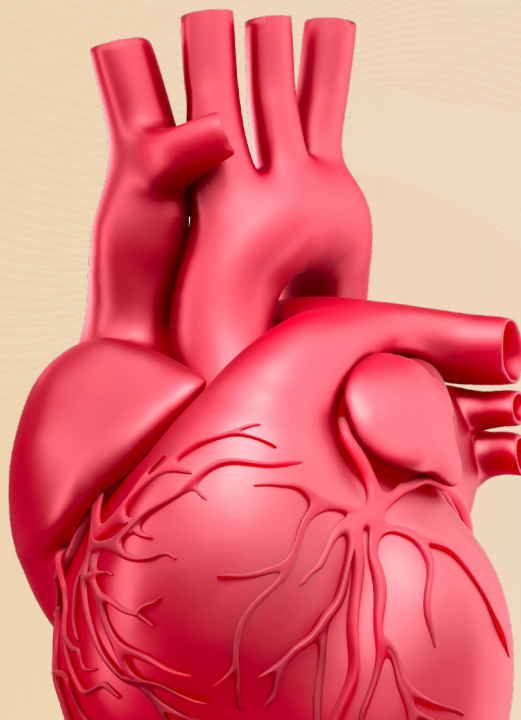


2026 NSW ACE Winter Meeting

Hearts at the Hilton

Saturday 20 June 2026
Hilton Hotel Sydney



Convenors' welcome

Cardiac complexity is becoming an everyday reality in anaesthesia practice. Across theatres, pre op clinics and emergency settings, we're encountering patients with increasingly intricate cardiac histories, and the pace of change in cardiology means the goalposts never stay still for long. This year's meeting, "Hearts at the Hilton" is built around that evolving landscape – a chance to pause, recalibrate, and deepen our understanding of the cardiac challenges shaping modern perioperative care.

Our program brings together a broad spectrum of topics designed to support anaesthetists at every stage of practice. We'll explore contemporary approaches to perioperative cardiac risk and unpack the essentials of cardiology that matter most in our day-to-day decision-making. Obstetric cardiac cases will also feature, reflecting the unique considerations these populations bring to the table.

Practical skills remain front and centre. Perioperative ECG and rhythm analysis will be incorporated, while updates on heart failure and STEMI definitions will ensure we're aligned with current evidence and terminology.

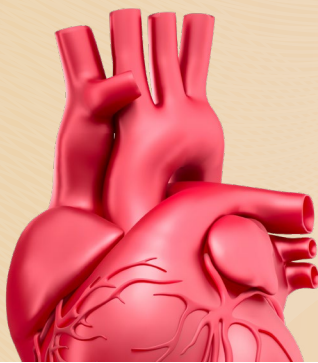
As always, the program has been shaped with annual CPD requirements in mind, incorporating emergency response activities, and opportunities for meaningful critical reflection.

We look forward to welcoming you to Hearts at the Hilton, a meeting designed to inform, challenge and inspire as we navigate the ever-expanding world of cardiac care together.

Dr Dave Gillespie and Dr Iain Stewart

Meeting Co-convenors

Hearts at the Hilton



Program

Session 1: Plenary

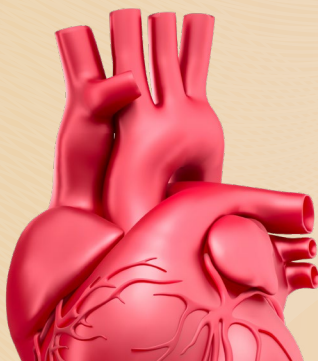
8.55-9am	Conference Welcome	Dr Iain Stewart, Specialist Anaesthetist, Prince of Wales Hospital, The Sutherland Hospital and The Royal Hospital for Women Dr David Gillespie Specialist Anaesthetist, Coffs Harbour
9-9.45am	What have biomarkers got to do with it?	Dr Louisa Lowes Specialist Anaesthetist and Director of Perioperative Medicine, Prince of Wales Hospital
9:45-10:15am	Cardiac anaesthesia for the non-cardiac anaesthetist	Dr Girish Palnitkar Specialist Cardiothoracic Anaesthetist Director of Health Economics & Policy, Constellation Strategic ASA Federal Scientific Officer Scientific Co-Convenor ASA NSC 2027
10:15-10.25 am	ASA President's update	Dr Vida Viliunas, OAM President ASA
10.25-10.35 am	ANZCA President's update	Dr Tanya Selak President ANZCA and Specialist Anaesthetist, Wollongong Hospital
10.35-10.45am	Question and answer panel	Dr Louisa Lowes Specialist Anaesthetist and Director of Perioperative Medicine, Prince of Wales Hospital Dr Girish Palnitkar Specialist Cardiothoracic Anaesthetist Director of Health Economics & Policy, Constellation Strategic ASA Federal Scientific Officer Scientific Co-Convenor ASA NSC 2027 Dr Vida Viliunas, OAM President ASA Dr Tanya Selak President ANZCA and Specialist Anaesthetist, Wollongong Hospital

10.45-11.15am Morning tea

Session 2: Plenary

11.15-11.45am	What a cardiologist thinks about preoperative investigation	Dr Ben Lambert Specialist Cardiologist, Coffs Harbour
11.45am-12.15pm	They need help in the cath lab	Dr Mitchell Nolan Specialist Anaesthetist, Prince of Wales Hospital
12.15-12.45pm	What are they doing in the cath lab: ablation and devices	Dr Adam Eslick Specialist Anaesthetist, The Canberra Hospital
12.45-1pm	Question and answer panel	Dr Ben Lambert Specialist Cardiologist, Coffs Harbour Dr Mitchell Nolan Specialist Anaesthetist, Prince of Wales Hospital Dr Adam Eslick Specialist Anaesthetist, The Canberra Hospital

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Session 2: Breakout Workshops

11.15-11.45am 11.50am-12.20pm 12.30-1pm	Newborn resuscitation	Dr Victoria Ward Specialist Anaesthetist, Sydney Children's Hospital
11.15am-1pm	Advanced life support (cardiac arrest)	Dr Anthony Padley VMO Anaesthetist, Blacktown Hospital
11.15am-1pm	Can't intubate can't oxygenate	Dr Laurence Boss Specialist Anaesthetist, St George Hospital
11.15am-1pm	Acute severe behavioural disturbance	Dr Suyin Tan VMO Anaesthetist and Pain Medicine Apecialist, South East Regional Hospital Bega
11.15am-1pm	RA: Lower limb blocks	Dr Natalie Purcell Specialist Anaesthetist, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital Dr Antony Notaras Specialist Anaesthetist, Wollongong Hospital
11.15am-1.15pm	Opioid-induced ventilatory impairment (OIVI)	Dr Glen Sheh Pain and Rehabilitation Physician, Sydney Prof Pam Macintyre, Clinical Professor, Adelaide University, and Emeritus Consultant, Royal Adelaide Hospital
11:15-11:45pm 11:50am-12:20pm 12:30-1pm	Standing Pilates Reset	Dr Abigail Dinnis ASLM Lifestyle Medicine Accredited GP & Mat Pilates Instructor
1-2pm	Lunch	

Session 3: Plenary

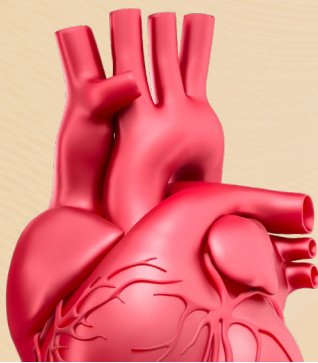
Chair: Dr Kim Gray

2-2.30pm	Updates in cardiology	Dr Ben Lambert Specialist Cardiologist, Coffs Harbour
2.30-3pm	High-risk obstetrics: maternal cardiac disease and the anaesthetist; peripartum challenges and care	Dr Erica Sanderson Specialist Anaesthetist, Westmead Hospital
3-3.30pm	Pulmonary hypertension and right heart	Dr Adam Eslick Specialist Anaesthetist, The Canberra Hospital
3.30-3.45pm	Question and answer panel	Dr Ben Lambert Specialist Cardiologist, Coffs Harbour Dr Erica Sanderson Specialist Anaesthetist, Westmead Hospital Dr Adam Eslick Specialist Anaesthetist, The Canberra Hospital

Session 3: Breakouts Workshops

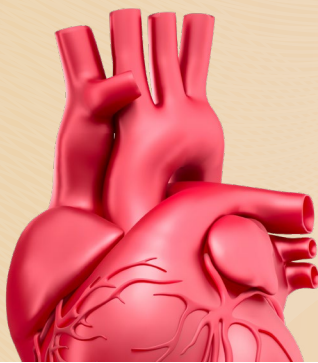
2-2.45pm	Dr Andrew Couch Memorial Award – trainee presentations	Dr Simon Martel VMO Anaesthetist, Liverpool Hospital
2-3.45pm	Gastric ultrasound in the ozempic era	Dr Cameron Dunn Specialist Anaesthetist, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital
2-3.45pm	Advanced life support (cardiac arrest)	Dr Anthony Padley VMO Anaesthetist, Blacktown Hospital
2-3.45pm	Can't intubate can't oxygenate	Dr Laurence Boss Specialist Anaesthetist, St George Hospital

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2-3.45pm	Acute severe behavioural disturbance	Dr Suyin Tan VMO Anaesthetist and Pain Medicine Specialist, South East Regional Hospital Bega
2-4pm	Opioid-induced ventilatory impairment (OIVI)	Dr Glen Sheh Pain and Rehabilitation Physician, Sydney Prof Pam Macintyre, Clinical Professor, Adelaide University, and Emeritus Consultant, Royal Adelaide Hospital
3.45-4.15pm	Afternoon tea	
Session 4: Plenary		
4.15-4.20pm	Dr Andrew Couch Memorial Award presentation	Dr Simon Martel VMO Anaesthetist, Liverpool Hospital
4:20-5pm	Respiratory function in adult congenital heart disease - When is anaesthesia and ventilation a worry?	Dr Bruce Cartwright Staff Specialist - Cardiac Anaesthesia, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital
5-5:05pm	Closing remarks	Dr Iain Stewart Specialist Anaesthetist, Prince of Wales Hospital, The Sutherland Hospital and The Royal Hospital for Women Dr David Gillespie Specialist Anaesthetist, Coffs Harbour

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You are welcome to attend all talks throughout the day. For the breakouts you can select one problem-based learning discussion (PBLD) or workshop to attend in each session and only one emergency response session during the meeting.

Registration

For more information and to register online please go to www.anzca.edu.au/events-and-courses/nsw-ace-winter-meeting

Continuing professional development (CPD)

Participants in the ANZCA CPD Program will have the activities in which they participated automatically allocated to their CPD portfolio following the conclusion of this conference.

Practice evaluation

Knowledge and skills activities

- Knowledge and skills – learning sessions
- Knowledge and skills – short format learning

Emergency responses activities

- Can't Intubate Can't Oxygenate
- Advanced Life Support
- Acute Severe Behavioral Disturbance
- Opioid Induced Ventilatory Impairment

Venue

Hilton Hotel Sydney
488 George Street, Sydney, 2000
Phone: +61 2 9266 2000

Registration and health care industry displays:

Level 3 from 8am
Plenary session and talks: Level 3
PBLDs and workshops: Level 4

Accommodation

Please contact Hilton Hotel Sydney reservations on +61 2 9266 2000 (and provide the group code 93H)

Or alternatively [book online](#).

For more information please contact the conference organiser:

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nswevents@anzca.edu.au