:45PM | LUNCH WITH THE FACULTY**  
 Level 2, Foyer
- 
- 1:45PM | SESSION 4: CONCURRENT ACADEMIC WORKSHOPS**
- CONCURRENT WORKSHOP 1: Finding My Fit: Try Before You Buy**  
 Chairs: Fabian Johnston (Maryland, USA) and Kerin Fielding (New South Wales)  
 Level 1, Meeting Room 1 & 2
- 1:45pm Qualitative research  
 Samantha Bunzli (Victoria)
- 2:00pm Interdisciplinary research team  
 George (Savio) Barreto (South Australia)
- 2:15pm Global collaborative research  
 James Glasbey (Birmingham, UK)
- 2:30pm Rewards and challenges of the academic lifestyle: POV early years  
 Cameron Wells (New Zealand)
- 2:45pm Panel discussion
- CONCURRENT WORKSHOP 2: I Found my Fit: Money Can't Buy Happiness, but...**  
 Chairs: Matthew Read (Victoria) and Susanne Warner (Minnesota, USA)  
 Level 2, Meeting Room 2
- 1:45pm How to start: seed funding & alternative funding sources  
 Claudia Di Bella (Victoria)
- 2:05pm Writing an irresistible grant application  
 Cherry Koh (New South Wales)
- 2:25pm Maximising research funding  
 Elizabeth Murphy (South Australia)
- 2:45pm Panel discussion
- 
- 3:00PM | CLOSING SESSION**  
 Chairs: Marc Gladman (South Australia)  
 Level 1, Meeting Room 1 & 2
- 3:00pm My journey as an academic surgeon  
 Toby Richards (Western Australia)
- 3:20pm Closing remarks  
 Claudia Di Bella (Victoria) and Marc Gladman (South Australia)

# Developing a Career and skills in Academic Surgery (DCAS) Course

## Keynote Presenter



**Gordon Wallace**  
New South Wales

Professor Gordon Wallace AO FAA FTSE. Director of Intelligent Polymer Research Institute, University of Wollongong. Distinguished Professor Gordon

Wallace, an esteemed innovator and educator is a scientist at the forefront of health technologies, where medical devices complement the body's own systems to treat disease and repair injuries. His extensive scientific contributions have broken new ground in every aspect of biomaterials research; fundamental advances, paving the path to translation, training the next generation of researchers, and facilities development.

These contributions to the enhancement of Australian materials science and engineering has led to a number of high accolades for Gordon including being awarded an ARC Laureate Fellowship (2011) and the Eureka prize for leadership in Innovation and Science (2016), being named NSW Scientist of the Year (2017), and appointed an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia (2017). Professor Wallace is Director of UOW's Intelligent Polymer Research Institute; Director of the Australian National Fabrication Facility – Materials Node and Director of the Translational Research Initiative for Cellular Engineering and Printing.

He has published in excess of 1,100 refereed publications (64,000 citations and an H-index of 110). He is listed as a co-inventor on more than 60 patents and has supervised more than 100 PhD students to completion.

## Hot Topic in Academic Surgery Speaker



**Rhea Liang**  
Queensland

A/Prof Rhea Liang is a general and breast surgeon in the Gold Coast Health service, a RACS surgical educator, and diversity advocate. She grew up, attended medical school and completed her surgical training in New Zealand, with a short detour to Harvard for a research fellowship in cardiology.

She has had an unconventional pathway as an academic, with a decade career gap of pure clinical practice while the children were young, re-entering academia a few years ago. She is currently Surgical Discipline Lead and Clinical Sub-Dean at Bond University, and immediate past Chair of the RACS Operate With Respect education committee.

Her research interests are in breast cancer care, and diversity issues. An example of her work in diversity [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(18\)32612-6/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(18)32612-6/fulltext) . She tweets at @LiangRhea.

## Association for Academic Surgery Speakers and International Faculty



**Dawn Coleman**  
Michigan, USA

Dawn M. Coleman is an Associate Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics at the University of Michigan where she serves as the Program Director for the Integrated Vascular Residency Program and Fellowship. She graduated with honors from the University of Cincinnati in 1999 and earned her medical degree from the University of Cincinnati's College of Medicine in 2003. She completed her general surgery residency at the University of Michigan in 2010 and then went on to complete a two-year vascular surgery fellowship at the same institution in 2012.

Dr. Coleman serves as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve assigned to a Forward Resuscitative Surgical Team, having deployed on three occasions to support operations in the Middle East. Her clinical and translational research interests encompass a unique pediatric vascular surgery practice, and her research leverages a multidisciplinary team to deeply phenotype patients with renovascular hypertension resulting from aorto-renal arterial dysplasia. She has made several high impact research contributions to this rare disease, and received major funding from the Taubman Institute, NIH, DOD and PCORI. She leads an international pRVH patient-centered outcomes research Collaborative and has convened expanded stakeholders to prioritize further research goals.



**Lola Fayanju**  
Pennsylvania, USA

Oluwadamilola "Lola" Fayanju, MD, MA, MPHS, FACS. Dr. Fayanju is the inaugural Helen O. Dickens Presidential Associate Professor in the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and the Chief of Breast Surgery for the University of Pennsylvania Health System. She is also Surgical Director of the Rena Rowan Breast Center in the Abramson Cancer Center, an Innovation Faculty member at the Penn Center for Cancer Care Innovation (PC3I), and a senior fellow of the Leonard Davis Institute for Health Economics (LDI) at the University of Pennsylvania.

She is an academic breast surgical oncologist whose research focuses on redressing health disparities; improving prognostication and management of aggressive breast cancer variants; generating value in oncology, particularly through the collection and application of patient-reported outcomes (PROs); and promoting diversity and inclusion in healthcare and research. She received her undergraduate degree in History and Science and an MA in Comparative Literature from Harvard. She received her MD and a master's of population health sciences (MPHS) from Washington University in St. Louis, where she also completed her residency in General Surgery. She completed fellowship training in Breast Surgical Oncology at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. In 2019, she was recognized by the National Academy of Medicine as an Emerging Leader in Health and Medicine Scholar.

Her research is supported by funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and she has published in a variety of journals including Annals of Surgery, Cancer, and JAMA.



### James Glasbey

Birmingham, UK

James Glasbey MBChB MRCS PhD. James is general surgery trainee and an ambitious and collaborative early career researcher with an interest in global surgery, clinical trials and collaborative research networks.

Since 2012, James has been a pioneer of large national and international research collaborative groups, co-leading prospective cohort studies and randomised trials targeted towards high-priority topics in surgical care (25 Lancet family publications).

He was a founding member and past Chair of the STARSurg collaborative (2016-2020), and founding and steering group member in GlobalSurg/NIHR Global Health Research Unit on Global Surgery (£14 million core funding from UK health service to date). He is a co-leader within CovidSurg, which was awarded the Guinness World Record as the world's largest scientific collaboration. His latest work with this group developed and validated a Surgical Preparedness Index (SPI, Lancet, 2022) to support global elective recovery; implementation is now being supported by the WHO Alliance on Health Service Research.

He has a proven track record in delivering high-quality scientific outputs with 182 peer-reviewed publications, 32 academic prizes, over 250 scientific abstract and invited presentations, and contribution to several international guidelines (h-index: 35; i10-index: 79). He is a co-applicant on research grants totalling over £20-million to date, including a personal NIHR career development award (£405,000).

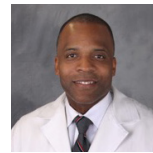


### Fabian Johnston

Maryland, USA

Fabian M. Johnston, M.D., M.H.S. is an Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery at Johns Hopkins University where he also serves as Chief of the Division of Gastrointestinal Surgical Oncology and Program Director of the Complex General Surgical Oncology Program. Dr. Johnston received his undergraduate degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and medical degree from The Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine. He completed residencies between the Louisiana State University School of Medicine and Washington University in St. Louis. He completed his Complex General Surgical Oncology fellowship at the Johns Hopkins University. He has also earned a Masters in Health Sciences at the Bloomberg School of Public Health and a certificate in Patient Safety and Quality through the Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality. Dr. Johnston is R01 funded via both the NCI & NIMHD and as a coinvestigator on multiple PCORI awards. He has authored over 150 publications and 14 book chapters.

Dr. Johnston's research interests include utilization of highly innovative and novel strategies for the implementation of patient-centered models of care to improve utilization of palliative care amongst patients with advanced gastrointestinal malignancies. Through this he hopes to advance effective care to lessen suffering in vulnerable oncology patients and families, while simultaneously leading improvement of health care quality, costs, experiences and outcomes.



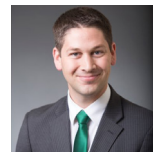
### Colin Martin

Alabama, USA

Colin A. Martin is an Associate Professor of Surgery and Vice Chair for Diversity Equity and Inclusion at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). He completed his general surgery training at the University of Cincinnati and Pediatric surgery training at Vanderbilt University. He then joined the faculty at UAB in 2012.

Dr. Martin has a traditional clinical practice with a specific interest in patients with intestinal failure. To complement his clinical interests he has developed a basic science research program. The long-term goal of his research program is to define the mechanisms how environmental psychological stress during pregnancy affects intestinal immune dysfunction and injury in newborns. Dr. Martin's research program has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, American Surgical Association, Association for Academic Surgery, and the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract.

Dr. Martin has also developed a record of service with membership and leadership responsibilities within the following national organizations: The Society of Black Academic Surgeons, The Surgical Biology Club II, the Association for Academic Surgery, the Society of University Surgeons, the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract, and the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Surgery.



### Joseph Phillips

New Hampshire, USA

Dr. Joseph D. Phillips, MD FACS is an Assistant Professor of Surgery at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center and The Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth. He is a general thoracic surgeon specializing in minimally invasive robotic oncologic surgery.

His research interests are in tumor immunology in non-small cell lung cancer, smoking cessation, and health services research, including implementation of patient reported outcomes to improve care. He is an investigative member of the Dartmouth Cancer Center in the Immunology and Cancer Immunotherapy Program and is a funded Faculty Research Fellow. He has received research grants from The American Cancer Society, The American Association for Thoracic Surgery and The Hitchcock Foundation. He is certified by The American Board of Surgery and The American Board of Thoracic Surgery.

Dr. Phillips serves on the Executive Council of the Association for Academic Surgery (AAS) and is the current Chair of the Leadership Committee.



### Susanne Warner

Pennsylvania, USA

Susanne Warner is an Associate Professor of Surgery in the Division of Hepatobiliary and Pancreas Surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Dr. Warner earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Texas in Austin and her medical doctorate from Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine. She pursued her training as a general surgery resident at the Mayo Clinic in Phoenix, AZ. During residency, Dr. Warner completed a research fellowship studying oncolytic viral therapy at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, NY. Following residency, she completed a clinical fellowship in hepatopancreatobiliary and

# Developing a Career and skills in Academic Surgery (DCAS) Course

## Association for Academic Surgery Speakers and International Faculty Cont'd

advanced gastrointestinal surgery at the University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor, MI. Prior to becoming a Mayo surgeon, Dr. Warner was an Assistant Professor of Surgery at City of Hope in Los Angeles from 2015-2021.

Dr. Warner's research interests include clinical applications of oncolytic viral therapies, the effect of bias in surgical training and evaluations, and optimization of minimally invasive surgery platforms for hepatopancreatobiliary surgery. When she is not at the hospital, Dr. Warner enjoys spending time with her husband and their two children. Most weekends, Dr. Warner can be found baking, camping, or riding a bike that goes nowhere.

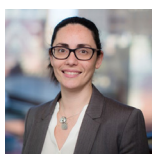
## RACS Section of Academic Surgery Invited Speakers and Local Faculty



**Samantha Bunzli**  
Victoria

Dr Samantha Bunzli is a physiotherapist and senior research fellow who holds a conjoint position at Griffith University and the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. In her program of translational research, Dr Bunzli engages stakeholder (patient, clinician, community) voices through qualitative methods to bring the field of orthopaedics in line with best practice, consumer-driven research.

Supported by grant funding from the NHMRC, MRFF, Commonwealth Govt and Arthritis Australia, Dr Bunzli has published →80 journal articles. She has written guidelines on how to use qualitative research findings in orthopaedic practice and developed peer review and publishing guidelines in her role as Associate Editor (Qualitative Research) at Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research.



**Claudia Di Bella**  
Victoria

A/Prof Claudia Di Bella is an academic orthopaedic surgeon with a specific interest in advanced technologies for musculoskeletal regeneration for the treatment of bone and soft tissue tumors as well as osteoarthritis.

A/Prof Di Bella is the clinical leader of the Cartilage Regeneration Program of Research at the University of Melbourne (Australia), focused on the use of advanced 3D printing technologies, including surgical 3D bioprinting, robotics and stem cells for musculoskeletal regeneration. A/Prof Di Bella was the recipient of the 2017 Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Senior Lecturer Fellowship and the 2020 NHMRC-MRFF Emerging Leadership Investigator Grant (EL1). A/Prof Di Bella has led her team to successfully secure more than 20 national peer reviewed grants, reinforced and strengthened national and international collaboration with key players in the field, and strongly contributed to the advances of the Biofab3D, the first Australian biofabrication hub embedded in the hospital setting. The successes of Dr Di Bella's team have been also recognised internationally (2018 World congress of Cartilage

Regeneration: winner of the Award for the most innovative work in orthoregeneration) and nationally (AOA Leadership Award 2022, Finalist at the prestigious NSW Eureka prize for Excellence in Interdisciplinary Scientific Research and winner of the Veski Innovator of the Year 2018 with her "team Biopen"), and showcased by national media such as ABC news, Channel 10 "The Project" and National Geographic.

A/Prof Di Bella is Chair of AOA Research Committee, Vice Chair in the Board of Directors of the Australian Orthopaedic Association Research Foundation, Head of the Sarcoma Unit at ST Vincent's Hospital and Chair of the Inclusion and Diversity Committee at the 2024 International Limb Salvage Society conference.

A/Prof Di Bella is very passionate about gender equality in STEM-M, she is a mentor in the academic surgery program of the University of Melbourne as well as a mentor for women in medicine and women in surgery nationally.



**Kerin Fielding**  
New South Wales

A/Prof. Kerin Fielding was the first female Orthopaedic Surgeon in NSW and has established a successful career in Wagga over the past 30 years working at the Wagga Wagga Base Hospital and Calvary Healthcare Riverina. Kerin has special interests in surgery of the Hip, Knee, Spine, and Trauma.

She is a leader in surgical education and training and is the Chair of the NSW Clinical Surgical Training Council for the Health Education and Training Institute (NSW Health), and the Clinical Lead for specialty surgery Notre Dame University, Wagga Wagga Campus. Kerin is also a senior course director of the Early Management of Severe Trauma course for the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) and serves on the National EMST committee (RACS).

Professor Fielding is a strong advocate for improvements in rural health care. She has campaigned for better treatment of osteoporosis, chairing the working party for the establishment of the Osteoporosis Liaison service (Greater Southern Area Health Service). She has been a member of the National Scientific Committee of Osteoporosis Australia and is on the executive of the National Hip Fracture Registry.

Professor Fielding was elected in 2015 as a councillor for the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and has been re-elected twice. She is currently leading the Rural Health Strategy for the College. She is also Chair of the Professional Standards Committee.

Her work has been recognised with several awards; Royal Australasian College of Surgeons medal for service to education and Rural Surgery in NSW 2012; Surgical trainee supervisor of the year (RACS) for NSW 2021; meritorious service award from the Australian Orthopaedic Association (AOA) 2021; Graham Coupland Memorial award and lecture (RACS) 2022.



**Marc Gladman**  
South Australia

Marc A Gladman PhD MBBS DFFP MRCOG MRCS FRCS (General Surgeon) FRACS received his degree in Medicine from King's College London in the UK and was awarded a PhD by the University of London prior to completing a NIHR lectureship. Currently, he is the Chair of the Section of



## RACS Section of Academic Surgery Invited Speakers and Local Faculty Cont'd

Academic Surgery and Academic Surgical Committee of RACS and a member of the AMC Specialist Education Accreditation Committee, an Advisory member of the Australasian Students' Surgical Association and a member of the PICO Advisory Sub-Committee of the Medical Services Committee of the Department of Health. He also serves on the editorial board of the Medical Journal of Australia.

Marc is an accomplished researcher and medical educator with clinical research interests focused on the understanding of bowel structure and function in health and disease and the application of such knowledge to improve patient care. His teaching interests focuses on technology-enhanced learning and personalised education. Marc is a member of the Academy of Surgical Educators and the University of Adelaide Education Academy and has authored 10 textbooks, including the highly acclaimed "Examination Surgery: A Guide to Passing the FRACS in General Surgery" and "Clinical Cases and OSCEs in Surgery", which has received recognition at international book awards.



**Cherry Koh**  
New South Wales

Associate Professor Cherry Koh is an academic colorectal surgeon based at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney and the Chris O'Brien

Lifehouse. She completed her Fellowship in Oxford and Sydney, and is currently a Director at the Surgical Outcomes Research Centre at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. Clinically, her interests are in advanced cancers and peritoneal malignancies. She has broad academic interests and is currently on the editorial board for Colorectal Diseases and Diseases of the Colon and Rectum.



**Sally Langley**  
Aotearoa New Zealand

Dr Sally Langley is a plastic and reconstructive surgeon, who is based in Ōtautahi Christchurch, Aotearoa New Zealand. She has worked in both

public and private surgery in Christchurch for more than 30 years. Her work has covered the whole spectrum of Plastic Surgery including craniofacial, cleft lip and palate, head and neck, paediatric, reconstructive including microsurgery, hand surgery, as well as skin cancer and breast surgery. Dr Langley has been involved with surgical education and training throughout her career. She was an examiner in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery for nine years and for two years she served as the New Zealand deputy Chair of the Court of Examiners, the entity which conducts the Fellowship exam of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS). Dr Langley is a former president of the New Zealand Association of Plastic Surgeons. In 2014, she was elected member of the RACS Council where she chaired the Professional Standards and Development Board from 2019 to 2021. Since May 2021, Dr Langley has been the RACS President.



**James Lee**  
Victoria

Associate Professor James C Lee MBBS FRACS PhD FACS is an academic endocrine surgeon at The Alfred and Monash Health in Melbourne. His key

clinical interests are in the management of patients with thyroid, parathyroid and adrenal tumours. He also participates in the acute General Surgery and trauma programs.

His research interests are in the discovery of molecular biomarkers to improve the diagnosis and prognosis of thyroid cancer, and the application of artificial intelligence in Endocrine Surgery. James received the Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Sydney for his thesis on the miRNA biomarkers of papillary thyroid cancer and was a recipient of the RACS Foundation for Surgery Senior Lecturer Fellowship. His current research is supported by the Epworth Research Institute, The Aftershock, and IMPACT Philanthropy.

James was a co-convenor of the RACS Academic Surgery Meeting from 2014 to 2022, and is now a co-chair of DCAS. He is passionate about research training for the next generation of surgeons.



**Michelle Locke**  
Aotearoa New Zealand

Ms Locke is an Associate Professor in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery with the University of Auckland. Her medical degree is from the

University of Auckland School of Medicine and her Plastic Surgery training occurred at tertiary hospitals around New Zealand. During her advanced surgical training, she spent two years undertaking a Doctorate of Medicine (MD) degree at the School of Biological Sciences. Her thesis topic was "Mesenchymal stem cells and their use in Plastic Surgery".

After gaining her FRACS, she completed two years of sub-speciality Fellowship training in North America, including six months at Paces Plastic Surgery in Atlanta, USA as well as 18 months at The Aesthetic Institute, Toronto General Hospital and Women's College Hospital, all in Toronto, Canada. She returned to New Zealand in December 2011 and works clinically at Middlemore Hospital in Auckland with a sub-speciality interest in breast reconstruction and Oculoplastic Surgery. In 2013, she gained an academic appointment, and was appointed to Head of Department in 2019. Her current research interests include full thickness skin engineering, clinical applications of Raman spectroscopy as well as clinical research in breast reconstruction outcomes and translational research. She is married with two children.



**Payal Mukherjee**  
New South Wales

Associate Professor Payal Mukherjee is an adult and paediatric ENT surgeon and a leader in ear bionics research such as 3D printed and bioprinted

medical devices and Cochlear implants. She is the chair of RACS NSW, an executive member of the Section of Academic Surgery, a committee member of Research and Evaluation-ASERNIPS and the Innovation Lead of the RPA Institute of Academic Surgery.

She is passionate about global translation of Australian biotechnology, on gender equity in surgery as well as developing STEMM skills in young girls. She was a finalist of the NSW Premier Women of the year in 2019.

# Developing a Career and skills in Academic Surgery (DCAS) Course

## RACS Section of Academic Surgery Invited Speakers and Local Faculty Cont'd



**Matthew Read**  
Victoria

Dr Matthew Read is a general and upper gastrointestinal surgeon. After completing his general surgical Fellowship in 2016, Matthew undertook accredited subspecialty training through AANZGOSA. During this period, Matthew also obtained his PhD through the Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute and the University of Melbourne, which was focused on the biology of oesophageal cancer. This work resulted in being awarded a combined clinical and research Fellowship in surgical oncology at the University Medical Centre in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

In addition to his clinical practice, Matthew also leads a research program through the University of Melbourne and is involved in a key global health initiative where he has helped to establish a Fellowship training program in Sub-Saharan Africa for both cardiothoracic and general surgeons.

Matthew's research has led to numerous publications, awards and international collaborations. Matthew is a past recipient of the senior lecturer Fellowship from the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and serves as the younger fellow representative on the Academic Surgery Committee. Matthew serves on both scientific and education committees for both OESO and ISDE, the two key international oesophageal societies.



**Toby Richards**  
Western Australia

Toby Richards is the Professor of Vascular Surgery and Director of the Clinical Trials Unit at UWA. He leads clinical trials in surgery and perioperative care including, PREVENTT, CAVIAR, ITACS, ECST-2 with over 200 peer reviewed publications (H index 50, SciVAL 2.34).

He is a strong advocate for trainee and student enablement, having supervised over 16 PhD's and more than 50 Postgraduate projects. With RACS CTANZ and colleagues in ANZ, he collaborated in the MRFF – SUNRISE RCT and more recently the POSTVenTT trial on post-operative complications recruiting more than 2500 patients in 52 ANZ centres in six months from ethics to completion. He is an active supporter of collaborative clinical trial networks to train and mentor the next generation of researchers for quality research.



**David Watson**  
South Australia

Professor David Watson MBBS, MD, PhD, FRACS, FRCSEd (hon), FAHMS is a Professor and Head of Surgery at Flinders University, and an oesophagogastric surgeon at Flinders Medical Centre in Adelaide. His interests include gastro-oesophageal reflux, and oesophagogastric cancer. He leads research addressing benign and malignant esophageal disease, integrating laboratory, clinical and population research streams. He has published more than 450 papers and book chapters.

Professor Watson led the establishment of the Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand Gastric and Oesophageal Surgery Association (AANZGOSA) as its foundation President from 2006 to

2010. He has served on Council for the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences (AAHMS) and is the immediate past-President for the International Society for Diseases of the Esophagus (ISDE). In 2018, he was appointed Clinical Director for the Clinical Trials Network Australia and New Zealand (CTANZ), an initiative of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) to enhance trainee led surgical research capacity.

Professor Watson has been a recipient of the John Mitchell Crouch Fellowship from the RACS, a James IV Travelling Fellowship, Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, election to Fellowship of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences, and appointment to a Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professorship at Flinders University.



**Cameron Wells**  
Aotearoa New Zealand

Cameron Wells is a non-SET general surgical registrar at Te Whatu Ora Te Toka Tumai and PhD Candidate at The University of Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand. His PhD research focuses on early identification of complications after major abdominal surgery and the use of wearable devices to monitor and identify deteriorating patients. He is funded by the Health Research Council of New Zealand, and the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment. As a medical student, Cameron completed an intercalated Bachelor of Medical Science (Honours) degree investigating the mechanisms of postoperative ileus. More broadly, his research interests include gut motility, medical devices, and postoperative recovery.

Cameron helped introduce trainee-led collaborative research networks to Australasia, being the national lead for Aotearoa New Zealand in the IMAGINE and GlobalSurg-3 studies, and has more recently been a member of the steering committees for the recent POSTVenTT, CHOLENZ, and OPERAS studies. He is a mentor to the student-led TASMAR Collaborative and is a current member of the STRATA Collaborative executive committee.

He is a previous recipient of the DCAS Award (2014), New Zealand Junior Doctor of the Year (2019), the Health Research Council of New Zealand Clinical Research Training Fellowship (2021), the Surgical Research Society Young Investigator Award (2022), and is a previous President of the Australasian Students' Surgical Association (2018). Cameron has published extensively, with 77 peer-reviewed publications and 2 book chapters to-date.

# Hot Topic and Keynote Abstracts

## Hot topic in Academic Surgery

10:10am - 10:40am

### Intersectionality of a surgeon

Associate Professor Rhea Liang

Surgery is famously lacking in diversity, and academic surgery even more so. Literature to date is predominantly quantitative and has described the scale of the problem- sometimes in minute detail, but the solutions remain opaque to traditional academic surgical research approaches. The existing data show a remarkable consistency in patterns of privilege and disadvantage, and a depressingly slow pace of change despite almost all organisations claiming to value it. Progress also proved to be fragile in the face of the pandemic, with multiple markers of diversity showing a backwards trend.

Surgery as a profession has been slow to recognise that the problem is complex, and socially situated, and therefore requires tools different to those applied to the usual questions of clinical research. There are few surgeons sufficiently skilled in social sciences such as sociology and anthropology, which are better suited to questions of cultural and societal change. This leads to overly simplistic conclusions from diversity research and unsophisticated diversity initiatives which can cause more harm than good. A rapid upskilling of surgeons into the necessary research paradigms is required if we are to more effectively improve diversity in surgery.

## Keynote Presentation

11:00am - 11:30am

### Research, translational and clinical deployment- the sky's not the limit!

Professor Gordon Wallace

The possible development of 3D bioprinting strategies to tackle clinical challenges is used to justify the tsunami of research emerging in the area of 3D bioprinting. Unfortunately, that type of thinking is not transferred to the design and implementation of most research plans.

We have been engaged in a number of projects that have clinical deployment as the measure of success. The journey has been exciting, arduous, gratifying, tedious, uplifting and sometimes very frustrating.

The projects we are currently engaged in include:

The Axcelda project - working with clinicians to develop 3D printing solutions to generate cartilage in the knee.

Corneal bioengineering - working with clinicians to develop new approaches to biofabrication to enable creation of a fully bioengineered cornea for transplantation.

3D printing skin - working with clinicians to develop 3D printing strategies for skin regeneration to treat wounds and burns.

Here, we will explore the lessons learnt and the strategies refined to enable us to get 3D bioprinting into the clinic. We certainly embark on new projects with a different frame of mind.

We are aware that non-technical aspects may present the biggest hurdles to clinical deployment and the size of these obstacles can be minimised by plotting the appropriate technical pathway from the start.

Course Organiser  
Conferences and Events Department  
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons  
250-290 Spring Street  
East Melbourne VIC 3002  
P: + 61 3 9249 1117  
E: [dcas@surgeons.org](mailto:dcas@surgeons.org)