



## Two new leaders for ANZCA and FPM

Monday 4 May, 2020

The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) and its Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM) today announced two key leadership appointments.

Dr Vanessa Beavis, a specialist anaesthetist and formerly Director of Perioperative Services for the Auckland District Health Board, is the new President of ANZCA.

Associate Professor Mick Vagg, who is based in Geelong, Victoria is the new Dean of the Faculty of Pain Medicine.

The appointments were confirmed at ANZCA's Annual General Meeting, which was conducted via a video link with anaesthetists and specialist pain medicine physicians in Australia and New Zealand, today.

Dr Beavis trained in South Africa and immigrated to New Zealand in 1993. Her main areas of clinical interest are liver transplantation and perioperative medicine.

Dr Beavis was first elected to the ANZCA Council in 2012. She has held several key positions, including ANZCA Vice-President, and Chair of the Training and Accreditation Committee.

Dr Beavis has just stepped down as Director of Perioperative Services at Auckland City Hospital, New Zealand's largest tertiary hospital, to take up the presidency. She is also an honorary senior lecturer in the Department of Anaesthesiology at Auckland University, New Zealand.

Dr Beavis, who replaces Dr Rod Mitchell, said:

"ANZCA has 'Serving the community' as the centre of its mission. The pandemic has highlighted how anaesthetists save lives and support their community in times of crisis.

"As leaders in patient safety, anaesthetists are also expanding their work from technical anaesthesia into the heart of decision-making, from when surgery is first contemplated, right through to recovery. The objective is to enable patients to live longer, and to feel well for longer."

Associate Professor Vagg is a rehabilitation physician and a pain medicine physician.

He is a director of Pain Matrix, a private comprehensive pain service in Geelong, Clinical Director of Rehabilitation and Pain Services at Epworth Geelong and a Conjoint Clinical Associate Professor at Deakin University Medical School. His areas of clinical interest include soft tissue pain, post amputation pain and interventional pain treatments.

He has held key faculty positions including Vice-Dean, Chair of the Professional Affairs Executive Committee and is currently Chair of the Procedures in Pain Medicine project.

He replaces Dr Meredith Craigie.

Associate Professor Vagg said:

“This is both an exciting and challenging time to be a pain doctor. We desperately need more widespread availability of effective science-based pain treatments, delivered by teams of health professionals with specialised training.

There are few areas of medicine where so much good could be achieved in a cost-effective way as investing in pain care, whether that is in the setting of hospital treatment, community care or end-of-life care.”

Both appointments run for two years.

### **About ANZCA**

The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) is the professional organisation for about 6400 specialist anaesthetists (fellows) and 1500 anaesthetists in training (trainees). One of Australasia's largest specialist medical colleges, ANZCA is responsible for the training, examination and specialist accreditation of anaesthetists and pain medicine specialists and for the standards of clinical practice in Australia and New Zealand.

### **About FPM**

The Faculty of Pain Medicine is a world-leading professional organisation for pain specialists that sets standards in pain medicine and is responsible for education and training in the discipline in Australia and New Zealand. Pain medicine is multidisciplinary, recognising that the management of severe pain requires the skills of more than one area of medicine. Chronic pain affects about one in five people in Australia and New Zealand. Specialists also manage acute pain (post-operative, post-trauma, acute episodes of pain in medical conditions) and cancer pain.

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