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## **Perth anaesthetist and pain expert new ANZCA president**

West Australian anaesthetist and pain specialist, Dr Lindy Roberts, is the new president of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA), assuming the role on the final day of the ANZCA annual scientific meeting in Perth.

Dr Roberts, 47, takes office during the College's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year and is the third woman, following Professor Kate Leslie and Dr Leona Wilson, to lead the College, reflecting the increasing numbers of women joining the specialty.

Dr Roberts is a staff specialist in anaesthesia and pain management at Perth's Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, where she was until recently the director of the acute pain service.

She was an inaugural Fellow of the Faculty of Pain Medicine of ANZCA and is passionate about the management of acute pain particularly for people who suffer with chronic pain or have a history of addiction.

"If you're experiencing an acutely painful condition, then you need good pain management to assist recovery, and this has not always been the case for opioid tolerant patients who have surgery or who are injured," she says.

"While some doctors are concerned about contributing to a person's addiction, the prescription of opioids in a controlled fashion and as part of a co-ordinated plan with a team approach can help. What's important is to balance recognising and treating the pain, and avoiding the harmful effects of opioids."

Dr Roberts' other interests include promoting the welfare of anaesthetists and doctors' self-care, as well as teaching trainees at the bedside.

She is the 13th president of ANZCA and has been on the College's council since 2004, most recently as vice president and treasurer. The College provides training, accreditation and support to anaesthetists and pain medicine specialists, and maintains the standards of clinical practice in Australia and New Zealand.

Dr Roberts began her training in Brisbane 20 years ago and notes it is a "lovely synergy" to be taking over as president in the College's 20<sup>th</sup> year.

"It's exciting for me personally, but also an important time for the College as we introduce a best-practice curriculum that will continue to see us internationally recognised as a pre-eminent body in training anaesthetists and pain medicine specialists and cementing the high quality of care that we provide for the community," she says.

As well as implementing the College's revised curriculum, Dr Roberts' other goals will be ensuring strong standards of care by supporting innovative research and providing educational resources for Fellows to help them stay up to date, engaging with the health reform agenda of the Australian and New Zealand governments, and ensuring Fellows who contribute to the College through pro bono work get appropriate recognition and support.

### **Brisbane pain medicine specialist to head Faculty of Pain Medicine**

Brisbane anaesthetist and pain medicine specialist, Associate Professor Brendan Moore, is the new dean of the Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM).

Dr Moore, 44, is a pain medicine specialist at Greenslopes Private Hospital, St Vincent's Private Hospital and Canossa Day Surgery Centre and is one of the founding members of Axxon Pain Medicine at West End. He is also an adjunct associate professor at the Centre for Integrated Preclinical Drug Development at the University of Queensland School of Pharmacy.

Dr Moore trained in Brisbane and Ireland, has been on the Faculty board since 2005, most recently as vice dean.

FPM is a faculty of ANZCA and is the first multidisciplinary medical academy in the world to be devoted to education and training in pain medicine. Participating specialities are anaesthesia, medicine, surgery, psychiatry and rehabilitation medicine.

Dr Moore aims to strengthen the speciality of pain medicine in partnership with allied health colleagues and consumer groups to ensure people in the community suffering pain get access to the best possible pain management across Australia and New Zealand.

He is leading the development of an on-line education project in collaboration with colleagues from the Royal Australian College of General Practice for improved education in the area of pain management.

"Twenty per cent of the population is affected by persistent pain and this percentage will grow along with our ageing population," Dr Moore says.

"My goal is to oversee the further growth of this relatively young speciality to assist people in the community who suffer from persistent and acute pain, improve the understanding of pain management and help to destigmatise the plight of those who suffer from pain."

- **For more information, or to interview Dr Roberts or Dr Moore, please contact ANZCA Media Manager Meaghan Shaw on +61 408 259 369 or [mshaw@anzca.edu.au](mailto:mshaw@anzca.edu.au). Follow us on Twitter [@ANZCAnews](https://twitter.com/ANZCAnews).**