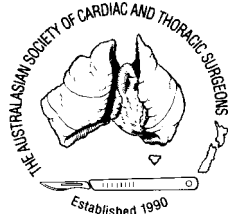


Announcement



The Australasian Society of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgeons Presidents Message

Australasian Society of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgeons Annual Scientific Meeting

October 2004 saw yet another highly successful Scientific Forum in Noosa with an excellent attendance, interesting guests and a good social calendar. The meeting was a great success and our congratulations go to Peter Tesar and the Organising Committee of the meeting. Several good initiatives were trialled at the meeting and in particular I felt the moderated poster session was enormously successful and all credit goes to those who contributed and judged the event. In general the papers were of an extremely high standard and the mix of both trainee and consultant presentations made for an extremely stimulating and rewarding meeting. ASCTS Council still believes that from the point of view of access and variety, a change of venue every now and then is still appropriate and believes that even New Zealand warrants consideration every few years. Members will be kept well informed of any proposed changes to our meeting.

ASCTS Foundation

The Foundation was pleased to award two grants at the Annual Scientific Meeting in Noosa in 2004. Professor Julian Smith was presented with the top award for his application entitled "*Hearts and Minds; assessment of cognitive impairment after cardiac surgery*". Mr. Gavin Wright also received an award for his project entitled "*The use of molecular profiling in early non-small cell lung cancer to predict clinical course and identify pathogenetically important genes*". The Foundation has been delighted with the response from donors both members of our Society and the corporate sector. The Foundation continues to accrue funds and looks forward to offering ongoing significant support to investigators over the next few years. Our Society has shown an outstanding commitment to support the Foundation and on behalf of the Trustees I wish to thank each and every one of you for the contributions you have made.

Combined Australasian and Thai Society Meeting, Bangkok

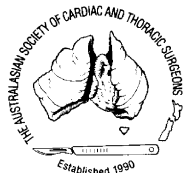
As a satellite meeting of the winter Minimally Invasive Meeting held in Bangkok in December it was agreed by respective Presidents of the Thai and Australasian Societies of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgeons to hold a joint meeting. It was felt that in view of a large number of trainees that had come from Thailand to Australia and the close geographic relationship of the two countries it was appropriate to further relationships with a Scientific Meeting followed by a social evening including a banquet and a chance for Australasian and Thai surgeons to get to know one another. The organisation was carried out impeccably by Dr. Kit Arom, the Thai President and a surgeon who had been based for many years in Minneapolis and is known to most of us. This organisation was most impressive and the entire day was an outstanding success. Talks were given by two Thai surgeons and two Australasian surgeons followed by a Thai banquet with Thai dancers and wonderful wine at the Shangri-La Hotel. Unfortunately the Australian contingent was small but the enthusiasm of those present made up for this. There were many Thai surgeons who had trained in Australia and were extremely grateful for the efforts made by many of our colleagues in this country to educate them in cardiothoracic surgery. I believe this day was an extremely valuable event in many respects and I trust that our Society will support more of them in the future. The warmth and appreciation of the Thai Society was outstanding and on behalf of our Society I would like to thank Dr. Kit Arom and his group for putting together such a pleasant and productive day. It has always been my feeling that Australian surgeons can continue to have a leadership role in Asia and it is meetings like this one which further that endeavour.

I trust you all had a reasonable break over the Christmas/New Year period and I look forward to serving you again in 2005.

TAG Medical Prize

The winners of the TAG Medical Prize for the best trainee presentation at the
2004 Inter-ASC Congress, Noosa, Queensland, October 2004

The winner of the prize was Dr Alfred Hing for his presentation titled "Assessment of cariporide in long-term hypothermic storage using a porcine model of a heart transplantation". Dr Gregory Rice came in as a very close runner up for his presentation "Maintaining cerebral oxygenation improves postoperative outcomes: Early results of a prospective, randomised, interventional study using near-infrared spectroscopy".



ASCTS RESEARCH FOUNDATION

The Australasian Society of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgeons
Supporting Research in Cardiothoracic Surgery



Congratulations to Julian Smith and his team and Mr Gavin Wright on their successful grant applications (see President's Message). Thank you to all grant applicants. The ASCTS Science and Education Committee members had a difficult task in selecting the winners from an outstanding field of applications.

Research Foundation Trustees warmly thank all those members who have generously donated to the Foundation. The Trustees wish to specifically recognise corporate sponsors Advanced Biomedical P/L and Tag Medical for their continued support. We look forward to increasing the commitment to, and enthusiasm for funding and awarding of ASCTS Research Foundation grants in 2005.

ASCTS Research Foundation Trustees

Enquiries about the ASCTS Research Foundation Award or the Annual Scientific Meeting can be directed to the ASCTS secretariat:

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