



EXCELLENCE
ACCOUNTABILITY
COLLABORATION



ANNUAL
REPORT

2020

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In 2020, the Directors continued working towards meeting the primary strategic objectives of the Company, particularly through the promotion, development, and support of education and training programs for Trainees and members.

After a positive start to the year with the successful delivery of event management services for the 17th Biennial Congress of the Asian Association of Endocrine Surgeons, the looming spectre of COVID-19 in early March resulted in the cancellation of all remaining face-to-face events for 2020, including national and regional educational sessions, the 2020 GSA Annual Scientific Meeting, and the initial Selection process for the 2021 intake for the SET Program in General Surgery.

As a result of this significant downturn in activities, the organisation qualified for the JobKeeper subsidy program (\$302,475) and other COVID-19 government grants (\$59,776). The Board of Directors worked with senior management to ensure the ongoing viability of the organisation, and the continued engagement of all staff, particularly during the uncertainty that was experienced during the March to June period.

Although global market performance in 2020 was heavily impacted by COVID-19, the organisation's investment portfolio increased by \$129,133. The overall increase in the total portfolios was 3.89% for the year (compared to the 17.77% increase in 2019) bringing the total funds invested as at 31 December 2020 to \$3,448,968.

In the first half of the year, the Board of Directors worked closely with the RACS, as well as with Departments of Health and peak medical bodies, to monitor the COVID-19 situation and make appropriate recommendations with regards to the practice of General Surgery. The priority of the organisation remained the health and safety of its Members, Trainees, Specialist International Medical Graduates (SIMGs), and staff, as well as working to maintain a medical workforce that could continue to service patients and the wider community.

In response to various Position Papers and Guidelines released by international surgical bodies, the organisation moved quickly to develop *COVID-19 Guidelines for General Surgery* that were specific to the Australian & New Zealand context, with input from the RACS Australian Board in General Surgery, the New Zealand Association of General Surgeons, and the RACS New Zealand Board in General Surgery.

Other publications included the *Decision Tree for considering General Surgery during COVID-19*, which was developed following the Restoration of Elective Surgery Guidelines announced by the Federal Government in late April 2020. The organisation also worked with the Australian and New Zealand Endocrine Surgeons to develop the *Position Statement Endocrine Surgery during the COVID-19 Pandemic*, and published COVID-19 Guidelines for Breast Surgery, Colorectal Surgery, Endoscopy Training, HPB Surgery, and Upper GI & Bariatric Surgery that were developed by specialty society colleagues.

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The cancellation of all face-to-face meetings, along with national and regional COVID-19 restrictions on travel, resulted in all Regional Training Committee, Binational Advisory Curriculum Committee, and Board meetings moving to virtual and online platforms throughout 2020, with the unexpected benefit of far greater attendance and engagement made possible for members from non-metropolitan areas. The GSA Annual General Meeting was delivered as a virtual Live Stream event in May, with members logging in to a password protected portal, using interactive voting tools to approve resolutions, and submitting questions direct to the Chair.

Working within the overarching principles guiding decisions in respect of RACS Education and Training Programs, the organisation relaunched the Selection process in late May, and contingencies were put in place for virtual interviews to be held where ongoing COVID-19 restrictions meant travel was not possible. A total of 271 applications were received during the 2020 Selection process for the SET Program in General Surgery, with a total of 88 offers made. Total Selection fees for 2020 were \$230,350. The organisation provided administrative management of the supervision or oversight requirements of 23 SIMGs in General Surgery, post their initial clinical assessment by the RACS.

Senior management developed innovative solutions to manage the disruptions caused by COVID-19, and worked closely with online education providers to deliver the regular annual program of regional education and training events through virtual platforms and interactive webinars. This included the sessions for the Queensland Core Course, SA Long Course, WARTS, and NSW Educational Program being delivered online, with overall attendance for the Queensland Core Course increasing to 84.2% (80.3% in 2019). In total, 126 educational webcasts were added to the GSA Educational Resources for the year, bringing the total number of webcasts uploaded from 2013-2020 to 1,412.

The 2020 SEAM Standard Setting workshop was held as an online event in July, with Subject Matter Experts from across Australia and New Zealand contributing to the review of 310 Summative Assessment questions for the eight modules comprising the SEAM Program.

Other events delivered online included the SA/NT Training Committee Registrar's Paper Day, a two-week national pre-recorded GSA Trainee's Day program on Breast & Endocrine Surgery, a Fellowship Exam webinar, and a six week online Exam Preparation Course. This course, convened by A/ Prof Navin Niles and Mr Adrian Fox, involved the participation of 47 Chairs, speakers and expert panel members from across Australia, with 85 candidates for the September/October sitting of the Fellowship exam taking part in interactive lectures and case based discussions. The organisation is particularly grateful to the session Chairs who helped to bring this unique program together at very short notice: Dr Anna Isaacs, Mr Andrew Gilmore, Mr Michael Hii, Dr Nicole Winter, A/Prof Sanjay Warriar, Dr Susannah Graham,

Mr Graham Starkey, Miss Kate Martin, and Dr Ben Loveday.

In 2020, 74 new Junior Doctor members joined the organisation, with 57 abstracts submitted by Junior Doctor members for the online SA/NT Training Committee Registrar's Paper Day in November. The organisation also worked with the Monash Children's Hospital & Monash University Department of Paediatrics to promote a six week Fundamentals of Surgery Simulation-based Laparoscopy Online Course for Junior Doctor members.

The GSA Post-Fellowship Education & Training (PFET) Programs in Transplantation and Trauma continued to expand, with seven new posts across five hospitals accredited for Trauma training from 2020 onwards. The GSA Transplant Training Committee assessed nine applications for the PFET Program in Transplantation Surgery, with the top four candidates appointed to the training program for the 2021/2022 training years. Two applications were received during the Selection process for the PFET Program in Trauma Surgery, with one applicant appointed to commence training in 2021. The launch of the PFET Program in Rural Surgery was delayed due to COVID-19, however the GSA Rural Training Committee continued their work on the development of Regulations, Policies, and procedures.

Work commenced on the IT development of the new trainee and member database and online assessment tools for the new General Surgery training program, following the appointment of White Cloud Global in January 2020 to develop the platform. A comprehensive review of the Curriculum for the SET Program in General Surgery was conducted throughout 2020, and the first organ specific module for the SEAM II program was finalised for release in early 2021.

The total number of full-time, part-time, and casual staff employed by GSA during the 2020 financial year was eleven. Overall expenditure for the year was significantly lower, particularly in the areas of travel and accommodation, facilities and venue hire, and rent and outgoings. Expenses related to online education and employment increased. Revenue from membership subscriptions, training services, Selection, and government grants all increased in this financial period, contributing towards the surplus for the year.

On behalf of the Directors:



Mr Trevor Collinson FRACS

President

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

INDICATOR	TARGET	2020 RESULTS
Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Membership increase >5% p.a. New membership amongst junior doctors of >5% p.a. 80% of new General Surgery Fellows joining GSA each year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 153 new members; 1.2% overall increase 74 of all new members were Junior Doctors (48%) 81 new General Surgery Fellows in 2020; 56 of these joined GSA (69%) 3 new Ordinary members were Fellows >10 years post FRACS (3.8%)
Selected Trainees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retention >90% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 97.78% retention in 2020 <i>(2.22% Withdrawn; 0.0% Dismissed)</i>
Supervisors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of General Surgery Supervisors as members of GSA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 63% of General Surgery Supervisors (76) were members of GSA
Fellowship Examination pass rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% by second attempt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall pass rate: 67%. Of those that passed, 94% (55 candidates) passed within two attempts Trainee pass rate: 70%
Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-authoring submissions to government and other bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2020: Published COVID-19 Guidelines for General Surgery developed in collaboration with the RACS Australian Board in General Surgery, the New Zealand Association of General Surgeons, and the RACS New Zealand Board in General Surgery 2020: Developed General Surgery Decision Tree for considering General Surgery during COVID-19, following the Restoration of Elective Surgery guidelines announced on 23 April 2020 2020: Published Position Statement Defining Urgent Endocrine Surgical Conditions - Endocrine Surgery during the COVID-19 Pandemic, developed in collaboration with ANZES 2018: Published joint Guidelines with the RACS, Urological Society of Australia and New Zealand, and New Zealand Association of General Surgeons on Acute Scrotal Pain and Suspected Testicular Torsion 2018: published joint Guidelines with the Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons, Australasian College Of Dermatologists, and the Australian Medical Association on Criteria for Type C Banding Certification 2017: Published joint Position Paper with the RACS, Urological Society of Australia and New Zealand, and the Australian and New Zealand Association of Paediatric Surgeons on Surgery in Children
Budget performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> +/- 5% of budget annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total revenue 10.53% over re-forecast COVID-19 budget; Total expenditure 10.41% under re-forecast COVID-19 budget.
Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lodgement of Statutory Accounts four months after EOFY 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Submission lodged 21 April 2020

TREASURER'S REPORT

This Treasurer's Report highlights the financial position for General Surgeons Australia (GSA) for the 2020 financial year, and highlights performance from some of our core business activities.

Global market performance in 2020 was weaker than in the previous year, with the impact of COVID-19 on markets seen particularly in the first half of the year. Despite this, the organisation's investment portfolio increased by \$129,133. The Board of Directors remains committed to investments in online learning and educational events and activities, highlighting the ongoing commitment to promoting both high quality training and continuing medical education for our members.

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

Total operating revenue (excluding investment returns) was \$2,317,796 in 2020, compared to \$2,766,380 in 2019. Total expenditure in 2020 was \$1,782,754, compared to \$2,689,912 in 2019. The overall surplus for 2020 was \$1,033,402 (2019: \$624,059), which was attributable to the decreased expenditure due to COVID-19 cancellations of meetings and events, a solid return on investments, as well as COVID-19 concessions and the JobKeeper Subsidy totalling \$362,251.

Key Revenue and Expenditure Items for 2020

- Training Services income was \$1,913,936 in 2020 (2019: \$1,824,322)
- The return on investments for 2020 was \$129,133 (2019: \$538,831)
- Event income was \$6,350 in 2020 (2019: \$438,259)
- Event expenditure was \$5,344 in 2020 (2019: \$292,027)
- Personnel costs remained the dominant expense, followed by development and delivery of Online Educational and Regional & Other Educational Programs.

Statement of Financial Position

Key movements in assets included a 157.55% increase in cash and cash equivalents. The overall increase in the total investment portfolios was 3.89% for the year (compared to a 17.77% increase in 2019) bringing the total funds invested as at 31 December 2020 to \$3,448,968.

Statement of Cash Flows

In 2020, the Statement of Cash Flows indicated a net cash inflow from operating activities of \$1,070,504 (2019: \$57,368), and a net increase in cash held of \$896,937 (2019: \$198,781).

Independent Auditor's Report and Audit Opinion

The Independent Auditor's Report and Audit Opinion of BDO Audit Pty Ltd is included with the Annual General Purpose Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2020, which is available for download from the GSA website.

Directors' Declaration

The Directors of General Surgeons Australia declare that the summarised financial report set out on pages 7 - 9 have been derived from and are consistent with the full General Purpose Financial Report of The Australian Society of Specialist General Surgeons (trading as General Surgeons Australia) for the year ended 31 December 2020.

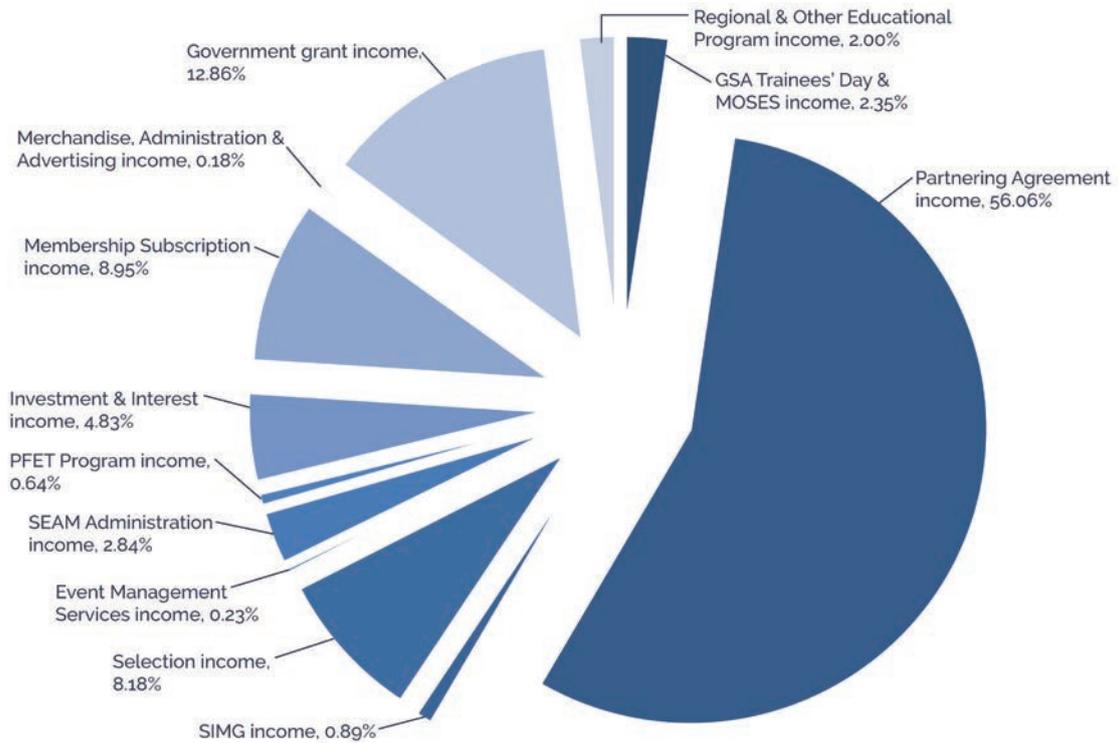
On behalf of the Directors:



Mr Andrew S Hughes FRACS
Treasurer

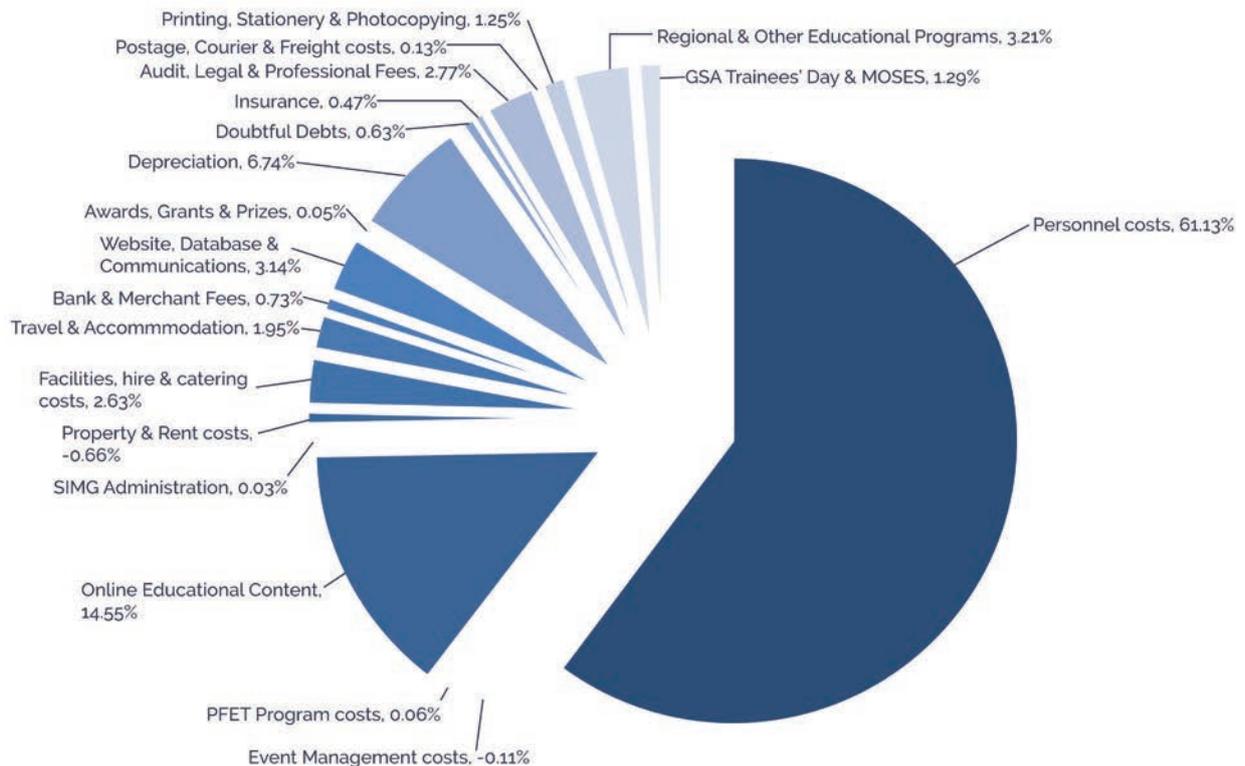
TOTAL REVENUE

2020 | \$2,816,156



TOTAL EXPENDITURE

2020 | \$ 1,782,754



FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
Revenue			
Members' income		251,977	236,649
Training Services income	2	1,913,936	1,824,322
Post Fellowship Education & Training income		18,095	21,712
Courses income	2	122,318	242,418
Event income		6,350	438,259
Other income		5,120	3,020
		<u>2,317,796</u>	<u>2,766,380</u>
Other revenue - interest		6,975	8,760
Income on investments	3	129,133	538,831
Government grant income	4	362,251	-
		<u>2,816,156</u>	<u>3,313,971</u>
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense	5	(1,089,865)	(1,062,036)
Administrative & Training Services expense		(414,326)	(866,060)
Courses expense		(112,291)	(290,789)
Event expense		(5,344)	(292,027)
Grants & Awards expense		(932)	(31,698)
Finance costs		(12,817)	(15,207)
External professional services expense		(26,974)	(29,406)
Depreciation expense		(120,205)	(102,689)
Surplus for the year		<u>1,033,402</u>	<u>624,059</u>
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		<u>1,033,402</u>	<u>624,059</u>

FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	1,466,224	569,287
Trade and other receivables	7	41,738	61,569
Inventories	8	3,857	3,897
Prepayments	9	163,237	184,900
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>1,675,056</u>	<u>819,653</u>
NON CURRENT ASSETS			
Right-of-use asset	10	51,507	84,565
Plant and equipment	11	3,458	6,422
Intangible assets	12	66,300	-
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	13	3,448,968	3,319,835
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS		<u>3,570,233</u>	<u>3,410,822</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>5,245,289</u>	<u>4,230,475</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	14	35,372	9,799
Deposits for future services	15	28,412	76,478
Provision for employee entitlements	16	297,700	256,381
Lease liability		51,582	85,692
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>413,066</u>	<u>428,350</u>
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provision for employee entitlements	16	18,048	21,352
TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>18,048</u>	<u>21,352</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>431,114</u>	<u>449,702</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>4,814,175</u>	<u>3,780,773</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Accumulated surplus		<u>4,814,175</u>	<u>3,780,773</u>
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		<u>4,814,175</u>	<u>3,780,773</u>

FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Cash flows from operating activities		
- Receipts from members and customers	2,622,105	3,062,990
- Payments to suppliers and employees	(1,908,010)	(2,999,175)
- Interest received	6,975	8,760
- Interest expense	(12,817)	(15,207)
- Government grants received	362,251	-
Net cash flows provided by operating activities	1,070,504	57,368
Cash flows from investing activities		
- Payment for plant and equipment	(363)	(9,628)
- Payment for intangible assets	(99,400)	-
- Receipts for investments	-	252,000
Net cash (used in) / provided by investing activities	(99,763)	242,372
Cash flows from financing activities		
- Operating lease payments	(73,805)	(100,959)
Net cash used in financing activities	(73,805)	(100,959)
Net increase in cash held	896,937	198,781
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	569,287	370,506
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	1,466,224	569,287

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Mr Trevor Graham Collinson | President

B Arch (Hons), BM BS, MS, FRACS. General Surgeon with sub-specialist interests in Advanced Laparoscopic Surgery, Breast and Endocrine Surgery, Endoscopy & Colonoscopy. Research interests include Sentinel node biopsy, laparoscopic procedures, and abdominal wall reconstruction. Visiting General Surgeon St Andrews Hospital, Stirling, Mt. Barker, Murray Bridge since 1997. General Surgery Convener RACS ASC Adelaide 2011. Member, Organising Committee for the inaugural joint GSA/PISA Annual Scientific Meeting, Fiji 2018. Scientific convenor combined GSA/CSSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting, Hobart 2019. Co-opted member of GSA Board of Management 2010-2011. Member Binational Colorectal Cancer Audit Steering Committee 2015-2017. Member RACS Property Committee since 2017. Member ASERNIP-S Rapid Review Working Party for COVID-19 response since 2020. GSA Vice President 2014-2017. GSA President since May 2017. Elected May 2012.



Mr Alan Charles Saunder | Vice President **Vice President from 8 May 2019. Retired 12 May 2020.**

MBBS, FRACS. General and Vascular Surgeon with sub-specialist interest in Transplant Surgery. Unit Head, Vascular/Transplantation Surgery at Monash Medical Centre, and Supervisor of training until 2015. Surgery Program Director for Monash Health since 2008. Member of AusAID General Surgery service at Dili National Hospital, East Timor in 2002 and 2004; Nauru AUSAID Surgeon 2005-2014. Member of RACS Section of Transplantation Surgery. Member of Australian & New Zealand Society of Vascular Surgery. Member of RACS IMG Interview Committee 2008-2010. Member of RACS Victorian State Committee from 2004-2006. Chair, Victorian Regional Subcommittee, Board in General Surgery from 2005-2007. Member of RACS Board in General Surgery since 2003; Chair 2010-2011. GSA Board in General Surgery Representative (Ex-officio) 2010-2011. GSA Transplantation Representative May 2011-June 2012. Member of GSA Transplantation Training Committee since 2014. RACS Specialty Elected Councillor for General Surgery 2012-2015. GSA Vice President 2019-2020. Elected May 2009.



Dr Sally Louise McGregor Butchers | Vice President **Treasurer to 12 May 2020. Vice President from 13 May 2020**

MBBS, FRACS. General Surgeon with sub-specialist interests in Rural Surgery, Trauma, Breast Surgery, and Surgical Teaching. VMO General Surgeon at Lismore Base Hospital since 2008. Chair of RACS Rural Section from 2014-2019. Deputy Chair of RACS Rural Section 2010-2014. Member of RACS NSW State Committee 2011-2020 (Executive 2014-2020). Chair, Lismore Community Theatre Management Group 2009-2012. Scientific Convenor, Provincial Surgeons of Australia 2015 Annual Scientific Conference. GSA Treasurer 2019-2020. GSA Vice President since 2020. Elected May 2017.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr Andrew S Hughes | Treasurer



MBBS, FRACS. General Surgeon with sub-specialist interests in Laparoscopic Gastrointestinal, Hernia, Endocrine, Melanoma Surgery, Robotic Surgery, and Endoscopy/Colonoscopy. Research interests include Surgical Education and Data Collection for Clinical Trials. Senior Staff Specialist, The Prince Charles Hospital (TPCH) since 2007. Senior lecturer in Surgery, University of Queensland. VMO Northwest Private/St Vincent's Private Hospital Northside since 2007. Trauma/Transplant Fellowship at Princess Alexandra Hospital in 2006. Advanced General Surgery Trainee at Princess Alexandra Hospital, Gold Coast Hospital, Nambour Hospital, and Mater Health Services 2002-2005. Surgical Supervisor TPCH and Member of RACS Board in General Surgery - Queensland Training Committee 2007-2017. Convenor, Queensland Core Course for SET Program in General Surgery 2007-2017. RACS ASC General Surgery Convenor Brisbane 2016. GSA Treasurer since 2020. Elected May 2016.

Mr Graeme Wayne Clarke | Director



MBBS, FRACS, FRCS (Ed). General Surgeon with sub-specialist interest in Colorectal Surgery and Hernia Surgery. General Surgeon St John of God Mt Lawley Hospital since 1992 and General Surgeon St John of God Midland Public and Private Hospital since its inception 24 November 2015. General and Colorectal Surgeon, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital from 1992-2011. General Surgeon at Swan District Hospital 1992 to 2015. Chair, MAC Swan District Hospital 1994 to 2015 Member, RACS Western Australian State Committee from 1993-1999; Chair from 1999-2001. Member of RACS Court of Examiners in General Surgery from 2003-2011. Elected May 2015.

Mr Damian Arthur Fry | Director

Appointed 12 May 2020



BN, MBBS, FRACS. General Surgeon with sub-specialist interests in complex hernia, Trauma Surgery, Colorectal Surgery, and Rural Surgery. Research interests in acute surgery, including SUNRRISE Trials and laparoscopic vs open appendectomy. Colorectal Fellow at Queen Elizabeth II and Princess Alexandra Hospitals in 2019. General Surgeon at Toowoomba Hospital since 2020. Queensland Representative and Member of RACS Trainees Association 2016-2018. Co-opted Member, RACS Queensland State Committee 2016-2018. Member of RACS Rural Surgical Section Committee since 2019; RACS Rural Coach since 2019. Supervisor of Training at Toowoomba Hospital since 2020. Deputy Chair GSA PFET Rural Program Training Committee since 2019. Elected May 2020.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Ms Nishanthi Gurusinghe | Director

FRACS, MBChB, BSc (Psychology), PGDip Clinical Education. General surgeon with sub specialist interests in Colorectal Surgery, Advanced Laparoscopic Surgery, Colonoscopy & Endoscopy. Research interests include surgical education and training. Scientific convener combined 2019 GSA/CSSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting and 2019 Colorectal Trainees' Day. Surgical Supervisor of Training at Launceston General Hospital since 2015. Member of RACS Tasmanian State committee 2015-2017, 2020 to present. RACS Tasmania Annual Scientific Meeting Convener 2019, 2020. SEAM Committee Member since 2016. Tasmanian Rep RACS Council 2021. Elected May 2019.



Mr Akhtar Hussein Sayed-Hassen | Director

MBChB, BA, FRCS(Ed), FRACS. General Surgeon with sub-specialist interest in Upper Gastrointestinal and HPB Surgery. Member of RACS Section of Upper GI/HPB Surgery. Member of RACS Victorian State Committee 2006-2010. Member and former Chair of RACS Victorian Regional Training Committee of the Board in General Surgery. Convener, Victorian Trainees' Weekend 2004-2008. Co-opted GSA ASC Hong Kong Convener 2006-2008. Scientific Convener, 2014 Singapore ASC. Chair of Department of General Surgery, Eastern Health. Executive Clinical Director of Surgery, Eastern Health. Chairman, SEAM Working Party. Deputy Chair, RACS Board in General Surgery 2016-2019. Chair, RACS Board in General Surgery since 2019. GSA Treasurer 2012-2019. Elected May 2012.



A/Prof Kellee Slater | Director

MBBS (Hons), FRACS, FACS. General Surgeon with sub-specialist interests in complex abdominal wall repair, Hepatobiliary Surgery, and Liver Transplant. Research interests include complex abdominal wall repair and Hepatobiliary Surgery. Surgical Fellow at University Colorado, USA from 2002-2004. SMO Greenslopes Private Hospital, Queensland Children's Hospital, and Princess Alexandra Hospital since 2003. General Surgery Representative for RACS Queensland State Committee in 2010. Surgical Supervisor at Princess Alexandra Hospital from 2006-2010. Member of RACS Board in General Surgery - Queensland Training Committee from 2006-2015 (Chair, 2014-2015). Member of RACS Board in General Surgery 2014-2019. Deputy Chair and IMG Representative, RACS Board in General Surgery from 2015-2017. Chair, RACS Board in General Surgery from 2017-2019. Elected May 2019.

**The Australian Society of Specialist General Surgeons
t/a General Surgeons Australia
250-290 Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002**