



GENERAL SURGEONS
AUSTRALIA

Annual Report

2023

President's Report

In 2023, 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.

Some of the key indicators of success measured in 2023 can be reviewed on pages 4-6.

The governance landscape of Surgical Education and Training was particularly challenging for General Surgery in 2023, with pressures from the RACS, the regulators, and the jurisdictions. Despite those challenges and complexities, members of the GSA Board, Training Board, and Regional Training Committees remained committed to the delivery of world-class education and training opportunities for our Members and Trainees, and to strengthening the Specialty of General Surgery.

Given the changing landscape and the need for increased representation and advocacy for our Specialty, the Board engaged Korn Ferry in mid-2023 to undertake a full Organisational Review aligned to the six Key Results Areas (KRAs) of the GSA Strategic Plan. All Directors and staff took part in the comprehensive review process over several months, which resulted in a co-designed model for a suggested organisational structure. The Board will continue the next phase of the project in 2024, scoping out the feasibility of new and expanded roles, and aligning responsibilities to specific KRAs in the updated Strategic Plan.

In March 2023, the organisation held the inaugural Recognition of Service Black Tie Ball, to commemorate and honour members who had dedicated over 10 years of service to GSA and to the Australian Board in General Surgery (ABiGS). Members recognised at the event included Professor Philip Truskett (past-President), Mr Graeme Campbell (past-Vice President), Professor Michael Cox (past-President and former ABiGS Board Chair), Dr Michael Donovan (past-President), Professor Richard Turner (past-Vice President), Mr Alan Saunder (past-Vice President and former ABiGS Board Chair), Mr Trevor Collinson (past-President), and Mr Sayed Hassen (past-Treasurer and former ABiGS Board Chair).

In June 2023, the organisation commenced a workforce pilot project to map the Active GSA membership in Australia, including gender, practice location, surgical specialties practiced, and years of

surgical experience. Data from the project will be used for regular reporting of geographical representation and gender breakdown to the RACS Professional Standards and Fellowship Services Committee, as well as developing a clearer picture of workforce gaps for General Surgery.

The Board continued its advocacy work in providing feedback and input for several projects and initiatives throughout the year, including ongoing work with the Department of Health Out of Pockets Transparency Project, and co-badged submissions for the Queensland Parliament Health and Environment Committee inquiry into the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Surgeons) Amendment Bill 2023, the MBA Consultation on Recognition of Rural Generalist Medicine, and the ACSQHC Consultation on the Framework for Australian Clinical Quality Registries. The GSA President represented the organisation at the NZAGS Annual Scientific Meeting in Wellington in August, as well as AMA (NSW) Associations and Societies meetings.

In line with the organisation's commitment to sustainability, the organisation endorsed both the GreenCollege Guidelines and the Australian Healthcare Sector Emission Reduction Targets in 2023. In January, the organisation engaged Green Collect to coordinate the sustainable disposal of almost 300kgs of obsolete equipment and stationery for recycling.

The success of online delivery methods for the majority of the national and regional education program continued in 2023. Over 70 education sessions were delivered via the GSA Online platform, including the Queensland Core Course, WA Registrar Training in Surgery Program, South Australian Long Course, and General Surgery Education and Training (GSET) Training Webinars. A total of 194 educational webcasts were added to the GSA Educational Resources for the year.

The GSA Trainees' Day on Colorectal Surgery was delivered as a virtual event in May, with a total of 214 delegates attending online. The second GSA Trainees' Day on Hernia Surgery was delivered as part of the 2023 GSA ASM in October, with 126 Trainees, SIMGs, and Junior Doctors attending.

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The national Online Fellowship Exam Preparation Course and Refresher Course were again delivered via GSA Online from February to August, with 157 Trainees and SIMGs participating across fifteen sessions, supported by 39 faculty and 48 tutors. The program covered topics including Colorectal & Small Bowel, Breast, Endocrine, HPB, Upper GI, Bariatric, Abdominal Wall & Hernia Surgery, Trauma & Emergency Surgery, Melanoma and Sarcoma, a Spot Exam, and small group viva practice sessions focussing on exam technique, as well as Operatives, Pathophysiology, Long & Short Cases, and Anatomy.

Event Management Services provided by GSA for external conferences and events included the Provincial Surgeons of Australia 2023 Annual Scientific Conference held in Margaret River from 26-28 October 2023, the Sydney 2023 Winter Colorectal Meeting held on 12 August 2023, and The Alfred General Surgery Meeting held in Melbourne from 3-4 November 2023. The GSA Board awarded 12 Rural Coach Grants to General Surgery Trainees and Junior Doctors members to fund attendance at the PSA 2023 ASC.

The 2023 GSA Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) was the organisation's largest meeting since 2019. Just over 500 delegates, speakers, and industry representatives attended the 2023 GSA ASM, which was held over four days from 13-15 October 2023 at the JW Marriott Gold Coast Resort & Spa in Queensland. Delegates and speakers attended from across Australia, Fiji, France, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The program included contributions from over fifty national and international speakers, including Keynote Speakers Dr William Hope from the University of North Carolina, US, Prof Yohann Renard from Praticien Hospitalier, Reims France, and Mr Dominic Slade from the Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust, UK.

Excellence in Surgical Teaching Awards were presented at the ASM Social Spectacular to Dr Jacinta Cover (WA), Dr Alexander Croese (QLD), Dr Sonal Nagra (VIC), Mr Jonathan Fong (TAS), Dr Robert Bohmer (TAS), and Dr Sanjeeva Kariyawasam (WA).

In 2023, the GSA Pacific Island & South Eastern Travel Grant Program recommenced after a three-year hiatus due to COVID-19. GSA sponsored nine (9) General Surgeons and Surgical Trainees to attend the GSA ASM and Trainees' Day on the Gold Coast, including Dr Marina Tuinukuafe from Tonga; Dr Kennedy James, Dr Titus Pakop, and Dr Dickson Rollef Wak from

Papua New Guinea; Dr Micky Olangi and Dr Elvis Biofa Japhleth from Solomon Islands; and Dr Warren Thaggard, Dr Sonam Sharma, and Dr Parneet Harish from Fiji.

The Research & Scholarships Committee reviewed a total of 76 abstracts that were submitted for consideration for the 2023 GSA ASM, providing Trainees and Junior Doctors with a unique opportunity to meet their Research Requirement for training and gain invaluable presentation experience. 18 Abstracts were selected for Poster Presentation, and 12 Abstracts were selected for Podium Presentation.

Winners of the 2023 ASM prizes and awards included Dr Luke Traeger (John Ham Award), Dr Renishka Sellayah (Noel Newton Award), Dr Raelene Yi Mei Tan (GSA Poster Award), Dr Kennedy James (GSA Research Award), and Dr Sneha Ninan (Hernia Award). The inaugural Errol Maguire Award was awarded to Dr Chu Luan Nguyen, and was presented by Mrs Marcia Maguire and Dr Richard Maguire.

The Research & Scholarships Committee approved four research projects and surveys in 2023, covering topics such as Investigation into the Use and Development of Empathy in General Surgery; Understanding surgeon preference towards extra-corporeal vs intra-corporeal anastomosis in Colorectal Surgery; Attitudes towards implementation of procedure-based assessment (PBA) as a measure of competency in Colorectal Surgery; and, Exploring Operating Room Staff Experience Related to the Design of Operating Room Spaces in Australia.

The 2023 SEAM Standard Setting workshop was held in Launceston in September, and the Breast & Endocrine and Upper GI - Bariatric modules were released as part of organ specific modules for the SEAM II program.

The organisation provided administrative management of the supervision or oversight requirements of 21 SIMGs in General Surgery, post their initial clinical assessment by the RACS. Quinquennial Hospital Accreditation Inspections were conducted in June for 11 hospitals in South Australia.

The GSA Post-Fellowship Education & Training (PFET) Programs attracted a total of 7 applications, with a total of 17 offers made for Transplantation (4).

Selection Interviews for the 2023 Intake were held face-to-face in each of the regions, with a total of 244 applications received for the GSET Program in

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General Surgery and 122 applicants proceeding to interview. A total of 108 offers of training commencing in 2024 were accepted, with Selection fees totalling \$209,950 for the year.

The organisation reviewed its investment strategy in 2023 and appointed Findex to manage a portfolio of just over \$2.2M in July 2023. Global market performance improved in 2023, with returns on investments across ANZ OneAnswer, Findex, and the RACS Small Scale Offering totalling \$397,600 for the year. The total funds invested as at 31 December 2023 was \$4,586,807.

The total number of full-time and part-time staff employed by the organisation during the 2023 financial year was eleven. The operational deficit was attributable to one-off expenditure for professional services fees as well as website and database development costs. While expenditure was also higher in the areas of personnel costs, grants, and awards, the surplus from the 2023 GSA ASM, and strong returns on investments, all contributed towards the overall surplus for the year.

On behalf of the Directors:



Dr Sally Butchers FRACS | President

Key Indicators of Success

INDICATOR	TARGET	2023 RESULTS
Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Membership increase >5% p.a. 80% of new General Surgery Fellows joining GSA each year, including SIMGs New membership amongst junior doctors of >5% p.a. Diverse membership that reflects the profession of Specialist General Surgery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 149 new members; 3.9% overall increase 60 of all new members were Junior Doctors (40.27%) 104 new General Surgery Fellows in 2023; 53 of these joined GSA (50.96%) 7 new Ordinary members were Fellows >10 years post FRACS (7.9%) Ordinary & Senior Membership: 23.57% Female; 76.43% Male (FRACS General Surgery Active & Retired 2022 Activities Report: 17.65% Female; 82.35% Male) Junior Doctor Membership: 50.97% Female; 49.03% Male
Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balanced and diverse representation on GSA Boards and Committees 	<p>GSA Board of Directors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four out of nine (44.4%) female Five out of nine (55.5%) born outside Australia Four out of nine (44.4%) practice in a Regional or Rural setting Average 16 years post-FRACS (Range: 4-34 years)
Membership management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75% of Members paying online or via direct deposit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 71% annual Membership Subscriptions paid via MYOB Online or Direct Deposit

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Key Indicators of Success

INDICATOR	TARGET	2023 RESULTS
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> eBlast to Members issued monthly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three (3) issues of GSA eZine in 2023
Selected Trainees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retention >90% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 99.26% retention in 2023 (0.74% Withdrawn; 0.48% Dismissed)
Supervisors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of General Surgery Supervisors as members of GSA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60.16% of General Surgery Supervisors (77) were members of GSA. A further 18.75% of Supervisors were previous 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: 65%. Of those that passed, 89% (89 candidates) passed within two attempts Trainee pass rate: 66%
Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-authoring submissions to government and other bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2023: Co-badged submission on Consultation on the recognition of Rural Generalist Medicine 2023: Co-badged submission on New Standards for Assessment and Accreditation of Cosmetic Surgery Programs of Study 2023: Co-badged submission on Framework for Australian Clinical Quality Registries 2023: Co-badged response to Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Surgeons) Amendment Bill 2023 (QLD) 2023: Endorsement of AMA/DEA GreenCollege Guidelines and the Australian Healthcare Sector Emission Reduction Targets. 2022: Co-badged Consultation Paper on Bundling Arrangements for General Use Items on the Prostheses List 2022: Co-badged AHPRA Consultation on Cosmetic Surgery Registration Standards 2021: Published THANZ Multidisciplinary VITT Guideline for Doctors developed in collaboration with the Thrombosis & Haemostasis Society of Australia New Zealand (THANZ). The guideline was developed in response to the severe prothrombotic syndrome associated with thrombocytopenia described in a small number of patients exposed to the COVID-19 AstraZeneca and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccines.

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Key Indicators of Success

INDICATOR	TARGET	2023 RESULTS
GSA ASM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 50% of ASM delegates as surgeons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2023: 63.99% of delegates were surgeons 2022: 53.7% of delegates were surgeons 2020/2021: N/A 2019: 58.9% of delegates were surgeons 2018: 66.6% of delegates were surgeons 2017: 64.5% of delegates were surgeons 2016: 61% of delegates were surgeons 2015: 50% of delegates were surgeons
Surgical Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All scholarships awarded annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2023: Prizes awarded at GSA ASM included the inaugural Errol Maguire Award, John Ham Award, Noel Newton Award, Hernia Award, GSA Poster Award, and GSA Research Award 2023: 9 Pacific Island & South East Asian Travel Grants awarded 2022: 6 Junior Doctor Research Grants awarded 2021: 9 Junior Doctor Research Grants awarded 2022: Prizes awarded at GSA ASM included John Ham Award, GSA Poster Award, and GSA Research Award
Budget performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> +/- 5% of budget annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total revenue 14.48% over budget; Total expenditure 14.78% over budget Total surplus 540% over budget due to investment returns
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 2023

Treasurer's Report

This Treasurer's Report details the financial position for General Surgeons Australia (GSA) for the 2023 financial year, and highlights performance from some of our core business activities.

Global market performance was stronger in 2023, and the Board of Directors remains committed to investments in online learning and educational events and activities. This demonstrates the Board's 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 losses) was \$3,529,850 in 2023, compared to \$2,678,362 in 2022. Total expenditure in 2023 was \$3,168,566, compared to \$2,938,244 in 2022. The overall surplus for 2023 was \$361,284 (2022 deficit: \$391,633), which was attributable to the surplus from the 2023 GSA Annual Scientific Meeting and increased returns on investments.

Key Revenue and Expenditure Items for 2023

- Training Services income was \$2,058,510 in 2023 (2022: \$1,989,835)
- Post Fellowship Education & Training income was \$38,636 in 2023 (2022: \$38,318)
- Income on investments for 2023 was \$397,600 (2022 loss: \$153,348)
- Course and Event income was \$686,479 in 2023 (2022: \$392,261)
- Course and Event expenditure was \$714,059 in 2023 (2022: \$727,873)
- Grants and award expenditure was \$62,068 in 2023 (2022: \$20,826)
- External professional services expenditure was \$40,452 in 2023 (2022: \$29,295)
- Personnel costs remained the dominant expense, followed by the 2023 GSA Annual Scientific Meeting, website and database development, and development and delivery of Online Educational and Regional & Other Educational Programs.

Statement of Financial Position

Key movements in assets included a 45.31% decrease in cash and cash equivalents, but an increase of \$700,729 held in short- and mid- Term Deposits (compared to a \$50,000 increase in 2023). The overall increase in the total investment portfolios was 9.37% for the year (compared to a 2.86% increase in 2023) bringing the total funds invested as at 31 December 2023 to \$4,586,807.

Statement of Cash Flows

In 2023, the Statement of Cash Flows indicated a net cash inflow from operating activities of \$247,547 (2022: \$22,853), and a net decrease in cash held of \$600,056 (2022 decrease: \$472,126).

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 2023, which is available for download from the GSA website.

Directors' Declaration

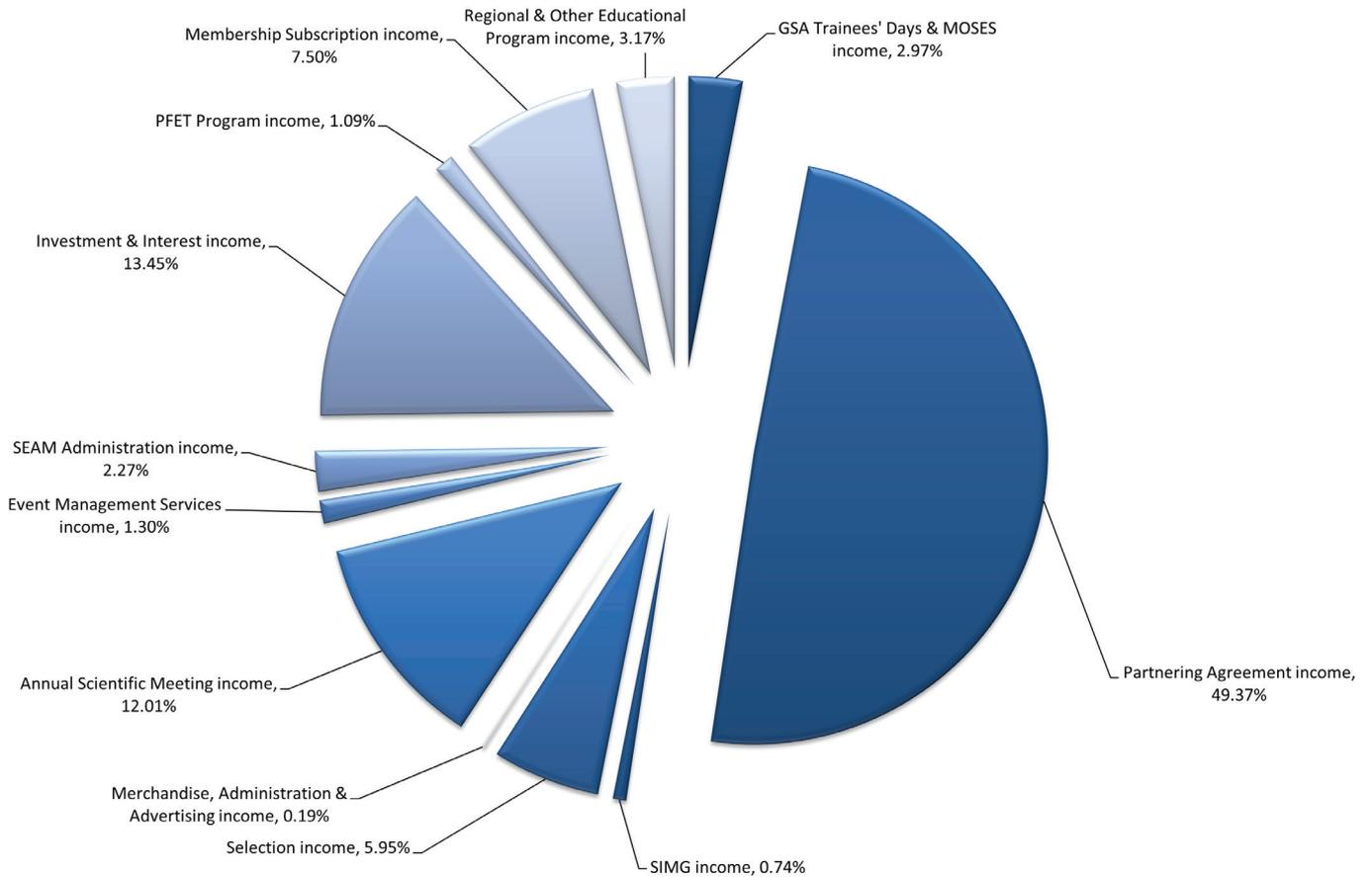
The Directors of General Surgeons Australia declare that the summarised financial report set out on pages 10-12 have been derived from and are consistent with the full General Purpose Financial Report of The Australian Society of Specialist General Surgeons (trading as General Surgeons Australia) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

On behalf of the Directors:

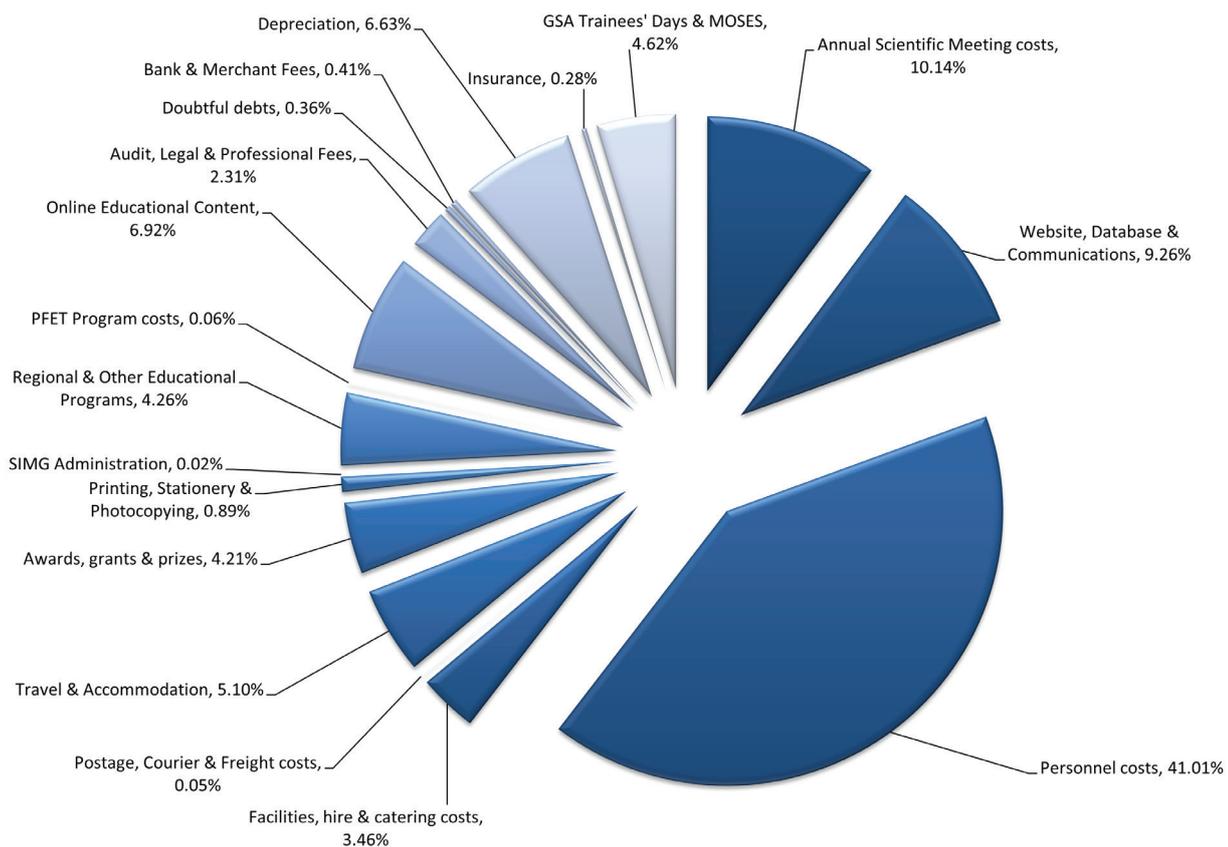


Dr Andrew S Hughes FRACS | Treasurer

Total Revenue 2023 \$3,529,850



Total Expenditure 2023 \$3,168,566



Financial Report

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
REVENUE			
Members' income		264,888	253,618
Training Services income	2	2,058,510	1,989,835
Post Fellowship Education & Training income		38,636	38,318
Courses income	2	216,690	175,460
Event income	2	469,789	216,801
Other income	2	6,540	4,330
		<u>3,055,053</u>	<u>2,678,362</u>
Other revenue - interest		77,196	21,597
Income/(Loss) on investments	3	<u>397,600</u>	<u>(153,348)</u>
		3,529,849	2,546,611
EXPENSES			
Employee benefits expense	4	(1,299,382)	(1,205,254)
Administrative & Training Services expense		(829,437)	(728,452)
Courses expense		(322,552)	(337,005)
Event expense		(391,507)	(390,868)
Grants & Awards expense		(62,068)	(20,826)
Finance costs		(13,054)	(11,956)
External professional services expense		(40,452)	(29,295)
Depreciation expense		<u>(210,113)</u>	<u>(214,588)</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		<u>361,284</u>	<u>(391,633)</u>
Other comprehensive income		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total comprehensive income for the year		<u>361,284</u>	<u>(391,633)</u>

Financial Report

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	724,356	1,324,412
Other financial assets		750,729	50,000
Trade and other receivables	6	34,917	38,215
Inventories	7	3,857	3,857
Prepayments	8	14,307	88,145
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>1,528,166</u>	<u>1,504,629</u>
NON CURRENT ASSETS			
Right-of-use asset	9	108,203	65,004
Plant and equipment	10	1,085	9,822
Intangible assets	11	93,566	143,917
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	12	4,586,807	4,193,703
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS		<u>4,789,661</u>	<u>4,412,446</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>6,317,827</u>	<u>5,917,075</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	13	54,980	97,205
Provision for employee entitlements	14	386,615	357,049
Lease liability		52,850	64,960
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>494,445</u>	<u>519,214</u>
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provision for employee entitlements	14	34,163	24,890
Lease liability		54,964	-
TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>89,127</u>	<u>24,890</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>583,572</u>	<u>544,104</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>5,734,255</u>	<u>5,372,971</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Accumulated surplus		<u>5,734,255</u>	<u>5,372,971</u>
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		<u>5,734,255</u>	<u>5,372,971</u>

Financial Report

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Cash flows from operating activities		
- Receipts from members and customers	3,232,553	2,768,354
- Payments to suppliers and employees	(3,049,149)	(2,755,141)
- Interest received	77,196	21,597
- Interest paid	(13,054)	(11,956)
Net cash flows provided by operating activities	<u>247,547</u>	<u>22,853</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
- Transfer to term deposit	(700,729)	(50,000)
- Payment for plant and equipment	(635)	(1,985)
- Payment for intangible assets	(86,022)	(108,655)
- Net return from/(payments for) investments	4,496	(270,000)
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(782,890)</u>	<u>(430,640)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities		
- Lease payments	(64,713)	(64,339)
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>(64,713)</u>	<u>(64,339)</u>
Net (decrease)/increase in cash held	(600,056)	(472,126)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	<u>1,324,412</u>	<u>1,796,537</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	<u><u>724,356</u></u>	<u><u>1,324,412</u></u>

2023 GSA Annual Scientific Meeting Gold Coast



The 2023 GSA Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) was the organisation's largest meeting since 2019. Just over 500 delegates, speakers, and industry representatives attended the 2023 GSA ASM, which was held over four days from 13-15 October 2023 at the JW Marriott Gold Coast Resort & Spa in Queensland. Delegates and speakers attended from across Australia, Fiji, France, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The program included contributions from over fifty national and international speakers, including Keynote Speakers Dr William Hope from the University of North Carolina, US, Prof Yohann Renard from Praticien Hospitalier, Reims France, and Mr Dominic Slade from the Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust, UK.

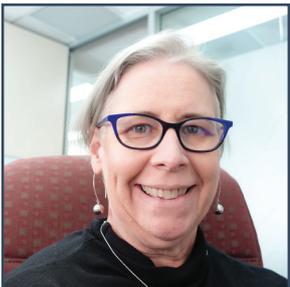
Our sincere gratitude is extended to A/Prof Kellee Slater, Dr David Parker and Dr David Wardill for convening the excellent Trainees' Day and Scientific Programs.

Board of Directors



DR SALLY BUTCHERS | PRESIDENT

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 2020-2021. GSA President since May 2021. Elected May 2017.



ASSOC PROF KELLEE SLATER | VICE PRESIDENT

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. Scientific Convenor, 2023 GSA ASM. GSA Vice-President since 2021. Elected May 2019.



DR ANDREW 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, and Surgical Outcomes in Highly Comorbid Patients. Senior Staff Specialist, The Prince Charles Hospital (TPCH) since 2007. VMO Northwest Private/St Vincent's Private Hospital Northside since 2007. Trauma/Transplant Fellowship at Princess Alexandra Hospital in 2006. 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.

Board of Directors



MR GRAEME CLARKE | DIRECTOR

MBBS, FRACS, FRCS (Ed). General Surgeon with sub-specialist interest in Colorectal Surgery and Hernia Surgery. Transitioning out of active practice. Most recently General Surgeon at St John of God Mt Lawley Hospital from 1992 to 2023 and Head of Department from 2017 to 2023. General Surgeon The Park Private Hospital from 2016 to 2023. Previous public hospital appointments have been General Surgeon St John of God Midland Public and Private Hospital 2015 - 2021. General and Colorectal Surgeon, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital 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.



PROF PETER COSMAN | DIRECTOR

BA, MBBS, FRACS, AFCHSM, PhD. General Surgeon with sub-specialist interests in Oesophagogastric, Pancreatic, Bariatric, Hernia, and Gastrointestinal Surgery, and Advanced Laparoscopic and Robotic Surgery. Research interests include Pancreatic Cancer, Obesity and Bariatric Surgery, Oesophagogastric Motility and Reflux, Surgical Education, and Human Factors in Medicine. Medical Director, Surgical Services Line at Redcliffe Hospital 2021. Professor of Surgery, Faculty Head of Discipline at University of Wollongong 2017-2018. Director, Skills Division at Sydney Clinical Skills and Simulation Centre 2008-2011. VMO Liverpool Hospital 2007-2017. Director of Surgical Services, Royal Darwin & Palmerston Hospital since May 2023. Member of RACS NSW State Committee 2017-2021. Chair of RACS Clinical Examinations Committee 2017-2019. Executive Committee Member of Sydney Upper Gastrointestinal Society 2013-2018. Chair of SWSLHD/ISLHD Low Volume Oncology Research & Governance Committees 2014-2018. Member of AGITG Advisory Committee 2007-2010. Elected May 2022. .



DR DAMIAN FRY | DIRECTOR

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. NSQIP lead for Toowoomba Hospital. Queensland Representative and Member of RACS Trainees Association 2016-2018. Member, RACS Queensland State Committee since 2016. Member of RACS Rural Surgical Section Committee since 2019; RACS Rural Coach since 2019. Supervisor of Training at Toowoomba Hospital since 2020. Chair GSA PFET Rural Program Training Committee since 2021. Elected May 2020.

Board of Directors



MISS 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 2015-2023. Member of RACS Tasmanian State Committee 2015-2017, 2020 to present. RACS Tasmania Annual Scientific Meeting Convenor 2019, 2020, 2022, 2023. SEAM Committee Member since 2016. Tasmanian Representative RACS Council since 2021. Board member Launceston City Mission since 2022. Elected May 2019.



DR SU MEI HOH | DIRECTOR

MBBS, FRACS. Master of Public Health (The University of Melbourne). General Surgeon with sub-specialist interest in Colorectal Surgery, Hernia Surgery, Global Surgery, Health Systems (equity and diversity), Public Health, and Aging and surgery. Research Interests in Colorectal Surgery, Global Surgery, and Aging and surgery. CSSANZ Colorectal Fellow at Auckland City Hospital in 2020 and Lyell McEwin Hospital, Adelaide in 2021. Trainee Representative, ANZ Training Board in Colon and Rectum Surgery (CSSANZ) since 2021. Member of RACS Trainees Association (RACSTA) from 2014 - 2016; RACSTA Executive Committee, Training Portfolio from 2016-2017. Trainee Representative, RACS Prevocational Skills Education Committee from 2014-2017. Trainee Representative, RACS Younger Fellows Committee from 2016-2017. Elected May 2021.



PROF MATTHIAS WICHMANN | DIRECTOR

General Surgeon, Bavarian Chamber of Medicine, Munich (2002); FRACS (2007). General Surgeon with sub-specialist interest in Rural Surgery, Colorectal Surgery, Emergency Surgery, and Minimally Invasive Surgery. Research interests in Colorectal Cancer outcomes, Endoscopic Surgery, and Emergency Surgery. Consultant General Surgeon at Mt Gambier General Hospital since 2006. Surgical Registrar and Consultant General Surgeon University of Munich from 1996-2006. Research Fellow at Brown University from 1995-1996; Michigan State University from 1994-1995. Former Board Member, Mt Gambier Private Hospital. Former Member, RACS Rural Section. Member, RACS South Australian State Committee. Elected May 2021