

Emerging leaders working together



The 2018 Emerging Leaders Conference (formerly the New Fellows Conference) was held from May 4-6 at the Hydro Majestic Hotel in the Blue Mountains, NSW. It was the first time the meeting (#ELC18) had been combined with RACS's Younger Fellows Forum.

The "Working together" meeting welcomed 20 delegates who had been selected by their respective regional committees in New Zealand, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and Hong Kong. A similar number of delegates from the nine subspecialties within RACS also attended.

The meeting opened with a combined plenary lecture on gender diversity and inclusion presented by Australian business leader and mentor Diana Ryall. This thought-provoking and engaging session examined an important and contemporary issue in both colleges and in the wider community.

This was followed by another combined and interactive session "What makes a good operating theatre medical team?" presented by Dr Stuart Marshall (FANZCA). The opposing view, highlighting the medical and legal implications of what happens when teams do not work well together, was presented by Dr Joseph Lizzio (FRACS).

A team building "Licence to spy" exercise was held on site at the hotel. This was well received by delegates and a great way for anaesthetists and surgeons to interact before dinner and a fiercely-contested trivia quiz.

The second day of the conference began with an ANZCA-only session hosted by New Fellow Councillor Dr Scott Ma and the college's Digital Communications Manager Al Dicks who introduced delegates to the pros and cons of social media platforms. Delegates were encouraged to join Twitter after being shown the basics of the communication tool and help build the Twitter army ahead of the Annual Scientific Meeting in Sydney.

The meeting then reconvened with RACS when a session on doctors' mental health was tabled. Dr Marion Andrew (FANZCA), chair of the Welfare Special Interest Group, combined with Dr Sally Langley (FRACS) to address "Self-care for a successful team". This was followed by Professor Michael Baigent (FRANZCP) who presented "A healthy team requires a healthy team member".

Dr Tracey Tay (FANZCA) and health research economist Penny Reeves presented a detailed and informative introduction into health economics, "Making choices in healthcare", in an ANZCA-only session. The day ended

with a combined session "Pathways to leadership" featuring Dr Scott Ma, Dr Harry Eeman (New Fellow Board Member, FPM) and Dr Andrew MacCormick (Younger Fellows Chair, RACS). The highlight of the dinner at Parklands Country Garden and Lodges were the speeches made by both ANZCA President Professor David A Scott and RACS President Mr John Batten.

On the final morning, the day began with a combined session introducing delegates to the science and art of mindfulness from Mr Anthony Dunin (FRACS). This was followed by an ANZCA-only panel discussion where delegates were invited to ask questions from the leadership team including President Professor David A Scott, Dr Scott Ma, Dr Harry Eeman and Councillor-in-residence Dr Michael Jones. After morning tea a challenging session on the ethics and legal implications of futile treatment was hosted by Dr Margot Heaney (FANZCA).

A final session that explored the past, present and future of leadership and mentoring was hosted by Dr Robert Buckland (FANZCA). The meeting was then closed and delegates bussed to the Sydney International Convention Centre for the ASM.

Dr Craig Coghlan
Emerging Leaders Conference Convenor

Clockwise from left: The emerging leaders at the Three Sisters lookout; Saturday night dinner at Parklands; team building activity - Licence to Spy.